Organizing Church Coalitions for Repeat Builds

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Organizing Church Coalitions for Repeat Builds

• Faith Community is the Habitat foundation
• How can we get churches to build with us every year?
• What is a church coalition?
• What is good and what could be better?
• How do we get started?
• Include non-faith partners in the coalition?
Ed’s background

- Volunteers recruited my church in 2001 to join a coalition
- I volunteered to help organize my church for Habitat
- It quickly took off and so did my faith journey!
- Served on the Cincinnati BOD for several years
- Chaired the Eastside Coalition of Churches for 5 years
- Became ED of Cincinnati in 2010
- Named Pres/CEO of Greater Cincinnati in Jan. 2013 upon Cincinnati and TriState merger

11/25/2013
HFH of Greater Cincinnati

- 9 Counties in Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana
- Completing about 30 builds/rehabs a year
- Approaching 500 families served to date
- Merger was based on a vision to triple number of families served in 5 years
  - 50 Builds/Rehabs
  - 50 Critical Home Repairs

*5 Year Goal is to Serve 100 Families a Year*
Introductions

• Name
• Affiliate
• Volunteer or Staff
• What you would like to learn in the next hour?
How do you do it now?

• How do you organize churches and others to build?
• What is working?
• What are the opportunities?
• How do you get churches/others to be repeat offenders?
What is a Habitat Church Coalition?

- A group of churches that come together repeatedly (year after year) to complete a HFH build/rehab. They provide:
  - Funding
  - Volunteers
  - Volunteer Site Leadership
  - Family Advocacy
  - Lunches
  - Prayer
Experience in Greater Cincinnati

- Eastside – varies from 12 to 16 churches
- Shalom – has a defined city neighborhood
- Madisonville – none of the churches in Madisonville when it started
- Sycamore – upper income suburbia
- Westfed – on life support (Thrivent)
- Loveland – instant, upper income suburbia
- Northside – inner city challenge
- Crossroads – mega church

Collectively build > 10 houses a year
Pro’s and Con’s

Pro’s
• A church can participate at various levels
• Sustaining
  – Raise funds
  – Leadership
  – Volunteers
• Volunteers are leading
• Ecumenical
• Best Partner Family experiences

Con’s
• Churches have to work with each other & Habitat
• Ownership – must be a partnership with the affiliate
• Requires more than a desire to pound nails
How to get started

• Define the objective

• Look for common ground
  – Desire to serve ecumenically
  – Desire to serve the same community
    • Outreach foucs, Faith Alliances, Diocese, etc.

• Find “that person” – probably not clergy

• Encourage churches to recruit other churches

• Design for success – leverage strengths
Organization

- Coalition Steering Team
  - Chair person
  - Secretary
  - Site Leader and Crew Leaders
  - Volunteer Coordinator
  - Lunch Coordinator
  - Site Greeter
  - Fund Raising
  - Family Advocate
  - PR
  - Site Devotions Coordinator
  - Church Liaisons
Organization

• Monthly Steering Team Meetings
  – Helps each church stay engaged
  – Provides a forum for raising/solving issues
  – Decision maker present from the affiliate
  – Meeting is run by the Coalition

• Ongoing Communication
  – Construction
  – Family Services
  – Volunteer Services
  – Development
  – PR
Keeping it going!

- Communication – be open to input
- Involve in decisions as practical (build location)
- Make sure the liaisons to each church have the right skill set (can they rally the decision makers and the troops)
- Be flexible – a transition in clergy may help or may hurt
- Keep aligned on the same goal – serving families
Questions?