

SAMPLE ICEBREAKER GAMES

STRING GAME

Unknown

Big group activity, easy to warm up to, people can change their minds and add services as the game progresses.

Ball of String. Stand in a circle and one person asks for something needed. Whoever can meet the need gets the string thrown to them. That person asks for his/her need and the string moves across to that person. At the end the visual is about connections.

BODY STICKERS

Unknown

Some people do not want to have their bodies touched, so be sensitive to this. Placing the stickers on each arm (give-receive) makes it safer. Allow for a big space to walk around and search for unmet needs. Use notepads to record, or not.

Three stickers on one arm for services needed; three on the second arm for services to be provided. Walk the room, pull off the stickers for matches.

BENDEES

Barbara Huston & Maureen C.

Partners In Care, MD

Great for introverts! The Bendees allow for a person to become their alter ego. It's all third person coverage. Stories are usually fabulous!

The Bendees are selected and given a name and personality. Bendees list three wants and three gives. Each person reads out loud the story of their Bendees and then let the matches begin!

PICTURE HANGERS

Linda Hogan & Terry Daniels

HOurlworld

Another great third person activity. Group Leaders can use real photos of their membership including local businesses and non-profits. Fake stories can be silly fun. Easier than Bendees for people who don't want to be put on the spot to create a personality.

Put photos of people into see through plastic folders with string to tie around the neck. Write a description of the person in the photo—wants and gives—and begin the matches.

SINGING THE BLUES

Linda Hogan & Terry Daniels

hOurworld

Recommended for the Extrovert Crowd only. If you have musicians, especially singers in the group, this is great fun. Using instruments as props is great too. Singing Needs, saying everything in a song, is a blast.

Circle. One person sings a need; another sings a match. Be prepared for opera, spontaneous duets, duels and anything else. Warning: This is contagious.

**COUNTRY LINE DANCE Abby Greer
 Kent Time Bank, OH**

Good for everyone. Safe. Be sure to extend the time as the line moves, but don't tell them! People will want to talk more as they get comfortable and they will want more time with each person.

The Coordinator is key here. He/She will line people up in two lines facing each other. Ask each person to think of three wants and three gives. When ready, everyone speaks to the person in front of them, with both parties checking for matches. Time the first exchange at 45 seconds, then call "Stop". Move one person from one side of the room to the end of that line, thereby moving everyone in that line up one position. Begin again, timing expanded to 50 seconds. Increase the time to talk every 3-4 people, depending on the size of the group. Last exchange will be 1.5 minutes or so. Ask if people felt the amount of time was consistent or different. Most will say it shortened when in fact it was elongated.