



The Charleston Promise Neighborhood Welcomes Applications For Volunteer Community Engagement Council Members

Do you want to volunteer to be a critical part of catalyzing community change in the Charleston Promise Neighborhood? We invite you to apply to become a member of our new Community Engagement Council.

About the Charleston Promise Neighborhood

All children deserve to grow up in communities that are healthy, vibrant, and filled with opportunity. Our purpose, and our promise, is to make this a reality for every child who lives within the Charleston Promise Neighborhood.

The Charleston Promise Neighborhood (CPN) is a non-profit organization modeled after the highly successful Harlem Children's Zone project and is designed to ensure that every child and family in the Neighborhood has the supports they need to thrive.

Our goal is to support families and children in the Neighborhood by focusing on access to healthcare and wellness resources, parenting support, innovative school improvement strategies, affordable housing, employment opportunities, and community revitalization.

The neighborhood itself is composed of a 5.6 square mile area that connects the cities of Charleston and North Charleston, and includes portions of the 29403 and 29405 zip codes.

Learn more about us at www.charlestonpromise.org.

About the Community Engagement Council

"Even the most entrenched systems, and old ways of doing business can change when those who live, work, and worship in a community share a common identity, work together to improve neighborhood conditions and align policies and practices with their goal."

-- Excerpted from *Sustaining Neighborhood Change: The Power of Resident Leadership, Social Networks, and Community Mobilization*, The Annie E. Casey Foundation

We believe that genuine community engagement puts resident voices at decision-making tables, with competence and confidence to participate fully and to that end we are forming a Community Engagement Council.

We know there are various neighborhood committees that are working on a variety of needs. Our goal is to build on the efforts of these groups by adding a structure of community leadership to aid in moving us all forward. We are calling this structure a Community Engagement Council.

The Council is based on the following principles:

- We are committed to pursuing better results for children, families and the Neighborhood.
- We have the power to improve conditions and circumstances at both the individual family level and within the broader community.
- We encourage members of the community who have the skill, will and drive to engage in issues important to the Neighborhood to come forward.
- Our Council members will willingly accept accountability for achieving measurable change within the Neighborhood.

The Community Engagement Council will initially be composed of 12-15 committed members of the community who volunteer to help us achieve our mission. Initial applications will be accepted between September 15, 2010 and October 6, 2010, with a complete Council to be selected by the end of October, 2010. By the end of December, the Community Engagement Council will identify 3-5 measurable results in the community that the Council would like to achieve and develop a work plan to achieve them. Potential results will be chosen by the members of the Council itself once formed. The Council will also select a Chair and Vice Chair of the Council who will serve one year terms and will be appointed to serve on the governing Board of the Charleston Promise Neighborhood. Dedicated support for the Council will be provided by CPN Staff.

The Ideal Council Member

The Ideal Community Engagement Council member will be a passionate advocate with a reputation for innovating and fueling change. The member will be a leader who is widely known and respected within the community who is also committed to motivating grassroots efforts at a neighborhood level. Key personal attributes include: persuasiveness, diplomacy, results-orientation, self-confidence, and a total commitment to the mission of CPN. S/he will be a change agent with a strategic focus on teamwork and accountability.

The ideal member will also have a proven ability and a record of success in working with children and families. S/he will be well-connected and be willing to leverage those connections to rapidly build community awareness and to catalyze ground-level action plans. The member will also have a demonstrated ability to work effectively with and quickly gain the respect and support of various constituencies, including neighborhood groups, faith-based organizations, neighborhood businesses, and other community leaders.

The ideal member will have superb interpersonal and communication skills. The member will be an inspiring ambassador for CPN by fostering creativity, teamwork, a commitment to excellence, and mutual respect. The member must have a reputation for honesty, fairness, and high ethical standards.

The ideal member will be a person of high energy, integrity, humor, creativity, enthusiasm, and optimism. The member will also have a thorough understanding of the need for neighborhood revitalization, and the desire to address that need effectively.

Qualifications

Council members should live or work within the Neighborhood, and must have a hands-on knowledge of Neighborhood issues including education, parenting, housing, employment, healthcare, and/or neighborhood revitalization. We are looking for individuals with strong community ties.

Nominees must also have schedules that are flexible enough to allow for regular evening meetings, initially at a frequency of two times per month. (exact calendar TBD, but likely on Tuesday or Thursday evenings).

Selection Process and Timeline

Application information will be available at <http://www.charlestonpromise.org/engage> beginning on September 15th, 2010 and must be completed **no later than Wednesday, October 6th, 2010.**

Applications will be reviewed and CPN will select 12-15 applications from the pool of nominees for further review and consideration. All applicants will be notified of next steps no later than October 20th, 2010. Our goal is to have council members selected by the end of October, 2010, with the first organizational meeting scheduled during the 1st week of November.

To ensure continuity, council member terms will be staggered for 3-year, 2-year, and 1- year terms. A lottery system will be used to determine initial term length.

The Council member will select a Chair and Vice Chair who will also hold a dual role as volunteer members of the Board of Directors of the Charleston Promise Neighborhood.

Questions?

Please contact Robert Fludd, Director of Community Engagement
Robert.Fludd@CharlestonPromise.org (email)
843-647-6209. ext. 9 (phone)