

BLOCK CHAMPION

How to be a catalyst for connection in your neighborhood and identify the needs of your neighbors and meet those needs together.

Start

Do it alone or with another neighbor. The goal is to connect with your neighbors and help your neighbors connect with one another and be a resource for each other. Sign up at www.ocunited.org/blockchampions



STEP
01

Introduce Yourself

Write a letter to introduce yourself and your family. Explain that your doing this to create connection during the isolation. To discover needs and the resources that each neighbor has to offer one another.

Google Form

Create a google form or a questionnaire for your neighbors to fill out. Gather information like:

- Name
- Address
- Phone #
- Email
- Needs
- Resources
- Any other unique information

Make sure the questions are optional for their preferred privacy.



STEP
02

Door to Door

Go door to door and introduce yourself and why you're there.

Make sure you keep social distancing in mind. Place the letter and the questionnaire on their doorstep. (Gloves and masks could be helpful as well.)

Follow-Up

Contact your neighbors with a call or email. Learn about their needs and meet them yourself or connect them to another neighbor. The goal is connection and working together so your block or street can flourish during the pandemic.



STEP
04

STEP
05



BLOCK CHAMPION

Role Description

WHY

During this time of difficulty due to the COVID-19 virus, we want to make sure that no member of our community is left behind. We know this can be a time of great difficulty for some in our community, but also believe that this is a time that our city can be at our best through stepping out and loving our neighbors.

Spiritual - Jesus said, when asked what the most important commands were, that the second most important command (after loving God) was loving our neighbor as ourselves (Matthew 22:39). Jesus modeled this Himself by leaving the comforts of heaven, becoming man and living among a broken people, and sacrificially dying on a cross so that others may have life (Philippians 2:5-8, 1 Thessalonians 5:10, John 10:10). We want to follow in His footsteps, taking up our own cross (Matthew 16:24-25) so that others may find help and life.

Many of our most vulnerable neighbors can be the hardest to reach online or in public. That's why leaving a note or knocking on doors to introduce yourself (from a safe distance!) can make all the difference.

Block Champions primarily help catalyze connection in their neighborhoods to identify needs, find those willing to help, and put feet to a simple system to help meet needs within the neighborhood. Because not everybody has access to online communication, the block captain helps make sure that everybody is reached. We hope that the block champion not only helps ensure that no need goes unmet among our neighbors, but that a foundation for connection and gospel fruit would be laid for seasons to come.

Roles of a Block Champion:

- Provide fliers for and contact 20+ houses on your street or block
- Gather and record information for both volunteers and needs
- Personally contact those with need in the neighborhood Work with those in the neighborhood to help ensure needs are met
- Stay connected through weekly touchpoints

WHAT

HOW

IMPORTANT

We ask that you flyer or serve others only if you are showing no signs of sickness, adhere to social distancing protocols, and are sensitive to the preferences of those you are serving.

Then just follow the simple steps:

1. Pray and find a partner if you can
2. Write a letter - (Example provided)
3. Create a google form and/or a questionnaire - (Example provided)
4. Knock on doors - (Instructions provided)
5. Follow-up - (Instructions provided)

If you would like to stay connected to other Block Champions head to www.ocunited.org/blockchampions to sign up for updates and possible video conferences and webinars

REFLECTION

Some Reflection Questions for Spiritual Growth

- Read and reflect on Philippians 2:1-11. How does Jesus' incarnation, care for others seen in the gospels, and death on a cross-impact our understanding of God's love?
- How does serving in a role like this help me reflect that love?
- How does God want to cultivate Christlike character in me through serving in this role?
- "Radical servanthood does not make sense unless we introduce a new level of understanding and see it as the way to encounter God. When we begin to see God, the source of all our comfort and consolation, in the center of servanthood, compassion becomes much more than doing good for unfortunate people. Radical servanthood, as the encounter with the compassionate God, takes us beyond the distinctions between wealth and poverty, success and failure, fortune, and bad luck. Radical servanthood is not an enterprise in which we try to surround ourselves with as much misery as possible, but a joyful way of life in which our eyes are opened to the vision of the true God who chose to be revealed in servanthood. The poor are called blessed not because poverty is good, but because theirs is the kingdom of heaven; the mourners are called blessed not because mourning is good, but because they shall be comforted. Here we are touching the profound spiritual truth that service is an expression of the search for God and not just of the desire to bring about individual or social change." Henri Nouwen
 - Reflect on God's love for you and others as you go about His work in your neighborhood. Practicing serving your neighbors brings you to a deep connection with our Father as you work alongside him as an instrument of his abundant love.

Example Letter

Use this letter as an example feel free to make any changes

Neighbors on (Put the name of your street or streets)

Hi, my name is _____ and I'm one of your neighbors. Then add your family or roommates' names and the address you live at. If you're doing this with another family, have them add the same info as well. (Example: My wife Betty and my son Jimmy and I live at 435 Pine Ave.)

We're reaching out because we know the coronavirus is spreading in our area, and we want to be connected with you and our other neighbors so we can stay in touch, pool resources, and support each other with any needs that may come up. We want to coordinate a group text message thread, email chain or phone tree so we can be in communication as well as a directory for us all.

I know we all have different resources and talents that can be a gift to one another right now. I know we also have different needs right now that we can meet for one another.

Possible needs:

- Food/shopping
- Picking up prescriptions
- Meeting rent
- Connection - social isolation/loneliness/depression

If you have needs OR are interested in helping OR know a neighbor who has needs please either:

- 1) Contact us back via email, text, or phone call.
- 2) Go to this site and fill out the form, and you don't have to answer all the questions just what you feel comfortable with. You can create a google form and then create a tinyurl. I suggest using the name of your street and neighbors as the custom url.

Or fill out the form we've included, and we will come back later to pick it up

.Our contact information is: Name, email, phone #

Example Questionnaire

Use this as an example feel free to make any changes

Quarantine Neighborhood Help

You don't need to answer all the questions. You may feel uncomfortable and personal. I get that, so offer any information you feel comfortable with.

Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Others Living in the house and their relationship

Language preference: _____

Needs you have

Resources you would like to share:

Any other info about yourself that you would like to share. (Hobbies, occupation, favorite color, really anything)

Cheat Sheet

A simple guide to help you be successful as a Bloch Champion

How to make a call:

When someone contacts us back, we want to be relational, informational, and helpful. We invite you to not just rush to details but take a second to make a connection, and then gather and communicate any details needed with the goal of getting them the help they need.

- Introduction - Introduce yourself (if you haven't met)
- Personal - Ask them a question or two about themselves, as well as how COVID-19 is impacting them
- Needs or volunteer: Needs - what are your needs? Also, do you have anyone to talk to? Specific questions: food (dietary restrictions, etc.) prescription (what pharmacy, etc.)
- Volunteer - What resources, skills, interests do you have that you might be able to offer our neighbors?
- Ongoing connection - Ask them how they would like to stay connected.

How to help: You don't need to meet every need yourself. You are a catalyst for connection. Connect needs to other neighbors who can help.

- If the need is too large, reach out for help. Start by either meeting the need yourself or matching them with someone else in the neighborhood database you are putting together
- If it is a need you are unable to meet, reach out through lovethecity.org
- If you don't know how to meet a need, help them call 211 to find the best resources in the community
- In all connections, look for ways to be loving, intentional, and connecting people to hope (see below for more)

Being the light of Jesus:

This is a small way to be the light of the world, a city on a hill (Matthew 5:14) in every interaction and conversation we have. That takes a humble combination of faith, boldness, and compassion, all of which the fruit of the Spirit is able to produce in us. Ultimately, it comes down to having a heart to love them well.

- Be prayerful as you place flyers and going into conversations
- Ask good questions and listen well
- Demonstrate compassion toward people's pain or need Offer prayer if it seems appropriate (ask permission)
- Look for opportunities to connect them to hope & ongoing support - through Jesus, His church, and community resources, etc