

Creating a Welcome Path for Neighborhood Partners

NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERS

What is a neighborhood partner?

Partner:

One associated with another especially in an action (Merriam-Webster dictionary definition)

Neighborhood partners are neighbors who join the congregation around a particular action or goal. While neighborhood partners are unlikely to be completely aligned with the congregation on all matters, there is a shared value that the congregation and neighborhood partner come together to pursue.

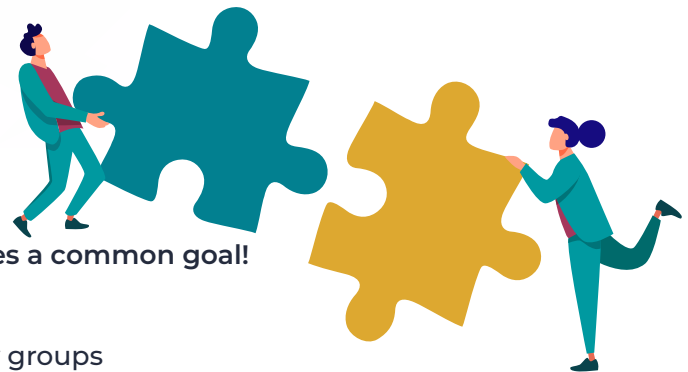
Coming alongside one another around shared values becomes a place where missional presence forms and mission is lived out.

Some examples of shared values:

- Enrichment of neighborhood youth
- Alleviation of poverty in neighborhood
- Care for the environment

Who can be a neighborhood partner? Anyone who shares a common goal!

- Neighborhood schools and youth programs
- Neighborhood social/hobby/interest clubs and affinity groups
- Community organizations and businesses
- Neighborhood leaders, organizers, artists, creatives



CREATING A WELCOME PATH FOR PARTNERSHIP

- Be a partner first! Be present and involved in the neighborhood. Be proactive about participating where shared values are pursued.
- Build relationships — partnerships are not transactions
- Make invitations to partner — let your neighborhood know that you value partnerships and where you'd like to partner
- Be clear about the purpose of partnership — what is the shared value, common goal, or united pursuit
- Honor your partners — recognize the value your partners bring to the ministry of the congregation
- Create clear agreements when appropriate, for example with business partnerships

What can this look like? Here are some examples:

01.

Four parents from the congregation join a local parenting support group. They give the parenting group invitations to participate in the congregation's neighborhood summer camp. The parenting support group prioritizes helping families access community activities for youth, so the group decides to sponsor three youth to attend this year's camp. Five parents from the support group volunteer during the camp. Three more parents join the parenting support group after building relationships during camp.

02.

Locally owned pastry shop appreciates the consistent business the congregation provides and decides to partner with the congregation, providing a 30% discount on all bulk orders. A business agreement is signed for the year.

03.

A local artist wants to work on a project to beautify the neighborhood. They work with the parks and recreation department to gather a group of neighbors to clean up the neighborhood park. The congregation's youth group participates in the clean-up day and partners with the artist to create a public mural in the park that expresses what "hope" means to the neighborhood. The youth group continues to work with parks and rec department to host a monthly park clean up day.



THE ESSENTIALS

Neighborhood partnerships are cooperative relationships built in the neighborhood that center around a shared value or common goal. Partnerships with our neighbors support the development of missional presence and planning of meaningful Love Avenue ministry.



GRACE COMMUNION
INTERNATIONAL



GRACECOMMUNION



WEAREGCI