



HOW BEING NEIGHBORLY CONNECTS WITH OTHER GROUPS

September 5, 2017

Most everyone who has hung around Being Neighborly even for a short time knows that we're about making connections with neighbors. Getting acquainted, having fun, helping and sharing are all part of what we do as individuals. At the same time, it's important that all our relationships allow is to stay true to our vision and mission.

Although we love and need our visible online sharing, we've never limited our caring to only those folks who are part of this Facebook group. Anyone can NAK Attack (NAK = Neighborly Act of Kindness) groups and / or individuals not even on Facebook! Caring is caring and doesn't need to be restricted. When this happens, it's still important to post about the action on the feed. That way, the whole group can share in the good feeling generated by kindness.

And, although our primary focus is building connections and support for each other as individuals in the "village", it is sometimes appropriate to support and collaborate with a wide range of different types of local groups and organizations when their goals are contributing to the greater good.

We don't do business advertising on Being Neighborly but when a business supports one of our projects, such as hosts one of our food bank collection boxes, we post about our gratitude and it's a win - win for all.

You can also have a collaborative relationship with other Facebook groups such as the one between Being Neighborly: Lake Stevens and the Lake Stevens Rocks Facebook group.

There are some Facebook gifting groups, such as Buy Nothing, who don't allow their members to speak of other groups on their feed. So, we request that their rule is honored and that no one mentions Being Neighborly on their site. But, as far as we know, all other groups on our #freestuff list encourage and support collaboration!

Being Neighborly: Lake Stevens has put a lot of focus on supporting the Lake Stevens Food Bank. Although we aren't a service organization, it is sometimes appropriate actively support the services they provide. However, it isn't appropriate for a Being Neighborly representative to be a part of their Board of Directors or part of their Advisory Board because we are an empowerment model and not a service model organization. If a BeNe admin is invited to serve on a service organization board, we ask that they do it as an individual rather than as a representative of Being Neighborly.

Several of our projects involve city government and other local groups such as the Boy and Girls Club. We have Lake Stevens high school students doing their service hours with us. While this can sometimes be appropriate, it's important to focus primarily on ways that neighbors can create what is needed by pooling their own resources and sharing skills. Always choose the empowerment approach to all that we do. **Together we can do more!**