

The **ABUNDANT** Community Initiative

Awakening the Power of Families and Neighborhoods

Connector Coordinator Profile

By ACI Consultant

Connectors Coordinators have a passion for the “connectedness of their neighbourhood”. They are the people in the Neighbourhood who know large numbers of people and who are in the habit of making introductions happen.

A Connector Coordinator is a “go-to person” in the neighbourhood. They know people across the Neighbourhood and make a habit of introducing neighbours who they think might have common interests. They are people who “link us up with the world...people with a special gift for bringing the world together”. They are those with an “extraordinary knack [... for] making friends and acquaintances”. Malcolm Gladwell characterizes these kinds of individuals as having a large social network – people who understand and value neighbourly relationships. Gladwell attributes the social success of Connectors, like these, to the fact that “their ability to span many different worlds is a function of something intrinsic to their personality, some combination of curiosity, self-confidence, sociability, and energy”.

Connector Coordinators are and have a history of being motivated to do something about increasing the relatedness and well-being of neighbours and the neighbourhood. They are the ones who have organized block parties and have sat on the community league executive looking for opportunities to build the relational structures in the community.

Connector Coordinators will need to be, and be able to, in order of priority:

1. Be confident and passionate enough to seek out and enlist a Block Connector from each block in the neighbourhood.
2. Have leadership ability sufficient to direct and motivate the Block Connectors to complete their interviews.
3. Be tenacious enough and have sufficient organizational skills to engage the entire neighbourhood.
4. Be bold enough and have social skills sufficient to interview any neighbour.
5. Be sufficiently hospitable to be able to convene the Block Connectors for encouragement and “team” support.
6. Have teaching ability sufficient to guide the connectors to competence in interviewing.
7. Be interest enough in the neighbourhood information to be involved and act on the collected data.
8. Be gracious and patient enough to work with all levels of competence and commitment.
9. Have sufficient communication skills to correspond with Block Connectors, neighbourhood and community league executive.

