South Memphis Neighborhood Connector

Overview

The person fulfilling this job conducts community organizing so that residential and organizational stakeholders identify, plan for, and implement activities that enhance South Memphis as a great place to live. The organizing work is done on behalf of the South Memphis Shalom Zone (SMSZ) with a direct reporting relationship to the Center for Transforming Communities (CTC).

Essential Duties and Responsibilities

Mobilize neighbors and stakeholders around shared interests/concerns
- Have conversations with neighbors (Door-to-door, special events, etc.)
- Identify individuals who can lead as block-level connectors, project leaders, etc.

Equip and accompany leaders (including SMSZ Shalom Team members) to:
- Facilitate neighborhood walks and debriefing sessions involving interested neighbors/citizens
- Host neighbor conversations
- Conduct interviews with organizational stakeholders
- Interpret the feedback and identify patterns of shared interests, concerns, and hopes among all neighborhood stakeholders
  - Link neighbors and stakeholders (local and regional) together around shared interests/etc.
  - Mobilize neighbors to implement projects that the above activities inspire

Meet monthly with SMSZ Team
- Coordinate and communicate the meetings
- Facilitate and support Shalom Team's decisions and activities
- Provide updates of monthly Connector activities
- Equip and support the Shalom Teams in the larger mobilization of the neighborhood in the achievement of common goals

Maintain data and documentation that is available to all stakeholders:
- Keep a journal of neighborhood walks that includes areas covered, time involved, and key observations regarding people and the overall environment (i.e. architecture, houses, spaces/boundaries, businesses, gathering places, etc.)
- Maintain database of contact information of neighbors and stakeholders, including information about interest areas, gifts and assets, and other information gathered via listening sessions and interviews
- Use mapping tools to develop block level information and gift/asset inventories
- Keep accurate and complete monitoring data (#'s at meetings, etc.)
- Complete monthly reports

Champion and teach the practices and principles of Communities of Shalom
- Consistently communicate the basic principles/practices of Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) in all settings
- Involve others in the communication of ABCD (based on modeling/teaching)
- Provide basic ABCD training for interested individuals/organizations

Participate in training and/or personal skill development
- Participate in weekly Connector Cohort meetings
- Facilitate sharing and collaboration across Shalom Zones
- Share knowledge and skills with Shalom Teams and neighborhood leaders

Minimum Requirements

1. At least 18 years of age at the commencement of service
2. Has a high school diploma or an equivalency certificate
3. Lives in South Memphis or can demonstrate a deep connection to the neighborhood (such as active volunteer or member of a church in the neighborhood)

Desired Qualities and Skills

1. Demonstrated interest in and compassion for community building/community development
2. Motivated by the desire to make a difference in the lives of others and a vision of them living at their full potential
3. Compassionate and respectful of people of diverse backgrounds and perspectives (cultural, social, economic, and religious)
4. Good interpersonal and communication skills: able to express ideas clearly, listen with sensitivity, and build trusting relationships
5. Demonstrated emotional maturity: able to work under difficult and changing conditions
6. Resilient and capable of remaining steadfast and patient in times of emotional stress and resident frustration.
7. Resourceful and adaptable: able to seek out (research) needed resources and use different approaches/methods, with a willingness to learn
8. Analytical, problem-solving skills
9. Demonstrated proficiency in basic technologies
10. Ability to give, accept, and respond to criticism in a constructive manner.

Necessary Experience(s)

1. Volunteer or work experience with a community-oriented organization is required.
2. Small or large group leadership or process facilitation experience is required. (Examples of leadership might include student council, bible study group, ESL class, or a Scout Troup.)
3. Previous participation in community development learning/training is preferred.

Physical Demands

Necessary physical skills are directly related to duties and responsibilities described above.   Reasonable accommodations will be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

Reporting
The Neighborhood Connector will report to the Executive Director of Center for Transforming Communities.

Work Conditions
- The job requires some evening and weekends in order to attend neighborhood meetings, events or to meet project deadlines.
- Use of personal vehicle will be required for the purpose of off-site/neighborhood meetings with stakeholders or partner agencies.

Shalom Zone Boundaries
The South Memphis Shalom Zone is loosely bounded by:
Third (west); Crump (north); Mississippi (east); McLemore (south)

Compensation
Salary is $30,000 per year. This is a full time position.

To Apply
Interested individuals should submit a letter of interest and resume to info@ctcmidsouth.org or mail to Center for Transforming Communities, 258 N. Merton, Memphis, TN 38112.

Please note that an invitation to interview for the position will be based on the strength of your cover letter. You letter should explain how your qualities, skills and experience will make you an ideal candidate for the job. Early submissions are encouraged, as applications will be reviewed and interviews will be conducted on a rolling basis and continue until the position is filled. Only those applicants that will be considered for the next step in the hiring process will be contacted.

Website: www.ctcmidsouth.org
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/ctcmidsouth