

neighboring

Volunteering builds strong families
and connected communities



Get into action!

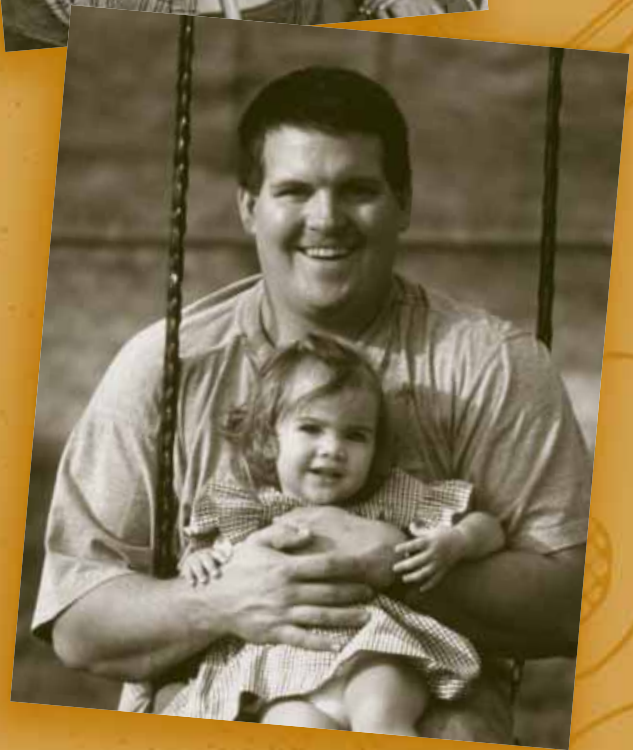
*Some assembly required. Great tools available!
at www.PointsofLight.org/Neighboring*

A Partnership to Strengthen Families and Transform Neighborhoods

In 1996, The Annie E. Casey Foundation challenged the Points of Light Foundation to expand our understanding of volunteering and explore the role it plays in transforming “tough” neighborhoods into connected and family-supportive places. The Points of Light Foundation used the opportunity to listen, learn, and develop a model to share with others. The neighboring model is an empowerment and asset-based approach to volunteer engagement in under-resourced communities.

Today, we have expanded our commitment to families in under-resourced communities. We have joined with other national organizations and partnered with The Annie E. Casey Foundation in its national campaign to improve the lives of children and their families by providing opportunities and resources that strengthen families and transform communities.

Our Family Strengthening and Transforming Neighborhoods Initiative seeks to build strong families and connected communities by sharing what we have learned with grassroots and national organizations that, in turn, will encourage their local chapters and affiliates to adopt these strategies. By increasing volunteering by, in, and with tough communities and encouraging organizations to dedicate financial and human resources to support local volunteer efforts, the initiative works to help improve conditions in these communities.



“Children do well when families do well, and families do better when they live in supportive neighborhoods.”

— The Annie E. Casey Foundation

We Are All Neighbors

Neighbors do help neighbors. Every day, they use their time and their gifts to keep their friends and families going. Many, especially those living in tough communities, work hard to deal with the challenges of communities where unemployment, violence, and drugs take their toll. In the face of these obstacles, community residents look for the connections to vital resources that would improve their odds of succeeding.

There may be no better example of neighbor helping neighbor, of volunteering, than the time-honored American tradition called a barn-raising.

From the earliest days of our country, neighbors would gather at a homestead and work together to build a barn, often in a single day. Neighbors lent a hand when they became aware of neighbors they could help. They took responsibility for one another. More than barns were built in the process. True bonds of community spirit were forged.

You might not think you've seen a good barn raising lately, but they are happening around you all the time. The tools have changed, and what gets built may not be a barn, but the spirit of volunteerism — of *neighboring* in its truest, sincerest form — is alive and well in cities, towns, and rural communities everywhere.

We need your help to tap into that irreplaceable volunteer spirit to address some of the most entrenched challenges in America's toughest communities today. You can provide a renewed sense of hope and the means to build a better future for individuals and families based on connections forged through common goals, mutual respect, responsibility, and ownership. Provide the tools, and use their skills and talents to find collective solutions to create family supportive communities, networks, and opportunities necessary to bring neighbors together.

Tough communities, historically, have had ample strengths, assets, and potential, but through a gradual pattern of declining investments, segregation, and fraying social institutions, they become isolated from the economic and social mainstream. The word "tough" connotes a challenge and reflects the strengths and assets of families who live in these neighborhoods. They show remarkable resilience in the face of overwhelming odds.

— The Annie E. Casey Foundation



Strong Families = Connected Communities

Neighboring Creates Ties That Bind

The good news is that volunteering is not only already present in tough communities, it is crucial to the lives of everyone in them. People may not be building barns, but they are practicing tried-and-true barn-raising principles that you can tap into and encourage.

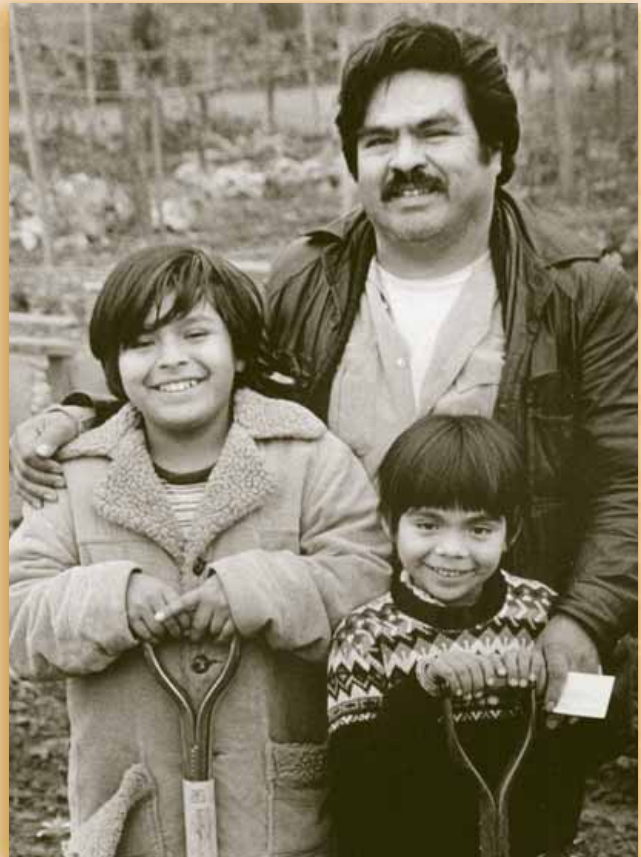
Some quick snapshots tell the story. A neighbor guides children across a busy intersection on the way to school. A young friend makes meals for an elderly lady confined to a wheelchair. A next door neighbor takes care of a single mom's small children while she attends night school. Neighbors helping neighbors is everywhere in tough communities.

However, the service that takes place in low-income communities is often informal, organic, not recognized as volunteering, and is not often called "volunteering" by those who do it. The colloquial term for stepping in to take care of others is *neighboring*.

Mainstream volunteering, in which agencies swoop in to "rescue" residents, does not recognize neighboring. It does not capitalize on the good deeds already being done in the community or use them to make lasting changes. And often the reality is that members of vulnerable communities don't respond well to these efforts. That's why it's imperative that organizations seeking to work in tough communities need to see residents not merely as recipients but as viable agents in change and equal partners.

With this new understanding, organizations from grassroots to national groups can empower communities, engage residents, and build the capacity of residents to find creative solutions to local issues themselves.

Neighboring: the connections among residents that support positive individual and community behavior based on mutual respect, responsibility, and ownership.



TURNING FAMILIES INTO LEADERS

Concerned Parents of Pueblo mobilizes more than 1,000 volunteers of all ages annually to contribute nearly 23,390 hours of service to their neighborhoods. Two local parents founded this grassroots organization in 1992 because they were concerned about the increasing youth violence in their schools and community. Since then, the group has tackled many tough issues such as vandalism, gang participation, teen pregnancy, and drug and alcohol abuse. By encouraging families to be positive role models and developing the leadership skills of neighbors and youth, this dynamic organization has turned community strife into positive social change. In Pueblo, neighbors are helping neighbors. Learn about and share success stories at www.PointsofLight.org/Neighboring.

Neighboring: Key Concepts

From our work, we have identified seven key concepts that can serve as a guide to success in engaging volunteers, strengthening families, and developing programs that empower challenged communities. Incorporate these concepts into ongoing work or build new projects on the foundation of these strategies so that your organization and the community involved can succeed in making changes that improve people's lives.

Understand the nature of volunteering in low-income communities – Finding sustainable volunteer solutions to address the disconnection families face requires understanding the history and culture of the community and recognizing community members as experts. Learn and understand their language. The volunteering there is usually informal, often called “helping out,” “giving back,” or “neighboring,” and is not recognized or rewarded in any formal kind of way.

Overcome barriers to community involvement – Carefully examine and address barriers to volunteering such as lack of income or time, financial resources, child care, transportation, feelings of low self esteem, and negative perceptions of volunteering or of outside organizations. Cultural and language barriers also can hinder people's ability to connect with their community.

Empower communities to help themselves – Outsiders cannot be “parachuted” into the community to rescue the residents. Community members must be part of the planning and decision-making process. Ensure that residents take ownership for finding solutions and can see how their involvement solves real problems they face every day.

Cultivate community members' skills and talents – Identify and translate the gifts that community members have and turn them into tangible tools that lead to accomplishing project goals. Build upon these assets to develop sustainable programs that work long term.

Strengthen existing community leadership – Recognize existing leaders in each community and help develop new ones. Local leaders are invaluable in building community trust and ensuring that the local perspectives are considered and understood.

Acknowledge that neighboring is an exchange – Find ways to reward all volunteers for their contributions in ways that make sense and have meaning to them. Constructive, meaningful incentives and tangible rewards such as educational assistance, meals, housing assistance, and opportunities to grow job skills encourage neighboring.

Ensure community readiness – Take time to build relationships and cultivate involvement. Communities may need help resolving conflicts or problems that are preventing residents' involvement. This process requires patience and flexibility, but the rewards are immeasurable.

Organizations that want to improve the lives of low-income families can maximize results by adopting “neighboring” concepts and incorporating them into the ways they do business.



Meeting the Challenge

Strengthening the Social Fabric

One of the critical challenges for organizations working to improve opportunities for families is to establish connections that lend support and success to their daily lives.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation believes that families need three crucial connections to do well:

- Economic opportunities
- Access to services that work
- Positive social networks

From our work, we've found neighboring can play a crucial role in connecting families to the relationships they need to do well.

What makes neighboring different is that projects begin by uncovering the strengths that already exist within a community. Neighboring uses these strengths to bridge the disconnection so that local residents can work together and use their talents to their own benefit. Residents can then help each other practice useful skills, learn more about services available in their community, and weave the social threads that create a tightly knit neighborhood.

Each group, from local, state, to national organizations has its own role to play in bridging disconnection. The keys to success can be found in creating a *CLIMATE* for neighboring, facilitating a *COMMITMENT* between neighbors to care for each other, and using organizational strengths to develop the *CAPACITY* that can connect people through volunteering.



INSPIRING A NEW GENERATION

Good neighbors influenced Maritza Hernandez to pursue a Ph.D. and give back to the community that has supported her. Her role models were the volunteers and residents of Lincoln Heights in Los Angeles, California who organize and operate Dollars for Scholars Lincoln Heights, a local chapter of Scholarship America. Maritza is one of 86 deserving low-income students that have received scholarships through Dollars for Scholars since 1988. The community-based, community-driven program doesn't just talk about the importance of getting a good education, it provides high school students with funds to help them reach their educational goals. Dollars for Scholars Lincoln Heights is run entirely by volunteers, caring individuals who are motivated to see that every child gets a chance to succeed.

Learn about and share success stories at www.PointsofLight.org/Neighboring.

build a movement

A New Way to Improve Lives

Today, organizations and individuals working in tough communities need to see community members not just as recipients of services but as change agents and equal partners. Promoting real community self-reliance needs to be a clear objective of any initiative to enrich opportunities for residents to succeed.

“Neighboring” means more than just making a connection. It means empowering communities and engaging community members to find creative local solutions for neighborhoods facing daunting challenges.

For many families living in tough communities, the gaps to critical connections are widening. That’s why volunteering and neighboring has never been more important than it is today.

Organizations, nonprofits, businesses, and government agencies, whether national or local, can use neighboring concepts to tap into the skills, expertise, and aspirations within communities to connect people and bring lasting changes that benefit everyone.

A Call to Action

We invite you to join us in empowering families and transforming even the toughest neighborhoods into healthy and supportive places to live. Be a catalyst for sustainable social change!

National organizations have a special role to play in achieving this goal. By using your organization’s resources and influencing your affiliates, you have the extraordinary ability to amplify the good you can do at the local level to improve conditions for families across the country.

Team up with other organizations, businesses, communities, and local volunteers to turn the tide for children and families facing some of the toughest challenges.

Join the movement!

Tools for Action

We designed this publication with a special focus on national organizations. Here you will find some sample tools, ideas, and ways to respond to this call to action.

We have also developed a Web site to complement this publication where you can find a host of resources that affiliates, members, chapters, and other local organizations can use to support your work to strengthen families and connected communities.

Visit us at www.PointsofLight.org/Neighboring.

“The road we travel in life is made much easier when we walk together.”

— GERALYN DUNCKLEMAN, 2003 FAMILY VOLUNTEER AWARD WINNER
HOUMA, LOUISIANA



Key Roles of the Volunteer Sector

Every organization, no matter its size or scope, has a crucial role to play in the movement to strengthen families and transform neighborhoods into healthy places to live. Whatever role your organization can fill to make the connections that matter within your community, start by taking the first step and consider the following questions:

- How are you partnering with and engaging residents from tough communities?
- What role do community members play in shaping and leading local initiatives?
- How are you investing in initiatives that support social change to improve the lives of low-income children and families?

You may see yourself among the following categories that make up the volunteer sector. Whatever your role, ask yourself how you might incorporate neighboring concepts into your business practices.

Connectors - organizations that work to match volunteers to community needs

Engagers - organizations that engage volunteers to carry out their own missions and deliver services

Mobilizers - organizations that mobilize their own constituents, employees, members, or affiliates to deliver services

Supporters - organizations and individuals that support volunteering

Volunteers - individuals who currently volunteer or might want to volunteer in the future

Families who live in isolated neighborhoods often lack access to the skills and opportunities that lead to secure, family-supporting jobs. Many cannot afford homes or cars, lack access to credit, and pay too much for goods and services. These families lack connections to social networks of friends, relatives, neighbors, faith communities, and civic groups. Their voices are not heard when decisions that impact their lives are made.

— The Annie E. Casey Foundation

Get Into Action

Before you begin, take the first step and evaluate your current programs and policies to decide how to respond to this call to action. Use the assessment tools on page 10 and on our Web site to help you. Based on what you learn through this review process, you can decide how best to respond to this call to action.



1 INFLUENCE and advocate for neighboring. Inspire others in and out of your organization, community, and circle of influence to strengthen families and transform neighborhoods. Raise awareness. Share stories to educate people about the benefits and value of partnering with volunteers from tough communities.

Possible Action Steps:

- Talk to your employees or affiliates about neighboring as a strategy to strengthen families and impact communities.
- Recognize outstanding community volunteers for their neighboring efforts.

2 IMPACT the lives of children and families by developing or expanding volunteer-driven programs and projects that support strong families. Build organizations that model neighboring principles in their community initiatives. Invest financial and human resources to support neighboring efforts.

Possible Action Steps:

- Engage community residents and leaders in planning or evaluating programs.
- Allocate or help secure funds to foster and encourage neighborhood initiatives by local neighborhood groups.

3 LEVERAGE, engage, and mobilize volunteers from tough communities. Develop partnerships with them and include them as planning partners when designing programs to answer community needs.

Possible Action Steps:

- Match and partner outside volunteers with local residents.
- Engage families as volunteers.

Leadership Roles and Benefits

Every organization can show leadership in strengthening families and transforming neighborhoods by integrating neighboring principles. This strategy increases the effectiveness of an organization's volunteering efforts throughout tough neighborhoods. The benefits to communities facing difficult challenges can be immeasurable.

■ Businesses

- Leverage resources and serve as catalysts for sustainable social change.
- Demonstrate corporate social responsibility.
- Focus your philanthropic activities.
- Integrate neighboring principles into employee volunteer programs.

■ Nonprofits

- Adopt these concepts to develop meaningful partnerships with communities, create new

sources of volunteers, and ensure community buy-in for program success and sustainability.

- Expand your organization's capacity to affect sustainable change.
- Enhance volunteer programs.
- Bring much needed services to children and families in tough communities.

■ Government

- Respond to new policies and reach low-income families in more effective ways that empower them and help them on their paths to long-term success.
- Enhance your agency's credibility.
- Gain new volunteers.
- Support and further government initiatives to create self-sufficient families, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

The Unique Power of National Organizations

We invite national organizations to share ownership of our family strengthening and neighborhood transformation campaign! As a national organization, you have the unique ability to multiply the benefits of the neighboring concept in tough neighborhoods. You can impact the lives of children and families with the resources, the recognition, and the communications tools available to your organization and its affiliates. Challenge your organization to incorporate neighboring principles at every level in the way you do business through research, grant making, and programming. Leverage your resources and create stronger families and communities. Here are just a few ideas to get you started:

■ **Communicate** using vehicles such as Web sites and newsletters to publicize your programs that serve tough communities among your affiliates. Spread the word about this Action Kit — and its online companion — to strengthen neighboring initiatives.

■ **Recognize** affiliate and staff neighboring efforts. Nominate volunteers and programs for the Daily Point of Light Award and other national and local recognition awards — or create your own!

■ **Build** the capacity of your staff and affiliates to partner with tough communities by running workshops on partnering with tough communities at your national conference and “training the trainers” to strengthen the abilities of local leaders.

■ **Identify** community leaders from tough neighborhoods and invite them to join an advisory group to plan effective programs for their neighborhoods.

■ **Demonstrate** your dedication by designating one neighborhood as a full partner and building a relationship with community members. Establish a comprehensive program that strengthens families and transforms neighborhoods and use the experience as a model for future projects.

■ **Support** and commit to the cause of strengthening families and their communities. Share organizational resources such as expertise, time, human resources, and materials.

■ **Report** program outcomes through ongoing evaluations to keep improving on future community outreach efforts.

your action kit

Here are a few sample tools, templates, and resources to help you respond to this call to action and adopt neighboring concepts into new or existing programs to strengthen families and transform communities. There are more tools on our Web site at www.PointsofLight.org/Neighboring.



Influence

Raise awareness and inspire others to join this movement to strengthen families and create connected communities through neighboring.

One of the best and easiest ways to respond to this call to action is to raise awareness. Influence, and advocate for empowered communities by engaging residents as equal partners.

There are many ways to influence others, such as communicating through your Web site, newsletters, and inserts into paycheck envelopes, but nothing motivates people as much as a direct appeal, in person, from another individual. Especially if you are a national organization leader, you have a built-in structure of year-round events that lend themselves to this kind of outreach. Annual meetings, conferences, or staff events offer opportunities to inform affiliates and employees about your new focus on neighboring.

Use the following sample speech as a guide, and at your next employee event encourage those in your organization to start seeing neighboring as an exciting new way to strengthen families and transform neighborhoods.

Grassroots and local organizations may find that staff and volunteer meetings or community events are appropriate venues where you can use a speech like the following to raise awareness among stakeholders.

Let me start by thanking you for coming today, and for all the work you're doing to improve the lives of struggling families [all across America]. I appreciate your commitment to creating opportunities for people to succeed in their communities.

Today, I'd like to introduce you to "neighboring," a new way of looking at volunteering that's been brought to us by the Points of Light Foundation and The Annie E. Casey Foundation. It's a concept that I believe will make our work easier, more effective, and better able to create lasting changes, especially in struggling neighborhoods.

In your work, you may have experienced the disconnection that exists in tough communities. Without critical connections that help them break through barriers, low-income families can't access the resources they need to grow strong and healthy. What can we, as an organization, do to change that? We can help bridge gaps and provide the connections families need to thrive, and neighboring is one way of doing this. People who live in low-income communities need to be engaged in meaningful ways that help them succeed on their own.

Local people must be known as equal partners and drivers for change. And that's the heart of neighboring. It involves mining

the real assets of a community to create more tightly knit communities to support residents who have the commitment and capacity to better their lives. That's a tall order. How do you begin to do that? You can start by identifying and developing leaders within these communities who bring credibility and an insider's perspective to your work.

What will you find when you look closer and discover these leaders? You'll probably find that they'll show you how neighboring is already going on all around them. Recognize and applaud these informal ways people help each other out. You'll learn a lot about the community as you do.

A critical part of fostering neighboring is addressing the obstacles that keep people from volunteering. Find ways to provide benefits in exchange for the volunteers' work, like child care, a chance to learn job skills, free food from a community food bank, or access to tutoring for their children.

I'm anxious to apply the neighboring concept to the programs our organization already has in place. Ask yourselves a few questions about our current programs. How are they working to bring people together for the good of the community? Is there investment and participation across the board in the community, not only from

businesses, nonprofits, and agencies? How are we creating the conditions for community members to take leadership roles? Do projects lend themselves to building skills that residents need to help others as well as themselves?

The Points of Light Foundation has a Web site that makes it easy for us to incorporate neighboring concepts into our work to create more connected communities where families can thrive. Visit www.PointsofLight.org [or through a link on your organization's Web site] today to find ideas for one-day projects, ongoing programs, building partnerships with community members, and much more.

One of the best things we can do to improve people's lives is to provide relevant opportunities for them to volunteer and find their own solutions to local issues. A recent study found that 69% of people who volunteer as adults reported that one or both of their parents had set an example by volunteering when they were young. Volunteering is a spirit that can be inherited. I urge you to build the wealth of your community through volunteering and neighboring. That's a legacy of which we will be proud to be a part.

...SEE WEB SITE FOR FULL SPEECH

Impact

Build organizations and volunteer-driven programs that support strong families and connected communities.

Assessing Your Organization's Current Neighboring Capacity

Whether you are a national organization or a community-based group, the first step in making a lasting impact in the lives of low-income families and communities is to evaluate your organization's current "neighboring capacity."

The following questions are designed to help you assess your current capacity to partner effectively with volunteers from tough communities, identify areas within your organization where you can adapt neighboring concepts, and take an asset-based approach to engaging the community in your work. National organizations may find these questions especially helpful in creating an organization grounded in the needs and realities of the communities they serve. Visit our Web site at www.PointsofLight.org/Neighboring for other tools.

Building an Organizational Framework

Consider how your organization's policies and practices can incorporate neighboring principles to create more effective programs.

- Does your organization's board reflect the community it seeks to serve?
- Do your organization's hiring and volunteer recruitment practices include targeted outreach within low-income communities?
- Do you encourage your employees to volunteer in the community on an ongoing basis to develop trusting relationships?
- Are you providing training opportunities for local affiliates to learn about tough communities?
- Do you have policies in place to actively involve the community?

Developing Programs with Impact

Consider developing programs that leverage the assets of the communities you seek to serve and that reflect residents' priorities.

- Are community stakeholders, especially low-income community members and grassroots leaders,

involved in planning and program development?

- Are low-income families, community members, and organizations engaged in determining the needs and identifying the assets of the community in which you work?
- Are program beneficiaries regularly asked to provide feedback on programs?
- If you are a funder, are you investing in grassroots efforts and neighboring activities?

Communicating Your Commitment

Consider how, what, and with whom you communicate.

- Are your communications materials appropriate for the community you serve and partner with (i.e., literacy level, non-English speakers, culturally appropriate images, etc.)?
- Do you solicit stories from neighborhood volunteers and those who benefit from your organization's services?
- Are you sharing your neighboring successes in your publications, on your Web site, as well as in proposals and reports to your Board, funders, or policy makers?

- Is your organization's leadership, including executive staff and Board members, involved in communicating its commitment to neighboring to the communities you work in?

Creating Volunteer Opportunities

Consider how you are building volunteer programs that use the skills and assets of the community you serve and find ways to make it easier for residents to become involved.

- Does your volunteer program reflect an understanding of how volunteering is done and understood in the communities in which you work?
- Is your volunteer coordinator a member of your local community?
- Do you provide tangible and meaningful incentives for volunteers to engage in service (e.g., opportunities to build job skills, child care, bus tokens)?
- Do you regularly engage the community to evaluate the resources available and to identify community assets, including potential volunteers?
- Do you encourage family volunteering and create family-friendly service opportunities?

If you said 'yes' to more than five questions, you have a high neighboring capacity. Share what you are doing with other groups at www.PointsofLight.org/Neighboring so that others may learn from you and use the kit to increase your capacity. To strengthen your program even further, additional tools and ideas are available online.

If you said 'yes' to fewer than five questions, we encourage you to consider areas within your organization to incorporate the neighboring principles. This Action Kit is designed for you. Visit www.PointsofLight.org/Neighboring to find more tools and tips to strengthen families and transform neighborhoods.

3 Leverage

Leverage and engage volunteers. Partner with local residents to address local issues and find sustainable solutions.

Ideas for Volunteer Projects

Volunteer projects based on neighboring can be a fun and effective way to get community members motivated to work together and address local needs. Empowering residents through neighboring projects benefits both your organization and the families you serve.

National organizations can multiply their effectiveness by developing projects to mobilize entire communities through their enhanced communications structure and affiliate support network.

There is no limit to the ways that organizations of any size can come up with to improve the lives of children and families in tough communities. Work with the community and resident volunteers to choose a project that meets local needs. National organizations can distribute a list to help affiliates get started.

Use the following sample list to help communities generate their own project ideas.

Environment and Community

- Work with the police, neighborhood associations, and other groups to organize a citizen safety watch.
- Train community members to implement a program to install donated smoke detectors in homes for those without them.
- Organize neighborhood crossing guards to help school children as they navigate busy streets.
- Get families involved in working together to build a playground in the neighborhood or improve the existing area by painting over graffiti on buildings.
- Introduce potential job skills such as landscaping into a community garden project to enhance volunteers' employment opportunities.

Literacy and Reading

- Hold a used-book drive to create a community library of books that local residents may not have access to.
- Train local residents to run a free introductory class on computer and internet use at the local library.
- Keep parent volunteers and kids reading all summer long by creating a program that offers incentives donated by local businesses for completing each book.
- Organize a tutoring program to help students of all ages improve their reading skills.



- Coordinate a neighborhood child care collective through which residents can contribute time and earn reciprocal hours of service.
- Coordinate a youth career fair in partnership with adult residents and local employers.
- Find elder residents to read books aloud to children at the local library or child care center, and encourage them to tell stories of their own lives to the younger generation.
- Establish a mentoring program to teach teen mothers parenting skills and find ways to encourage them to complete their education.

Drives and Fundraisers

- Partner with residents and local businesses to raise money for a community cause through a raffle or community auction.
- Hold a food drive to start a neighborhood emergency food pantry.
- Conduct a neighborhood holiday family toy exchange.
- Hold a neighborhood basketball game or other competition to raise money for improving a local sports facility.
- Get families and businesses involved in raising funds through a bake sale and neighborhood cookouts to start a local scholarship fund for postsecondary education or summer camp.

- Coordinate a homework club for neighborhood children that can be used as a traded benefit when their parents volunteer.

Building Connections

- Organize a neighborhood or community holiday, block, or seasonal party and ask residents to contribute homemade meals or decorating skills.

Selected Resources

Here are some organizations and online resources that you might find useful as you strive to strengthen families and transform neighborhoods and incorporate neighboring principles into your ongoing work.

Organizations

Alliance for Children and Families

Motivated by the vision of a healthy society and strong communities, the Alliance works to strengthen America's nonprofit sector and, through advocacy, assure the sector's continued independence. The annual National Family Week might provide a forum to engage families in your community and organization. www.alliance1.org

National Community Building Network

A national network that serves as a hub for brokering information and connections among community builders, the NCBN helps community builders become more effective and have a greater impact on low-income communities. www.ncbn.org

Neighborhood Funders Group

This national network of foundations and philanthropic organizations offers online resources for grantmakers on grant-making strategies and new approaches to help strengthen the social and economic fabric of neighborhoods. www.nfg.org

National Assembly of Health and Human Service Organizations

An association of national nonprofits in the field of health and human services, the National Assembly is a learning center where leaders can share knowledge and expertise. www.nassembly.org



Online Resources

1-800-VOLUNTEER.org

Volunteer Centers are conveners for the community, catalysts for social action, and key local resources for volunteer involvement. Contact your local Volunteer Center to find new volunteers and learn about opportunities to build volunteer management skills. www.1-800-VOLUNTEER.org.

Community Tool Box

Provides more than 6,000 pages of practical information to support work that promotes community health and development. www.ctb.ku.edu

Corporate Voices for Working Families

Offers online resources and information to support and engage the private sector in issues affecting working families. www.cvworkingfamilies.org

Study Circles Resource Center

Offers resources to help people and communities engage in dialogue and problem solving on critical social and political issues. www.studycircles.org

Technical Assistance Resource Center (TARC)

The Annie E. Casey Foundation's online resource center for the Making Connections initiative connects communities to people, information, tools, and skills-building opportunities to make change happen. www.aecf.org/initiatives/mc/tarc

Time Dollar Institute

Develops and tests a new medium of exchange: Time Dollars (also known as service credits or time banking). Designed to reward altruism, to turn strangers into extended family, to rebuild community, and to empower people to define themselves as useful contributors helping to meet critical social needs. www.timedollar.org

For additional tools, templates, and tips as well as information about publications and other helpful resources to develop or enhance your neighboring efforts, visit www.PointsofLight.org/Neighboring.

Giving Urban-Core Neighborhoods Self-Help Tools

Over the past two decades, the Neighborhood Self-Help Fund (NSHF) has distributed more than 900 grants to over 200 Kansas City metropolitan low- to moderate-income neighborhood groups — a total investment of \$2.5 million. What the neighborhood groups have done with that \$2.5 million investment is truly astounding. Friendships have been established, environments have been changed, neighborhoods have become safer, and children have seen the miracle of volunteerism hard at work. Thousands of community members have volunteered their time, cooked meals, provided tools and transportation, and done even more to help transform their neighborhoods into even better places to live. The NSHF is sponsored by the Kansas City Neighborhood Alliance and the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation and Affiliated Trusts. Learn about and share success stories at www.PointsofLight.org/Neighboring.



The Points of Light Foundation

is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to engaging more people and resources more effectively in volunteer service to help solve serious social problems. The organization collaborates and partners with community leaders to better recruit, manage, and encourage volunteers to effect real change. Through its programs, initiatives, and hundreds of Volunteer Centers around the country, the Points of Light Foundation supports activities focused on engaging the general public and specific volunteer segments — including workplace, family, youth, seniors, and faith-based communities, among others. Find out more at www.PointsofLight.org.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation

is a private charitable organization dedicated to helping build better futures for disadvantaged children in the U.S. The organization was established in 1948 by Jim Casey, one of the founders of United Parcel Service, and his siblings. They named the Foundation in honor of their mother. The primary mission of the Foundation is to foster public policies, human-service reforms, and community supports that more effectively meet the needs of today's vulnerable children and families. In pursuit of this goal, the Foundation makes grants that help states, cities, and communities fashion more innovative, cost-effective responses to these needs. Find out more at www.aecf.org.

Get started today!

Use neighboring to strengthen families
and transform neighborhoods!

Visit www.PointsofLight.org/Neighboring
for an expanded online version of this Action Kit.

ACCESS additional tools and updates...

- ✓ Sample media tools
- ✓ Partnership ideas
- ✓ Success stories
- ✓ Ready-to-use templates
And much more!



POINTS
OF LIGHT
FOUNDATION
&
VOLUNTEER CENTER
NATIONAL NETWORK

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Network, is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to engaging people
and resources to help solve serious social problems through volunteering.
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For more information e-mail Nonprofit.gov@PointsofLight.org or call 1-800-750-7653.

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