

Effective Recruitment & Retention Strategies

# Building a Thriving Volunteer Team

- Resident of the Grandview-Thorpe
   Neighborhood since December, 2004;
   Involved in Neighborhood Council since 2006.
  - NC Titles held include: SNLA Mentor,
     Chair, Secretary, Clean-Up Coordinator,
     Community Assembly Representative.
  - Past CA Committee participation
     includes: Administrative Committee,
     Policies & Procedures (P&P), Budget,
     Building Stronger Neighborhoods (BSN).
- Wife, Kid Mom and Dog Mom.
- Snowboarder, Camper, and Travel Planner.
- Former Chef, Server, Restaurant Manager.
- Employment Recruiter since 2021.

## About Me





## Today's Workshop Agenda

- 1. Identifying Volunteer Opportunities
- 2. How to Recruit
- 3. Volunteer Training and Retention
- 4. Volunteer Appreciation
- 5. Succession Planning
- 6. Real-Life Successes and Challenges

## Identifying Volunteer Opportunities

Everyone has their passions and commitments. **Personalize the invitation**: Find a matching volunteer opportunity that fits with those passions and commitments.



# <u>Discussion:</u> Categorize Volunteer Roles

What is your "Why"?

- <u>Minimal Commitment?</u>
  - Make it simple! The gateway drug to long-term volunteering.
- <u>Seasonal Commitment?</u>
  - Match to the volunteer's availability.
- Consistent, but busy?
  - Ongoing occasional tasks.
- Consistently Active?
  - Leadership and Liaison Opportunities.

#### Volunteer Recruitment

Selling (what are they shopping for?)

**Connecting: Personalization** 

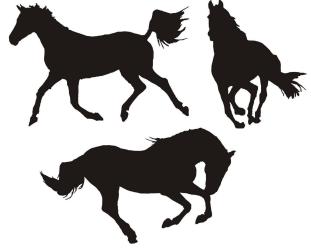
**Active vs Passive Strategies** 

Follow Through

Consistency



Unicorns do exist!



But horses are a lot easier to find.

## Volunteer Training and Retention

#### **Training Expectations**

- Time Commitment
- Responsibilities
- Teammates/Support
- Deadlines
- Resources
- Follow-Up

#### Retention

- Communication/Feedback
- Commitment Level
- Interest in Other Roles
- Training Opportunities
- Succession Expectations



## Volunteer Appreciation

**Know Your People** 

**Public Recognition** 

Private Recognition

Show the Impact

Respect Boundaries

A heartfelt Thank-You goes a long way!



## Succession Planning

- Provide Support Before Burnout
- Ask for Referrals Buddy System
- Align opportunities with interests
  - Things Change
- Be ready for anything
  - Back it up!



Prepare for turnover - Recruit early

## Successes and Frustrations

Success breeds success the more active volunteers you have, the more will want to be involved.

Not everyone is ready.

Don't take offense when you hear No, and don't close the door.

#### Start with a snowball, and build a team of snowmen!



Volunteers have different desires, skills, and availability.

Be prepared with a variety of opportunities!



Our lives will be defined by what is etched into the lives of those we have touched.

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## Questions?

