



Neighbourhood Connector Volunteer Job Description

A **Neighbourhood Connector** is a community-focused volunteer role, designed to foster connection, safety, and belonging within a specific neighbourhood (typically around 20 households). They serve as a vital link between residents and neighbourhood assets, encouraging neighbours to trust and support one another.

Main Objectives

- **Building Belonging:** Create a welcoming, connected environment where residents don't just recognize faces—they build real relationships and feel a genuine sense of community.
- **Increasing Safety:** Foster a “village” mindset where neighbours naturally look out for one another—checking in on seniors, supporting families and youth, while creating a safer, more caring neighbourhood together.
- **Asset Mapping:** Uncover and celebrate the skills, talents, and passions within the neighbourhood, turning local strengths into opportunities for connection, collaboration, and mutual support.

Required Skills and Qualities

- **Approachable:** Easy to talk to and open in body language and tone, capable of initiating conversations while making neighbours feel comfortable.
- **Friendly:** Warm, welcoming, and positive in interactions—someone who helps set the tone for a neighbourly, inclusive atmosphere.
- **Organized:** Able to coordinate simple gatherings, keep track of contacts, and follow up with neighbours to keep connections growing.
- **Community-Minded:** Passionate about bringing people together and strengthening the neighbourhood through connection, inclusion, and shared effort.

- **Good Listener:** Genuinely interested in others' experiences, taking the time to understand needs, ideas, and concerns while finding Connectors for each block, area or building.

Typical Activities

- **Collaborating:** Meet and share information with the Neighbourhood Leadership, most often the community league board or members.
- **Welcoming New People:** Introducing themselves to new residents on the block.
- **Finding Connectors:** Search for appropriate Connectors in each area to take-on the role of a Connector.
- **Facilitating Connections:** Connecting neighbors with similar interests or needs.
- **Gathering Information:** Distributing membership cards (when offered for free) and asking neighbours questions to build a database of peoples' skills, interests and passions.

Commitment and Other Information

- **Minimum Time Commitment:** 4-6 hours per week for 4 weeks.
- **Training:** Training and support will be provided by community development specialists.
- **Requirements:** Ability to walk longer distances or get around the neighbourhood by biking, wheeling, etc.

Benefits of Neighbouring

The western world is currently experiencing an epidemic of loneliness and isolation. While crime rates have reduced, social disorder in our city has grown since the pandemic. Being a volunteer Neighbourhood Connector is a very important role – it may seem simple but sometimes it is challenging. It will never be boring and can be very fulfilling when you help get people connected!

Research and experience have demonstrated that there are many benefits to connecting neighbours, here are just a few:

- Helping to create a village for children to grow, learn and experience neighbourly life.
- ★ Caring for seniors or others who need support in the neighbourhood.
- ★ Increased mental and physical health.
- ★ Increased sense of belonging and community
- ★ Shared neighbourhood vision to build a strong local economy.
- ★ Create groups to join for recreation, fun, and social time between neighbours; providing an opportunity to know people from a wide variety of cultures, experiences and ages.
- ★ Opportunities for intergenerational relationships.
- ★ Opportunities for mentoring youth.

And of course, increasing safety:

- ★ Increased safety on the block and in the neighbourhood—quick help nearby when you really need it.
- ★ Children learn the names of neighbours and recognize people from the block creating a safe environment for children.
- ★ Residents will get to know each other, watch out for each other, and will intervene if a situation occurs.
- ★ Increased safety through the creation of a Connector list to be used in case of an emergency or disaster.