

The Neighbor to Neighbor Project

A Community/Volunteer Awareness Action Plan

Citizen Corps Council of Josephine County

It is said that the most useful ideas are often the most simple. We hope that the "Neighbor to Neighbor" (N2N) concept will be an example of that principle. The basic idea should be easy for the community to understand and hopefully even fun to do.

If the level of support we've received already is any indication of how the community at large will react (Evergreen Federal, KAJO/KLDR, Chamber of Commerce, Realtors Assoc., and more), there is reason to be optimistic that the general welfare of Grants Pass and Josephine County can be promoted through this simple strategy to raise community awareness regarding two main areas of common interest – safety and preparedness.

The Goal

Once all the elements are in place we plan to launch the N2N Project in May and June of 2010. The simple mission of "Neighbor to Neighbor" is to provide information to average citizens on what "safety and preparedness" local services are available to them if needed, and to also let them know what opportunities there are to get personally involved in helping others. Of particular interest will be encouraging citizens to form neighborhood watch groups, and also raising awareness of the Drug issue. But volunteerism is the key. The many wonderful professionals who work in our community need our help and most importantly, our interest in what they do to make our community a better place to live.

The Method

The Neighbor to Neighbor Project will published a two-sided flyer full of valuable information and place it at selected community-minded businesses and organizations. Citizens young and old will be encouraged to pick up these "Neighbor to Neighbor" flyers at these central locations and pass them out to their block. Some neighborhoods may get double or even triple coverage but this will only serve to establish the importance of the information. The goal is to get people to keep it, read it, *and use it.*

The Results

Success is measured only in how many flyers are distributed each cycle so that over time, more and more citizens become informed about where they can go to get – and give – help. The more we are prepared as individuals, the better off we are as a community. KAJO/KLDR news department will be covering key groups involved and – along the way – promoting the concept of getting involved and getting information out to neighbors. Evergreen Federal has designed the flyer and N2N grant funds are already in place for printing 35 thousand copies. The chamber of commerce has also offered to promote the venture, and Internet Mainstreet has offered to build our website at no cost. We believe the key to citizen involvement is access to information – and "people connecting to people" is the best way to get that information out.