

GOOD NEIGHBORS PROGRAM

Resource Guides

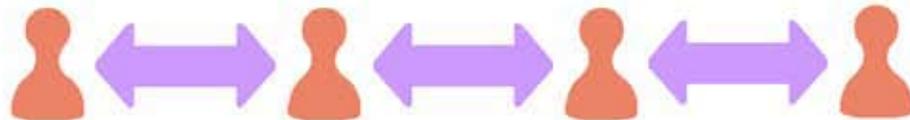


Building Neighborly Relationships

Getting to know your neighbors can be very rewarding and beneficial to you and your community. It is well documented that the healthier, more livable and safer neighborhoods are those where neighbors know, care, and support each other as well as overall community objectives. This is defined as a sense of community. In other words, a community is more than the sum of its buildings, roads and parks; it's about people.

Do you know your neighbor? How many people in your neighborhood have you met this year? How many people do you recognize by name in your neighborhood? In case of emergency, do you know who in the neighborhood has CPR training? Who takes your newspaper in and watches your house when you are on vacation?

Get to know your neighbor. Introduce yourself. Create a phone, email and address directory of all residents



Live! Invest! Participate!



on your block. Welcome new neighbors and share the directory. Note any information about neighbors who might need special attention during emergencies (seniors, those with disabilities, children home alone, etc.) If your civic league does not have a "welcome neighbor" basket or information for new residents, volunteer to chair or serve on a committee to develop a packet.

Social events involving neighbors on your block and community wide events are great strategies for meeting people. So get started and plan annual or semi-annual events, neighborhood improvement projects or other activities that provide opportunities for positive interactions.

How does your neighborhood rank? Use values 1-5 with 5 being the highest rating.

1. My neighbors successfully resolve disputes amongst themselves.
2. My neighborhood welcomes new people into the neighborhood.
3. I know my neighbors and we are sociable with one another.
4. My neighbors lend a hand when doing home improvements.
5. My neighbors and I strive to embrace diversity.
6. We have planned activities on my block.
7. In my community, people get together for discussion groups and different neighborhood improvement projects.
8. In my neighborhood, people offer a helping hand when needed.

The exercise above was taken from, "The Livable Neighborhood Workbook" published by Empowerment Institute (New York, 2000)

