

COMMUNITY BUILDERS CREED

Community is about the experience of belonging. We are in community each time we find a place where we belong. The word belong has two meanings. First and foremost, to belong is to be related to and a part of something. It is membership, the experience of being at home in the broadest sense of the phrase. It is the opposite of thinking that wherever I am, I would be better off somewhere else. Or that I am forever wandering, looking for that place where I belong. The opposite of belonging is to feel isolated and always (all ways) on the margin, an outsider. To belong is to know, even in the middle of the night, that I am among friends. ~ *Peter Block*



from "Resident Leadership + Facilitation Workbook"
at training with Bob Hoffman of Annie E. Casey
Foundation

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ATTITUDES FOR COLLABORATIVE LEADERS

KNOWLEDGE

Collaborative leaders need to understand:

- Their own strengths and weaknesses.
- Their own values and interests, what they are passionately committed to creating and why.
- Results-based decision-making.
- The relationships, assets, and interests in their community.
- The issues of power, diversity, and the stages and processes of change.
- That community change is not a linear process.
- The levers of change and how to move them.
- The community, government, and the condition of children, youth, and families.

SKILLS

Collaborative leaders need the ability to:

- Communicate in a non-threatening way.
- Frame an issue.
- Generate trust.
- Facilitate meetings.
- Create safety so that people can take risks.
- Use interpersonal skills to deal with all people, especially those not happy with you.
- Relate to where people are coming from and their starting points.
- Share power.
- Prioritize and manage time.
- Listen and hear clearly from a diversity of voices.
- Speak in a way that respects the interests of others and provides clarity in the dialogue.
- Create Win/Win negotiation and reciprocal relationships.
- See diverse contributions and create roles so people can make those contributions.
- Figure out where you are and what the next appropriate step is for that stage and level of change.
- Facilitate people making contributions and following through.
- Assess when and why the group is stuck and the next steps.

ATTITUDES

Collaborative leaders need to value:

- The local decision-making process.
- A focus on results.
- Results-based accountability.
- Diversity and inclusion.
- Families and communities as having strengths as well as challenges.
- The experiences of those who have been part of the traditional services system.
- Youth as resources and stakeholders.
- Community members as knowledgeable about what is best for their community.
- Data as a means of supporting decision-making.
- A range of funding and resources, including informal and in-kind supports.
- Making better use of existing resources.

Parkside Neighbor Bingo!

Meet your neighbors and have the chance to win a prize!

Find a neighbor who can say "yes" to the following statements and have them legibly sign their name. A person may only sign his or her name once. All squares must be filled in to enter the drawing and give back to the person who gave it to you.

Doit être présent pour gagner!

Trouver un voisin qui peut dire "oui" aux énoncés suivants et leur faire signer lisiblement leur nom. Une personne ne peut signer son nom qu'une seule fois. Toutes les places doivent être remplies pour entrer dans le tirage au sort et de redonner à la personne qui a donné cet article à vous.

I live on Sherman Street <i>J'habite sur Sherman Street.</i>	I was born in August <i>Je suis né en Août</i>	I have grandchildren <i>J'ai des petits-enfants</i>	I was born in May <i>Je suis né en mai</i>	I was born in Maine. <i>Je suis né dans le Maine.</i>
I have children. <i>J'ai des enfants</i>	I like to cook <i>J'aime cuisiner</i>	I have a cat <i>J'ai un chat</i>	I am left handed <i>Je suis gaucher</i>	I live on State St. <i>J'habite sur State Street.</i>
I was born outside of Maine <i>Je suis né en dehors du Maine.</i>	I have a secret talent. <i>J'ai un talent secret.</i>	FREESPACE	I live on Mellen Street <i>Je habite sur Mellen Street</i>	I speak more than one language <i>Je parle plus d'une langue</i>
I can play a musical instrument <i>Je peux jouer un instrument de musique</i>	I have been married for less than 1 year <i>Je suis marié moins de 1 an.</i>	I have attended Neighborhood Connection Night <i>J'ai assisté Neighborhood Connection Night</i>	I have lived in Parkside more than 5 years <i>J'ai habité à Parkside plus de 5 ans</i>	I have the same color eyes as you. <i>J'ai les mêmes yeux de couleur comme vous.</i>
I am a vegetarian <i>Je suis végétarien</i>	I am right handed <i>Je suis droitier</i>	I enjoy winter <i>J'aime l'hiver</i>	I like to run <i>J'aime courir</i>	I have a dog <i>J'ai un chien</i>



Neighborhood Connection Night

A Time to Gather and Share

What is Neighborhood Connection Night?

Neighborhood Connection Night (NCN) is a monthly event that gathers everyone who lives, works, prays, learns and plays in Parkside to connect to one another and to neighborhood opportunities. NCN is a place where neighbors come together to make connections, get support, offer their unique talents, share resources and opportunities, address important issues together and enjoy fellowship over a family style dinner.

At **Neighborhood Connection Night** everyone is equal, everyone has something essential to contribute and everyone has something to gain.

When and Where is Neighborhood Connection Night?

The wonderful folks at Sacred Heart/St. Dominic's Parish (corner of Sherman and Mellen) have generously donated their space to serve as the location for NCN each month. **The first NCN will happen on Tuesday, July 15th, 2014 from 6pm-7pm** and they will then continue to happen on the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

What actually happens at NCN?

As you enter you are greeted by a team of wonderfully **welcoming** volunteers and immediately feel like you are in the right spot; **surrounded by neighbors, friends and family**. After everyone arrives and has a chance to mingle and catch up we begin the evening by going around and giving everyone an opportunity to share what is new and good in their lives. This is a great chance to **share and to hear about all the really wonderful things happening with your neighbors** (these can range from things like "I got a new puppy" to "I have a new job interview next week!"). We move from the "**News and Goods**" to **Partner Shout-Outs**, where anyone can share (in 90 seconds or less) opportunities or resources of interest and how people can get connected to them (things like looking for volunteers for a project or letting people know about a new program or service). While **the heart and soul of NCN lies in the relationships between neighbors and the greater connections to opportunities**, the belly is not forgotten as we then move into a wonderful family style dinner. Neighbors spend this time meeting new people, catching up with old friends and enjoying a delicious meal. **NCN is a collective effort** so everyone then joins in to help clean up, pack up and start planning for the next month.

Children and youth under 18 must be accompanied by an adult in order to participate

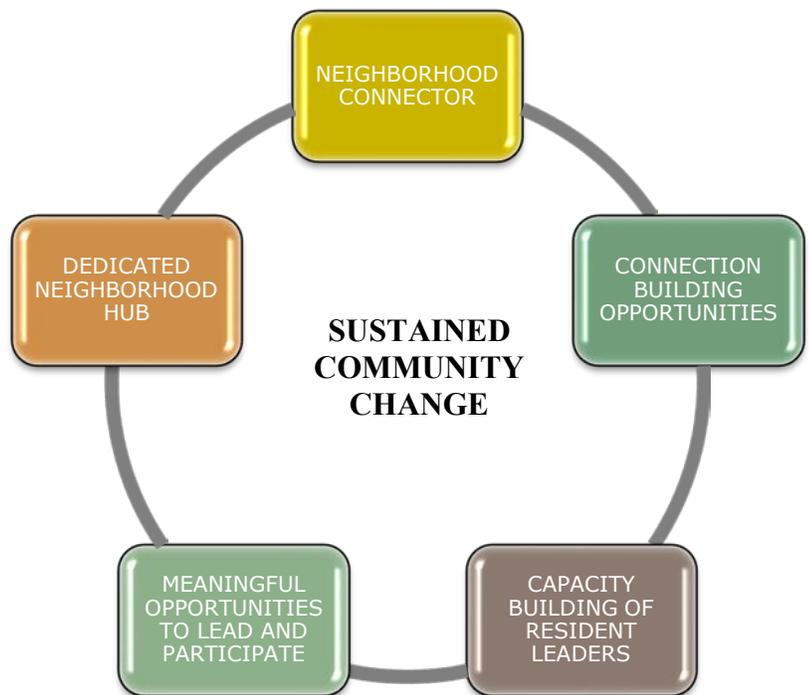
RESIDENT LED COMMUNITY BUILDING MODEL

The Opportunity Alliance's Resident-Led Community Building model does not operate as a stand alone program, but rather serves as a catalyst to empower communities to achieve what they want for their children, families and neighborhoods, gets residents better connected to existing resources and leverages the natural assets that exist in all our neighborhoods. Our partnership with the Parkside Neighborhood Center allows the Resident Leadership Program to integrate our work into high need neighborhoods such as Parkside that already have strong provider networks in place.

The overall mission of the Resident Leadership Program is to help transform target neighborhoods into communities where individuals and families know each other, care about each other and eventually take care of each other. To this end, there are 5 key components that form the foundation of this resident driven community building approach that must be included in each area we serve:

Neighborhood Connector:

This Neighborhood Connector's focus is squarely on linking neighbors to each other, to existing services and to opportunities to engage in improving their communities. These positions work best when the connector lives in and is already an established leader in the neighborhood it serves. Neighborhood Connectors aim to become the trusted and natural bridges between neighbors, providers and services; essentially serving as a cultural brokers. Neighborhood Connectors also play the key role in identifying, recruiting and coaching new community leaders.



Connection-Building Opportunities: The key element to creating communities where neighbors trust, care about and take care of each other is first to make sure that all individuals and families have consistent, safe opportunities to meet and begin to form those relationships. Neighborhood Connection Night (NCN) is a monthly event that gathers everyone who lives, works, prays, learns and plays in our neighborhoods to connect to one another and to opportunities. NCN is a place where neighbors come together to make connections, get support, offer their unique talents, share resources, address important issues together and enjoy fellowship over a family style dinner.

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Individual Capacity Building: Through a series of formalized trainings and workshops, residents who have expressed an interest in giving back to their community are given the skills and tools necessary to make a positive impact. Trainings are designed for both emerging leaders who are looking to get more involved as well as existing natural leaders who have previous advocacy and community building experience.

Opportunities to Lead and Participate in Community Change Efforts: It is vital to this approach that residents and neighbors who have the desire and motivation to give back and get involved in strengthening their communities have clear and meaningful pathways to do so. Skill building of individuals without providing meaningful opportunities to use those skills serves only to create leaders in name alone and does very little to better communities overall. Neighborhood Action Teams, Care Teams, Neighborhood Associations and leading of connection events and activities all provide genuine opportunities for trained and motivated leaders to participate and give back, and also serve as motivation and visible examples for other neighbors to get involved in future projects.

Dedicated Neighborhood Hubs: Having a Hub that neighbors feel is a dedicated place for them to gather, share, learn, connect and create is vital to true resident led change. Neighborhood Hubs do not need to be elaborate buildings (as demonstrated by the success of the Redbank Hub) but rather need to be welcoming spaces that feel like they belong to the neighborhood and neighbors. Because Hubs serve as the office space for Neighborhood Connectors, they are also seen throughout the neighborhood as the natural location to go to get connected to existing services.

The key to successfully implementing and managing the fidelity of this Resident Led Community Building approach lies in trusting that engaged community members are best suited to identify and prioritize the issues that matter most to them, their families and their neighborhoods. If service providers impose their own values and programmatic priorities on these communities we will not see the lasting, sustained commitment and ownership that comes from truly empowering residents to impact the issues that matter most to them.

Also, while many of our target neighborhoods are dealing with similar issues we cannot implement this model in a rigid, step by step approach. The greatest strength that Neighborhood Connectors bring to the model is that they can much more genuinely assess where their own communities are at and what they need next.

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEIGHBORS TO:

