

OCTAVIA WALENCIAK

Love Avenue Team Member- Surrey Hills

Tell us about your role (in GCI/your local congregation):

I'm on the GC Surrey Hills Love Avenue team. I work with our team building genuine and real relationships with the people in our neighborhood.

I also volunteer with the children's church. I know I'm supposed to be helping the little ones understand Jesus and God, but more often than not, they are the ones helping me understand. They show me who God is.

I am a camp Surrey counselor too. I love serving my kiddos during the summer. I love getting to know them and watching them, in just a few short days, grow and transform into kind, silly, and confident kids.

What makes you a good fit?

My heart makes me a good fit for the Love Avenue. I have a burning passion to serve my community. I have this overflow of love to give. This love is a gift from God. I feel happiest and most like I'm doing exactly what I was put on this earth to do when I am serving others, when I am connecting and helping those around me.

My hard work and determination make me a good fit too. My hopes for our church will only happen when I, as Pastor Tamar Gray said, "pray with intention and purpose." You cannot tack on at the end of your prayer what you are hoping to see done in your church. You have to mean it; you have to be purposeful. I am purposeful in showing up for my church, being dependable, and putting in the work to have our community outreach and events. When our team is praying over these things, we are praying with so much intention and meaning.



Get to Know Octavia

1.

What excites you about this role?

Everything excites me! I get to meet new people and see God move and work through the very people I serve with daily. Watching them be guided into their callings by God is my favorite part of our character development. It's exciting seeing people who were once strangers actively serving and participating together in the church and feeling like they found their people, their home away from home.

2.

What is something people don't know about you?

I love the sky. I stop and take a picture of the sky almost daily. The colors of sunset and sunrise and the moon and stars almost bring me to tears. I often just think how fortunate I am to have been important enough to God, the creator of this very sky, to see the world and think they still needed one of me. So, I always love it when friends and family send me pictures of the sky.

3.

What else is important for our readers to know?

To remember that we are all moving through the world doing our best. We simply want to be heard and feel understood. So, remember to give grace to those we meet in our shared spaces. And give a little extra grace. We all deserve grace, love, and compassion—stranger or not.



Accepting a scholarship at UCO.



My fellow peer health leaders.



My wonderful mother.

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