Center For Neighborhoods
The Lucille Leggett
Neighborhood Institute

Barn-raising Information

What is barn-raising? An overview...

- We will not physically construct a barn but we will work in the spirit of the collective action that continues to result in many barns and other structures being built across the world.
- Unlike traditional barn raising we are not primarily focused on physical labor. **Our goal is "resource identification".**
- We've adopted and adapted this type of barn-raising from a book called WishCraft: How to Get What You Really Want by Barbara Sher.

When and why to participate in a barn-raising...

Barn-raising is useful at two point in project planning: (1) In the early stages after a solid project statement has been written. At this point bar-raising could help you meet potential team members, point you to supportive allies, and make you aware of resources you didn't know existed. (2) Later in the process when you have truly worked out a detailed plan, barn-raising will result in you getting the help, tools, supplies, and other resources that you need to make your project a reality.

- **barn-raising can provide:**
  - a method of connecting with useful contacts outside your typical network of people
  - legitimate offers of various kinds of help
  - skills beyond your current capacity
  - practice asking for help
  - an opportunity for each member of a group to share something useful with others in the group
  - a chance to expand your network of resource possibilities

Your role in tonight's barn-raising …

In Neighborhood Institute barn-raisings every participant has 2 roles. Basically, (1) receiver, (2) giver. As a receiver, you will share your project statement and listen to suggested resources. As a giver, you will listen to other people's project statements and needs list and offer any useful resource suggestions that you have.

HOW will tonight's barn-raising proceed...

- after this overview ... we will spend 10 minutes writing. During that 10 minutes each of you will write two things:
- (1) a short yet complete description of the outcome of your project. (Basically, your project written as a SMART goal.)
- (2) a list of at least 3 specific things you NEED to make your project happen.
- at the end of the 10 minutes of writing we will divide into groups of four to seven people.
- Each group will have a facilitator who is not included in the group count but may contribute to the resource gathering. The facilitator will also manage the group's time and keep the group on purpose.
- One by one each person in the group will:
    - read the project description and "needs list" they just wrote
    - listen to and write down resource suggestions given by the group.
    - Our goal is to get and give concrete suggestions and ideas. Examples include a contact, source for a skill, offers of tool sharing and help of various kinds.
    - during the rounds we will not give out details of the information. This will happen in the after-stage, after everyone has had 10 minutes to gather some resource suggestions.
    - each member will have approximately 10 minutes to complete their round.

After all participates have had the 10-minutes of project fame we will break up and people will spend 15-20 minutes following up with others to get the specifics of suggestions mentioned during the barn-raising.