

## **Block Party Proposal**

Throughout the community mapping project, I sought external organizations within the community that the church could partner with and/or reach out to. I quickly discovered that there are endless groups of people and countless opportunities to connect with these groups. However, it will take a strong effort on behalf of the church to take advantage of these opportunities. The following is a proposal for a series of block parties to connect with community organizations and groups of people.

### **BLOCK PARTY CONCEPT**

The new small group ministry is focused on reaching out to individuals in neighborhoods across Lakeville/ Freetown. This is a great opportunity for the church to build intentional relationships with people as part of the process of leading them to Jesus Christ.

In contrast, the block parties would seek to partner with community organizations for a common cause. By hosting or partnering in an event together, the church and organizations will start building mutually beneficial relationships.

These block parties would also provide opportunities to draw people onto the actual church property and connect with our church body. Through getting to know those people from the community that participate in these events, our church can intentionally seek out those people (over time) with the intention of leading them to a relationship with Jesus Christ.

A block party could involve any type of event from a Fall festival to a special service to a family movie night or blood drive.

### **QUICK BREAKDOWN OF MODEL**

Mullein Hill provides the facility and manpower for an event geared toward the community. Community organizations are asked to partner with the event and bring expertise, volunteers, and their connections to participate in the event. The organizations are carefully chosen as to guarantee attendance at the event. Mullein Hill members reach out in faith and build personal relationships with the volunteers and people attending the event. Church leadership fosters a relationship with community organizations and becomes a “big player” in the community. After the event is over, church leadership carefully analyzes the personal and professional relationships that were created and trains church members on how to pursue those relationships with intention to lead them to a relationship with Jesus Christ.

### **BLOCK PARTY LEADERSHIP**

Block parties should be scheduled several months in advance. A leader should be approached by the elder board to coordinate a particular block party. A single leader should not lead more than one event within two-three months time as to avoid burnout. The coordinator should also be encouraged to involve the help of other gifted people in the church and to delegate responsibilities. The elder board should seek to train church members in how to build relationships with people that will be involved in the event. Their goal is not evangelism the first time they meet but to foster relationships that can be intentionally harvested.

## **LOGISTICS**

Block parties should be held approximately every other month. They should be planned out well in advance with coordinators chosen immediately. Funding for each event may be provided from the budget if they fall under a particular category and it is approved by the appropriate personnel. All other expenses should be provided through donations from businesses, individuals, and organizations. If ample planning is in place, then this should not be a major issue.