

What is a Neighbors Gathering?

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Answer: It's a group of neighbors who meet at least weekly in a neighbor's home.

Question: What do you do when you meet?

Answer: We have a simple format that we generally follow [it is described on our web site—www.neighborsgathering.com]. We plan activities, we tell stories, we enjoy one another's company.

Question: Why do you meet? Is it a religious meeting?

Answer: Well, we do meet religiously (that is, we seldom miss a gathering), but we are not part of any church or religious organization, and we do not want to start a church. Our primary purpose is to learn how to be neighbors—to learn the skill of neighborliness. And... of course, there IS that Great Commandment, "*Love your neighbor as yourself.*"

Question: What do you mean by, "learn how to be a neighbor"? Aren't you already neighbors?

Answer: We define a neighbor as someone we care about and who cares about us—not just someone who happens to live nearby. We *learn* to care about one another by getting to really know one another. Building caring relationships is another way to describe our purpose.

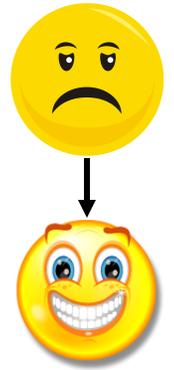
Question: Do you do anything else besides having meetings?

Answer: Yes! We do all sorts of things: We collect food for the hungry and school supplies for children. We have block parties, and Christmas Parties, and Thanksgiving Meals. We have a potluck every Sunday. We sometimes go on "field trips", we go fishing, we play games, we help fix one another's vehicles, we help one another with our lawns, **we created a neighborhood garden...** the list goes on and on. What's amazing is that just a little over a year ago,

many of us didn't even know the people who lived next door to us and who we now consider to be some of our best friends!

Question: But what if I can't get along with my neighbor?

Answer: If learning how to become a neighbor was easy, we wouldn't be calling 'neighborliness' a skill. We've been avoiding people we think we can't get along with long enough. Why not try something different—like learning how to tolerate and perhaps even enjoy our differences? It might be difficult, but the rewards are tremendous and the effects are world-changing.



Question: So, where are you wanting to go with all this? It's nice that you have a friendly neighborhood. Do you want something more?

Answer: Yes. We want to change the world—to make the world a better place for our children and our children's children. We've discovered that there is a lot of power in building caring relationships. We need that power to protect our environment, feed the hungry, care for the sick and elderly (and we are all getting older), and live in freedom... and have more fun.

Question: So you want to change the world, but you can't get the whole world into one house. How is a Neighbors Gathering going to affect someone in, for instance, Haiti?

Answer: It seems that there is a limit to the number of close relationships we are capable of having. That's one of the reasons why it is important that Neighbors Gatherings meet in homes—the limited physical space will force the gatherings to remain small. But there is no limit to how many gatherings can be connected in a network. Theoretically there is also no limit to the beneficial effects of even one Neighbors Gathering. Even those in our neighborhood who can't or don't participate in the Gatherings enjoy the benefits of a safer neighborhood and a friendly wave on the street. We can find ways to care for our neighbors in Haiti, because, after all, THE WORLD IS A NEIGHBORHOOD.

Will you let us help you start a Gathering in your neighborhood?

