



The Neighboring Movement nurtures neighbor-centered leadership by focusing on what's strong to address what's wrong. We train and support community leaders, provide resources for churches, and practice being good neighbors in our founding neighborhood located in Wichita, KS.

Our work moves from a culture of fear, which is defined by individualism and scarcity, to a neighborly culture that is defined by joy, relationship, and abundance.

Why Neighboring?

Isolation and loneliness have steadily increased in America.

36% of people report feeling lonely “frequently” or “almost all the time”

43% of young adults reported increases in loneliness since the pandemic.

About half of lonely young adults report that no one in the past few weeks had “taken more than just a few minutes” to ask how they are doing in a way that made them feel like the person “genuinely cared.”

Weissbound, Batanova, Lovison, Torres. Loneliness in America, How the Pandemic has Deepened an Epidemic of Loneliness and What We Can Do About It. Making Caring Common. Harvard School of Education. February 2021.

Communities are experiencing deep division.

Nearly 90% of voters on both sides agree that people like them won't belong in America anymore if the “other side” has its way, and more than 1 in 5 say they “agree completely” that such is the case.

Kondik, Colman, Sabato. Project Home Fire. UVA Center for Politics. September 30, 2021

Connected Communities are stronger, healthier, and more civically engaged.

The quantity and quality of social connections in a community contribute to health outcomes, voter turnout, life expectancy, crime rates, and more. Researchers have determined that nearly 85% of our overall health is determined by the social fabric of our community.

Paraphrased from research cited in Together by Vivek H. Murthy, MD. Harper Collins. 2020.

One of our most recent graduates of CAN is Sandrine Lisk. She is an immigration attorney, a resident in our founding neighborhood, and the kind of person who can take any situation and make the most out of it.

Animators must create a closing presentation before they graduate that lists all of the assets in the neighborhood where they reside. Sandrine lives here in SoCe, and though she shared some initial trepidations, she pushed through and met all of the business owners and neighbors available to her. We were overjoyed to learn that with each person she met, she felt more connected to SoCe.

"This experience has really opened my eyes to this community and this neighborhood and now I LOVE it and I want to make it better!"



**COMMUNITY
ANIMATOR
NETWORK**



**GOOD NEIGHBOR
EXPERIMENT**

In the 'Joshua' cohort of GNE that started in July, we have seven churches participating. Two in Kansas, four in North Carolina, and one in Tennessee. Recently, Ian shared a blog about abundance and how this cohort is discovering the true abundance that results from conversations designed to discover each person's talents or gifts.

Members of the congregation were randomly paired, and while most didn't know each other, by the end of the call, they expressed a great interest in continuing one-on-one conversations with the new connections they had made.

This is possible because of people like you, who believe in this work and that God has abundantly gifted us all.

We are celebrating the work of neighbors doing community organizing, or animating, in our founding neighborhood, SoCe. These individuals are working on initiatives about which they are passionate: Neighborfest, a Multicultural Bazaar, Hispanic Heritage Festival, and a SoCe Holiday Neighborfest!

Meanwhile, our neighborhood garden continues to grow food and friendships! Neighbors have been researching ways to improve our soil and experiment with planting different crops.

We have been publishing a bilingual newsletter, Good in the Hood, for 2 years and are seeing the fruits of this way of being present in our neighborhood and highlighting the good that is here.

**SOCE
NEIGHBORHOOD**