

Extreme Community Makeover

Getting Involved: ECM Work Days

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EXTREME COMMUNITY MAKEOVER

Mission Statement:

Extreme Community Makeover coordinates volunteer teams to partner with underserved people to improve their own homes and neighborhoods. These projects build safer environments; cultivate community among residents, neighborhoods, and networks of local resource providers; and connect residents to a permanent path towards healthy, hopeful, and stable lives.



What Does Extreme Community Makeover Do?

Extreme Community Makeover (ECM) is designed to invite volunteers into a partnership with residents of specific Denver neighborhoods to complete home and neighborhood improvement projects. These projects include graffiti removal, landscaping, painting, yard work, or other projects identified by the residents. Groups such as churches, companies, families, organizations, and schools may participate, and individuals can get involved. Equally important as fences that are built are the relationships being built—between the volunteers and community members, among the neighbors on a block, and between the community and resources in their neighborhood.

How Does Extreme Community Makeover Work?

Volunteer projects are scheduled on ECM Work Days every other weekend (approximately) from April-October. Work Days begin at 9:00 am. The location is determined by our neighborhood partner for that day. An orientation is provided where leaders share the vision for ECM and the partner organization involved. Each group splits up into their respective groups and the group leaders will give their team specific instructions about the projects identified on their targeted blocks and the work begins, usually around 9:30 am. Lunch is at 12:30 pm and is a time for volunteers and residents to share a meal and get to know one another. After lunch, groups continue working on the projects, which usually finish up around 4:00ish, but the



expectation is to complete whatever projects were started so everyone feels good about what they accomplished and can see the project completed at the end of the day.



Impact:

Since ECM began in 2008, over 21,000 volunteers have been mobilized to partner with over 1,750 residents in eight target neighborhoods in Denver to complete projects that improve their home or neighborhood, while cleaning hundreds of alleys and removing graffiti as well. More importantly though, relationships are being built and connections formed that did not previously exist.

WHY ECM EXISTS

What is the purpose of Extreme Community Makeover? ECM believes that being part of your community is a really important part of life. When you get to know your neighbors and begin to build relationships with them, you start to help and look out for one another and that's part of living together in a shared geographical space. In the busyness of life today, we often don't take time to meet our neighbors, which is why Extreme Community Makeover exists – to build relationships between neighbors and across neighborhoods. The graphic below demonstrates the approach ECM takes to helping foster stronger communities where neighbors do get to know one another.

"Community Projects" represent ECM Work Days, where residents of ECM target neighborhoods and volunteers come together to focus on tangible projects that include fence repair, graffiti removal, painting, yard work, and many other projects, which lead to people working together to make an impact in their local community.

Through the Work Days, residents and volunteers are able to "Build Relationships" with one another, with the groups volunteering, and with other neighbors in the community as everyone works side by side. Lunch time during the Work Days is another way to connect with people as residents and volunteers share a meal together.



As residents get to know their neighbors, look out for each another, and help one another, they are fostering "Neighbor to Neighbor" interactions with one another that are what being part of a community entails.

Along the way, ECM is building relationships with local organizations, resources, and service providers and acts as a catalyst to bring those "Collaborative Resources" to the residents, while helping the community recognize that they have resources inside their own community to create solutions to challenges they might be facing.

When the previous steps take place, there are many different individuals and groups working together to "Build Community". And as residents catch a vision for the community they want to create, they pay it forward to help their neighbors with other "Community Projects" and the cycle begins again.

TARGET NEIGHBORHOODS



Where ECM Works:

ECM currently works in eight neighborhoods in Denver: Barnum, Elyria, Globeville, La Alma/Lincoln Park, Swansea, Villa Park, West Colfax, and Westwood. Here are a few stories of ECM's impact in these communities.

Elyria, Globeville, & Swansea:

Last year, ECM received a grant to launch a project called time banking in the Elyria, Globeville, and Swansea neighborhoods as a pilot to be replicated in other places. The concept is that people exchange goods and services with one another via time, rather than money. For example, Arlene helps Bryan with his taxes for 4 hours. Thus, she has 4 hours to deposit in the time bank. Arlene's fence fell down so she connects with Carl, who takes 2 hours to help fix it. Arlene withdraws 2 hours, while Carl deposits 2 hours in the time bank. Carl wants a home cooked meal, so he connects with Dorothy, who takes 1 hour to cook for Carl and now deposits 1 hour, while Carl withdraws 1 hour in the time bank. Essentially, time banking is a way for neighbors to connect with each another in order to build stronger relationships and communities, while meeting ongoing daily needs.

Westwood:

ECM is very intentional about establishing relationships and strategic partnerships in order to further everyone's efforts and to connect residents with other programs, services, and opportunities provided by these partners. In the past year, many groups, including ECM, have come together to form a group call Westwood Unidos, which is taking a resident-centered and resident-led approach to community development. Seeing the residents participate in this process for sharing dreams about their ideal neighborhood and communicating current struggles gets to the heart of ECM's mission – building stronger communities “one block at a time”. Through participating in the Safety Committee of Westwood Unidos, ECM is recognized as a strong partner in this collaboration, which has received a \$1,000,000 grant from the Colorado Health Foundation to implement projects that make improvements in Westwood over three years, through priorities identified by the residents.

TESTIMONIALS

Extreme Community Makeover invites volunteers and residents to partner together to improve Denver neighborhoods. There have been over 21,000 volunteers in these neighborhoods (Barnum, Elyria, Globeville, La Alma/Lincoln Park, Swansea, Villa Park, West Colfax and Westwood) and over 1,750 residents helped through ECM since its inception in 2008. The types of projects include yard work, landscaping, fence repair, painting, graffiti removal, trimming bushes and trees, debris removal, and community clean-up.



BEFORE



AFTER

Read testimonials of the impact of ECM on the lives of our friends and neighbors:

"I just wanted to thank you for all the wonderful work your crew did on my home. It was a real joy meeting them and spending the day beautifying my home." – Sandy, Barnum resident

"I want to thank you from the bottom of our heart for the help you provided us. The ones who came to help us were wonderful. We appreciated all they did." – John & Esther, Barnum residents

"I appreciate all the work you've done for my Grandma. She had such glowing things to say about the volunteers!" – Jamie, Villa Park resident

"I am sending this letter as a thank you.....for how professional and personable the group is and that a good time was had by all. It is good to know that there are groups such as yours that are willing to take an interest to help improve the communities they live in." – Scott, West Colfax organization

"Extreme Community Makeover is a leader in our city – standing in the gap to serve neighborhoods as we try to balance costs and operations citywide." – Paul Lopez, City of Denver Councilman

PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

Two main project opportunities exist during ECM Work Days: 1) the “Adopt a Block” project and 2) the “Alley Clean-Up & Graffiti Removal” project. Here is what you can expect from each project.

“Adopt a Block” Project:

When a group adopts a block, they will be talking directly with residents on that block to identify exterior home or neighborhood improvement project needs and then working with the residents to complete those projects. Here are the major components of the “adopt a block” project:

- *Determine the number of blocks to adopt.* A general guideline is 20 volunteers per block adopted.
- *Survey your block(s) to identify projects.* ECM projects are identified by getting out into the community, knocking on doors, and asking people what projects they could use extra helping hands to complete. Survey Days take place on Saturdays from 2:00-4:00 pm, two weeks prior to the scheduled Work Day. Two volunteers are needed per block adopted to help with the Survey Day.
- *Identify project leaders.* Once projects have been identified through the Survey Day, the group volunteering will need to identify a project leader from within their group for each project. This person will be responsible for communicating directly with the resident(s) between the Survey Day and Work Day to identify supplies needed, determine the scope of work, and confirm other relevant details.
- *Determine supplies needed.* ECM encourages residents to contribute supplies to the projects, as they are able. When residents are unable to contribute the necessary supplies, the group volunteering is invited (but not expected) to come alongside the resident(s) to help procure those supplies to complete the project.

“Alley Clean-Up & Graffiti Removal” Project:

When a group cleans alleys and removes graffiti, they will be working on a community based project impacting all homes adjacent to the alley(s), rather than working directly with a resident at their home. Here are the major components of the “alley clean-up and graffiti removal” project:

- *Clean alleys.* Volunteers will pull weeds, remove trash and debris, and sweep the alley in order to create a cleaner and safer environment.
- *Remove graffiti.* Volunteers will paint over graffiti on public property (dumpsters) and private property (fences, garage doors, etc.).
- *Complete authorization forms.* Groups can knock on doors to get an authorization form signed, giving the City of Denver permission to remove graffiti on that property when it’s reported.

PROJECT LOCATIONS

Saturday ECM Work Days Schedule: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

- April 11 – Barnum – Host: Bethany United Methodist Church (3501 West 1st Avenue, Denver, 80219)
- April 25 – Westwood – Host: Crossroads of the Rockies (2707 West Mississippi Avenue, Denver, 80219)
- May 2 – Villa Park – Host: Set Free Church (1001 Perry Street, Denver, 80204)
- May 16 – West Colfax – Host: Confluence Ministries (1400 Quitman Street, Denver, 80204)
- May 30 – Barnum – Host: Barnum Recreation Center (360 Hooker Street, Denver, 80219)
- June 13 – Swansea – Host: Focus Points (2501 East 48th Avenue, Denver, 80216)
- June 27 – Elyria – Host: Colorado Miners (4809 Race Street, Denver, 80216)
- July 11 – Westwood – Host: Redeemer Lutheran Church (3300 West Nevada Place, Denver, 80219)
- July 25 – Globeville – Host: Globeville Recreation Center (4496 Grant Street, Denver, 80216)
- August 8 – Barnum – Host: Bethany United Methodist Church (3501 West 1st Avenue, Denver, 80219)
- August 22 – La Alma/Lincoln Park – Host: His Love Fellowship (910 Kalamath Street, Denver, 80204)
- September 12 – Westwood – Host: Redeemer Lutheran Church (3300 West Nevada Place, Denver, 80219)
- September 26 – Elyria – Host: Colorado Miners (4809 Race Street, Denver, 80216)
- October 3 – Swansea – Host: Focus Points (2501 East 48th Avenue, Denver, 80216)
- October 17 – Villa Park & West Colfax – Host: Confluence Ministries (1400 Quitman Street, Denver, 80204)
- October 31 – Multiple Neighborhoods – Host: Barnum Recreation Center (360 Hooker Street, Denver, 80219)

Tuesday & Thursday ECM Work Days Schedule: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

- June 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 18, 23, 25, & 30; July 2, 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 23, 28, & 30 – Multiple Neighborhoods – Host: Set Free Church (1001 Perry Street, Denver, 80204)

New Work Days (Any Other Date Not Listed Above): Must be scheduled with ECM in order to determine a date, a time, and a location that works

PARTICIPATION IN ECM WORK DAYS

In order to make the work described above possible, ECM asks groups to look at the costs (lined out below) to participate in ECM projects and Work Days as a framework to guide your financial involvement to get involved as a group or as an individual. If you are unable to contribute in this way, please contact ECM before registering. It takes time and resources to make all of these projects happen, so thank you in advance to each group and individual for pitching in financially so together we can impact Denver neighborhoods “one block at a time”!

SATURDAY WORK DAYS

April 11 & 25; May 2, 16, & 30; June 13 & 27; July 11 & 25; August 8 & 22; September 12 & 26; October 3, 17, & 31

GROUPS & INDIVIDUALS → **\$10 per person** (includes lunch)
\$20 per person (includes lunch and a t-shirt)

TUESDAY AND THURSDAY WORK DAYS

June 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 18, 23, 25, & 30; July 2, 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 23, 28, & 30

GROUPS & INDIVIDUALS → **\$5 per person** (bring your own lunch)
\$15 per person (includes lunch)
\$25 per person (includes lunch and a t-shirt)

NEW WORK DAY

(Please contact ECM for more details on scheduling an additional date.)

GROUPS & INDIVIDUALS → **\$10 per person** (bring your own lunch)
\$20 per person (includes lunch)
\$30 per person (includes lunch and a t-shirt)

all WORK DAYS

**CHURCH &
COMPANY
PARTNERS**



\$1000 per church or company
(unlimited participants for the year)

NEXT STEPS

If you are ready to move ahead with getting involved in an ECM Work Day as a group or individual, contact Angela. From there, you will schedule a time to talk with Angela about more details and then you will be provided with the registration information so you can get signed up for an ECM Work Day. We are looking forward to partnering with you to impact Denver communities!

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