



Neighboring Initiative

Strong communities are made up of engaged residents who are at the center of efforts to address critical community issues. In low-income, marginalized communities, residents are the experts of their own life experiences and can be agents of change. And they already are.

Throughout many communities, informal neighbor-to-neighbor helping is happening every day. Points of Light Institute calls this Neighboring. It is a matter of survival for disadvantaged communities. Through the generous support of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Neighboring Initiative is focused on mobilizing the time, talent and resources of low-income and underserved residents to strengthen families and transform communities into thriving and vital places to live.

Neighboring is not a program, or a project — it is simply good volunteer practice. Neighboring acknowledges that all people have something to contribute to the improvement of their community. When agencies engage low-income residents as partners, and not just clients, volunteering has the power to build essential connections that low-income, underserved families and communities need to be successful. These include connections to economic opportunities, access to reliable services and supportive social networks made up of caring neighbors.

We invite you to be a part of Neighboring. Here's how:

- **Start a Neighboring project in your community:** Points of Light Institute

provides grants to Affiliate members to support Neighboring initiatives.

- **Participate in a peer-learning opportunity:** The Neighboring Initiative hosts several Neighboring themed Webinars and technical assistance calls throughout the year. These calls are a great way to find out how Affiliate leaders have put Neighboring to work in their community. Topics of past calls include: Neighboring & Financial Literacy, Neighboring & Youth, and Neighboring in Native American & Minority Communities.
- **Come to the National Conference on Volunteering and Service:** Attend one of the many Neighboring-themed workshops at the annual National Conference on Volunteering and Service. Learn more here: VolunteeringandService.org.
- **Access useful tools and resources online:** Pointsoflight.org/neighboring
- **Train community partners and local leaders:** The Points of Light Institute has developed a set of curricula to build Neighboring capacity locally. Neighboring-themed curricula include: Neighboring: Engaging Low-Income Communities in Volunteering, Grassroots Leadership 1: Skills for Community Leaders; and, Grassroots Leadership 2: Skills for Community Action. For more information, contact training@pointsoflight.org