

The New Community Initiative  
September 03, 2009  
October 19, 2009 (Revised)

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# Proposal for

The New Community Initiative

I.	SUMMARY .....	3
II.	INTRODUCTION .....	4
III.	NEEDS/PROBLEMS .....	6
IV.	GOALS/OBJECTIVES .....	6
V.	PROCEDURES/SCOPE OF WORK .....	6
VI.	TIMETABLE .....	7
VII.	BUDGET .....	7
VIII.	KEY PERSONNEL .....	8
IX.	EVALUATION .....	8
X.	ENDORSEMENTS .....	8
XI.	NEXT STEPS .....	8
XII.	APPENDIX.....	9

# I. Summary

The New Community Initiative (NCI) exists in order to galvanize the churches, organizations, and volunteers of our area around shared community initiatives that are identified by the leaders in our community as being important to the greater good.

Based on the generosity of KPC News, the New Community Initiative has been offered a facility (the old Banner Building) rent free. The costs incurred for NCI to cover would be utilities, insurance, and minor repairs.

NCI is requesting grant monies to cover the anticipated costs of operation. This has been determined to be \$3,000.00 per year. All personnel would be unpaid volunteers.

# Introduction

The work of the New Community Initiative (NCI) is rooted in the Cultural Commission which simply states that we should "take care of God's stuff" (Genesis 1:26-27). What we believe, how we behave, what we produce, where we place our trash, the state of our buildings, what our yards look like, the movies we produce, the art we value is all a reflection of stewardship and our taking seriously the Genesis or Cultural Commission. All that we do is a reflection of what we truly believe. When we create the kind of culture that makes it possible and easier for entire communities to live a God-honoring life, then the Cultural Commission has been realized.

We believe that community service and volunteerism is rooted in the Cultural Commission, something we find all the way back in the first chapter of Genesis in the Bible. God made our world and then asked us to take care of His stuff. While we can never create what God created, we are called to extend it, shape it and form it and organize it and research it and use it in such a way that we thus extend God's creative work in our world. We are to plant and manage fields and food supplies. We are to construct cities and communities and restore old ones. We are to make music and works of art. We are to breakdown diseases and sicknesses and endeavor to find a cure. We are to utilize all of science to find answers to as many questions as we can. We are to adventure into outer space. We are to dedicate ourselves to the laboratory. We are to study law and economics. We are to engage in education and politics. We are to build databases and information systems to give people greater control over the information in their lives. We are to enfold the lonely into community and work for social justice. We are to remember the lost, the forgotten, the marginalized and those stuck in places of poverty and need. Why? All of this is to massage the potential of the created order and to love our fellow stewards who have been called as care-takers over it. And it all begins in the small places of where we live and the community that we are a part of.

We speak a "Genesis", a new creation, into the lives of people, into our community and our world when we exercise a responsible stewardship over the resources that we have been entrusted with.

The New Community Initiative (NCI) exists in order to galvanize the churches, organizations, and volunteers of our area around shared community initiatives that are identified by the leaders in our community as being important to the greater good.

There are many purposes for this organization:

- To locate in the western side of Noble County in Ligonier, Indiana in a building that would be a base of operation and also a neutral entry point for residents to begin to access the services offered in our area.
- To dialogue with local leaders in order to determine the most pressings needs and critical issues. This dialogue includes pastors, ministry leaders, community leaders, school administrators, school principals, school counselors, business owners, building owners, and organizational leaders.
- To incubate community organizations that need a low cost place of operation along with the freedom to operate within their own core values and mission statements.

- To build strategic partnerships with other need-meeting organizations in our community in order to enhance the overall ministry impact and who would help to guide new initiatives toward a greater good. This would include, but is not restricted to: the Food Pantry, WICK, Common Grace, Friday Café, Operation Foundation, FLA, Life & Family Services, LEAP.
- To implement key initiatives that have already been identified and need addressed (see Needs/Problems).

## II. Needs/Problems

Based on current discussions and dialog, the most urgent community needs are: an accessible clothing closet which offers free clothing to families; a hygienic ministry (providing things that food stamps don't cover, such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste, trash bags); temporary housing for transients, single mothers, or families in financial hardship.

Some longer range issues are: a program for newly released inmates; life coaching and addiction management; employment help and training; food management and provision; a regional site for the Indiana office of Faith-based and Community Initiatives.

## III. Goals/Objectives

The goals are as follows:

- Begin to operate out of the Banner Building in the Fall, 2009
- Work in partnership with the school system and other organizations to begin plugging people into NCI
- Secure funding for the first year of operation - \$3,000.00

## IV. Procedures/Scope of Work

Volunteers will be trained to assess basic needs. A simple application will be required for those requesting services or assistance. All enquiries will be tracked via an online database system. Those organizations who locate in the Banner Building will automatically have their leader as a member of the NCI board.

## V. Timetable

The phases:

	<b>Description of Work</b>	<b>Start and End Dates</b>
Phase One	Secure location/building and begin	Fall 2009
Phase Two	Attract a few more organizations	Spring 2009
Phase Three	Expand services and apply for grants	Fall 2010

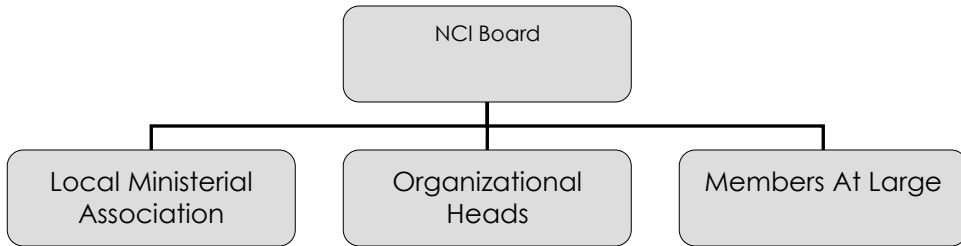
## VI. Budget

The proposed costs and budget of the project:

	<b>Description of Work</b>	<b>Anticipated Costs</b>
Phase One	Start-up as Proposed (Fall 2009)	\$3,000.00 per year
Phase Two	Expand and use the additional store-fronts in the Banner Building in partnership with Brian Steffen (Summer 2010)	\$6,000.00 per year
Phase Three	Include additional downtown buildings for use (As Available)	\$10,000.00 per year

## VII. Key Personnel

Key personnel involved in the project:



## VIII. Evaluation

Progress will be evaluated periodically with an overall assessment after one full year of operation.

## IX. Endorsements

Stone's Hill Community Church and the West Noble Ministerial Association

## X. Next Steps

Actions needed:

- Secure Funding
- Prepare contractual agreement
- Start serving people



# XI. Appendix

If you have questions, you may reach Stone's Hill Community Church at:

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