

Initiative 2: Neighborhood/Community Strengthening



THE NEIGHBORHOOD IS THE CORNERSTONE OF OUR COMMUNITY

“Shared friendship doubles our joy and halves our sorrows.”
-Swedish Proverb

“In neighborhoods without a usable park or playground, the incidence of childhood obesity increases by 29 percent.”
-Darell Hammond

Trinity Health Foundation of East Tennessee extends the healing ministry of Jesus by improving the physical, emotional, and spiritual health of our community.

ENVISIONED GOAL: Trinity seeks partners that can implement programs that will measurably strengthen neighborhoods in our community. Health begins at home, and our neighborhoods are the first network outside the home. By positively and significantly impacting neighborhood interaction, the isolation that can lead to addiction could be reduced. We seek creative proposals drawn from experience, other cities, or innovative ideas that will measurably support and encourage healthy neighborhood networking. The goal is to actively connect people to the folks who live in close proximity to the families down the street.

BACKGROUND: In a revealing sociological study, a large percentage of Americans report having shrinking networks and fewer relationships. Nearly fifty percent of our population report feelings of loneliness, isolation, and lack of interaction with others, as noted in Robert Putnam's book, Bowling Alone. Trinity seeks proposals that will encourage relationships to be grown in the community (define community in the broadest sense that meets your organization's expertise – family, church, neighborhood, etc.). How do we connect

people to people? Healthy relationships may be the most significant anecdote to addiction. Ideas from green space enhancement, community clubs for purposeful neighborhood interaction, community school family interaction, and church neighborhood outreach are examples of the general areas that would be of interest under this initiative.

EXAMPLES OF SPECIFIC INITIATIVES:

1. **NEIGHBORHOOD CROSSFIT:** Proposed projects for the development of activities that get people out of their homes and interacting face to face regularly would be valuable to our community as well as individual health – a twofer.
2. **CLEARINGHOUSE FOR COMMUNITIES/SUPPORT GROUPS:** Innovative ways to connect people to activities and support groups are sought (citywide neighborhood online bulletin boards, local networking of special interest groups, alternatives like Neighborhood Watch for other group purposes, etc.). Projects that encourage neighbors to interact face-to-face are sought.
3. **NEIGHBORHOOD GREEN SPACE:** Proposed projects to improve neighborhood parks and greenways to create inviting spaces for people to interact and be active. Creative conversions of infrequently used neighborhood assets (aging tennis courts, vacant fields, etc.) into actively filled new venues (pickleball, Frisbee golf, etc.)
4. **NEIGHBORHOOD PRAYER INITIATIVE:** Proposed projects that create and systematically expand neighborhood prayer networks to get neighbors in contact would bring value to our community.
5. **OTHER IDEAS TO STRENGTHEN THE NEIGHBORHOOD:** Neighbors are isolated. The relationship process begins with knowing each other. We seek projects that have shown promise in different locations to reinvigorate neighborhood relationships from the smallest unit (the family) to the largest region (the city). The revitalization of Market Square is a great success story and example for other parts of our community.

GENERAL GRANTING PHILOSOPHY FOR TRINITY PHASE I GRANTS:

TRINITY requires all lead proposing organizations to have a 501(c)(3) or equivalent status. While certain tasks within a project can be subcontracted to for-profit entities, their participation must be under the 501(c)(3) bidder's supervision. A single organization can only submit one

Phase I grant to Trinity each year, but organizations are encouraged to partner in supporting roles on as many proposals as they desire. Phase I grants are for planning and prototyping activities and can include labor, consultants, travel, overhead, and minimal materials if needed for the initial demonstration. Trinity encourages proposals that:

- find successful projects in other regions and bring them to our community,
- display a clear knowledge of services in our region and avoid duplication by intentional collaboration,
- reveal a distinct pathway to sustainability and have a matching or in-kind collaborative approach,
- provide definitive metrics for the measurement of success,
- implement documented best practices toward goals,
- are locally based and serve Knoxville and surrounding contiguous counties (Anderson, Blount, Grainger, Jefferson, Loudon, Roane, Sevier and Union),
- serve a broad demographic in race, gender, age and physical location, and
- include a component of faith in their purpose

At the end of the 90-day planning period, a final Phase I report will be due. If the grantee wishes to continue with the Phase II proposal process, a completed Phase II application will also be expected at this time. Only successful Phase I grantees will be eligible to submit a proposal for Phase II.

Phase II grants are for implementation and can be used for a broad range of activities beyond Phase I, including, but not limited to, capital facilities, equipment, training courses, etc. TRINITY strongly suggests, but does not require, matching funds and/or in-kind support (volunteer labor, use of facilities, infrastructure development like software, databases, products and websites, promotion, etc.) for proposed efforts, particularly in Phase II. TRINITY is a faith-based organization but will consider proposals from non-faith-based entities as long as there is no conflict with our mission.