



# Good Neighbor Guide

ROCKPOINTE EDITION

"ALL OF US, AT SOME TIME OR ANOTHER, NEED HELP. WHETHER WE'RE GIVING OR RECEIVING HELP,  
**each one of us has something valuable to bring to this world.**

THAT'S ONE OF THE THINGS THAT CONNECTS US AS NEIGHBORS  
- IN OUR OWN WAY,  
**each one of us is a giver and a receiver."**

- MR. ROGERS<sup>1</sup>

# A GUIDE TO PRACTICAL STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO KNOW & LOVE **YOUR NEIGHBORS**

A note from your pastors:

"Love your neighbor as yourself."

These words, spoken by our Lord, call us to **invest** in our "neighbors" for the sake of the gospel, in all the areas where we live, learn, work, and play.

How do we practically do this?

That's where this guide comes into play. Consider selecting a prompt or two each week to complete. These suggestions may even spark your own ideas for how to best **invest** in your neighbors.

The "why" behind every action in this guide is tied to God's love for people and can be used to spark gospel conversations.

We need our neighbors. Our neighbors need us.

Begin **investing** in them, and let's see what God will do.



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Adapted from the “Dallas Good Neighbor Guide” through a collaboration between RockPointe and the project’s author. Learn more and find additional resources on neighboring related to topics like racial reconciliation, caring for your environment, the history of Dallas, and more by reaching out to [\*\*guide.good.neighbor@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:guide.good.neighbor@gmail.com) or at [\*\*goodneighborguide.org\*\*](http://goodneighborguide.org).

Disclaimer: the links and resources throughout the guide are being provided as a convenience and for informational purposes only; this does not constitute an endorsement or approval by RockPointe for any of the products, services or opinions of the corporation, organization, or individual.

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## KEY

- \$0 No cost  
\$ Cost ranges between \$5-\$20  
\$\$ Cost ranges between \$20-\$80  
\$\$\$ Cost is above \$80



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Text that is **bolded** and marked with this symbol has extra resources. They can be found by following the embedded links (digital version) or this QR code (print version).

*Tip: as you read through the guide, consider marking or highlighting which action items you want to complete. As you finish a step, turn to the coloring page in the back of the book and shade in the corresponding window.*



## KNOW YOURSELF:

01. Write down some good and bad experiences you have had with neighbors. Jesus says to “love your neighbor as yourself.” How does this impact your view on neighboring? (1 hr, \$0)
02. Take a walk around your neighborhood for a fresh look and pray. Reflect on the following questions: (1 hr, \$0)
  - What do you love about your community?
  - What needs do you see?
03. Begin a daily practice of gratitude. Write down one thing you are grateful for about your neighborhood or community each day. Consider sharing this observation with a friend. (5 min/daily, \$0)
04. The Japanese concept of "ikigai" can be defined as "purpose" or "reason for being."<sup>2</sup> It's the intersection of what someone loves, is good at, and can be paid for - in intersection with what the world needs.






Reflect on how your skills, experiences, and passions align with what your community needs and already has. (1 hr, \$0)



# LEARN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD'S CONTEXT

📍 **05.** We were each born at a unique cultural time and to a specific place in the world. Our values, worldview, and customs are shaped by our location and community. Learning to invest in our neighbors for the sake of the gospel goes hand-in-hand with understanding and loving the place we live.

Spend some time understanding your local community through its **trends and demographics**. (2 hrs, \$0)

2021 Data	Flower Mound & Highland Village	Lewisville	Argyle	Northlake
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Asian</li> <li>■ Black</li> <li>■ Hispanic</li> <li>■ Multiracial</li> <li>■ Other</li> <li>■ White</li> </ul>				
<b>Population</b>	150,301	110,077	4,336	5,294
<b>Poverty Rate</b>	3%	10%	-	2%
<b>Median Household Income</b>	\$145,244	\$71,953	\$149,219	\$96,056
<b>Average Age</b>	42	33	53	31

*While the above doesn't represent the location of every member of RockPointe, we hope it provides context for many. If your city is not listed, learn about it at the above link.*

## 📍 **Stretch Goal!**

Explore the **2022 Denton County Community Needs Assessment** to better understand our community needs and challenges. (2 hrs, \$0)







## CONNECT WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS

Apply these action items first to your physical neighbors and then to all the areas where you *live, learn, work, and play*.

- 06.** Schedule time on your calendar monthly to connect with your neighbors. Simply knocking on doors is a great way to meet. (30 min - 1 hr, \$0)



See page 22 for a 3x3 grid to use

- 07.** Learn names - use the 3x3 grid with your home at the center. Write in the names of those who live in the eight closest homes/apartments to you - meet the people you don't know. (15 min - 3 hours, \$0)
- 08.** Discover interests - add notes to the 3x3 with what you learn about your neighbors so you can bring these topics up in conversation. (variable time, \$0)
- 09.** Hear and share stories - find a good time to see if a neighbor would like to share their story. Ask if you could share too, and open up about your own experiences. An easy rubric to share your life story is to talk about your "heritage, heroes, high points, hard times, and hand of God." (2 hrs, \$0)
- 10.** Keep good notes and a prayer list - when important things happen in your neighbors' lives, write them down. Also, ask how you can pray. Be faithful to pray, and follow up on these items. Give a hand-written card or send a text to check in. (variable time, \$0)



## CONNECT WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS - CONT.

11. Organize a pet playdate - if many neighbors have pets, organize a pet playdate in a nearby park. Both pets and owners can socialize! (3 hrs, \$0)
12. Initiate a fitness challenge - start a fitness challenge for neighbors to participate in together. (3 hrs, \$0)
13. Host an event at your house - whether it's a movie night, game night or a big game watch party, it's a fun and interactive way to connect. This could be an annual thing! (5 hrs, \$)
14. Attend an event together - go to a concert, show, sporting event, or dinner. Participating in activities together creates memories & opportunities. (3 hrs, \$)

### STRETCH GOALS!

15. Take a trip: Organize a camping or other trip with neighbors for some extended time together. (variable time, \$\$\$)
16. Consider starting a book club with your neighbors or building a free little library. (variable time, \$\$\$)



TAKE ONE!



## CONNECT WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS - CONT.

17. Exchange contact information, especially to have in case of emergency. This can also facilitate communication for gatherings. (3 hrs, \$0)
18. Start a neighbor group chat. This is an easy way to stay connected and can open doors for future spiritual conversations outside of the chat. (5 hrs, \$0)
19. Invite neighbors to church - specifically for Christmas Eve and Easter when people are more likely to say “yes,” from someone who has invested in them. (15 min, \$0)
20. Find the neighbor who has lived on your street the longest. Ask them about the neighborhood. What do they love? What changes have they seen? (2 hrs, \$0)
21. Borrow from a neighbor the next time you need something instead of running to the store. (10 min, \$0)
22. Random Acts of Kindness - surprise three neighbors with a thoughtful gesture or act of kindness. (1 hr, \$)



23. Celebrate milestones like birthdays, anniversaries, or achievements. (3 hrs, \$)



## REFLECTIONS & NOTES:

Making friends with strangers might feel intimidating. *What emotions do you feel when you think about taking these initial steps?*

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After connecting with your neighbors, consider *who is a neighbor you admire? Who is a neighbor you want to deepen a relationship with? Why?*

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## GROW ALONGSIDE YOUR NEIGHBORS

24. The demographics of Denton County are quickly changing. We grow in love as neighbors as we walk alongside those of different cultures, backgrounds, and races. Consider doing your own scriptural research to deepen your understanding of God's heart for cross-cultural relationships. (variable time, \$0)

Work through this **Practical Guide to Dialogue** to

- 📍 25. grow in your ability to connect with others who may differ from you. (2 hrs, \$0)

Think about how much discretionary money you may

26. spend on yourself in a week. One week, deny yourself some of these non-essentials and use those resources to invest into someone you've been praying for. (2 hrs, \$\$\$)



### STRETCH GOAL!

- 📍 27. Complete an online **Journey of Generosity** workshop. Think about how being more generous with your treasure could impact your own heart and those around you for the sake of the gospel. What's one thing you will do to invest more generously in another? (6 hrs, \$0)

## REFLECTIONS & NOTES:

*In which ways do you live similarly to your neighbors? In which ways do you live differently? How might these differences impact your life experiences and interactions with your neighbors?*



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## SPEND TIME IN YOUR COMMUNITY

- 28.** Pick a place in your neighborhood to become a regular. Keep an eye out for how to invest in guests and other regulars. (variable time, \$-\$\$)
- 29.** Ask the employees at local businesses how you can pray for them & invite them to RockPointe. (15 min, \$0)
- 30.** Find out if any kids in your neighborhood have a sports game or performance you could attend. (3 hrs, \$)
- 31.** Take treats to your local fire or police department, waste services team, school, etc. (2 hrs, \$)
- 32.** Ask someone with a different cultural background, where you live, learn, work or play, if you can treat them to lunch at their favorite place. (2 hrs, \$-\$\$)





## REFLECTIONS & NOTES:

Reflect on the obstacles or conveniences that might impact your choice to spend time in your community. *Is there a rhythm you could begin to increase your presence?*

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After spending time in your community, reflect: *what did you notice about your community that you hadn't before? What do you think are the best aspects of your community?*

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## SERVE LOCALLY

- 📍 **33.** Check out RockPointe's "[Serve Locally](#)" page. Take action on what excites you when thinking about how God will use your investment of time in one of these organizations. Invite a neighbor to serve with you, too! (variable time, \$0)
- 📍 **34.** [Purchase](#) or create kits to carry in your car and share with unhoused members of your community. (15 min, \$\$-\$\$\$)
- 📍 **35.** Brainstorm how [your workplace can support your community](#) through its resources, time, and skills. (1 hr, \$-\$\$\$\$)
- 📍 **36.** Purchase school supplies for a local teacher you know through [Communities in School North Texas](#). (1 hr, \$\$)
- 📍 **37.** If you shop at Kroger, [connect your account](#) so a portion of your spending supports a local nonprofit. (5 min, \$0)

### STRETCH GOALS!

- 38.** Got space for one more in your home? Look into and pray about fostering. It's a big investment, but it can make an even bigger impact. (variable time, \$\$\$)
- 📍 **39.** Consider reading [When Helping Hurts](#) with a friend to identify how to serve in holistic ways. (3-7 hrs, \$0)



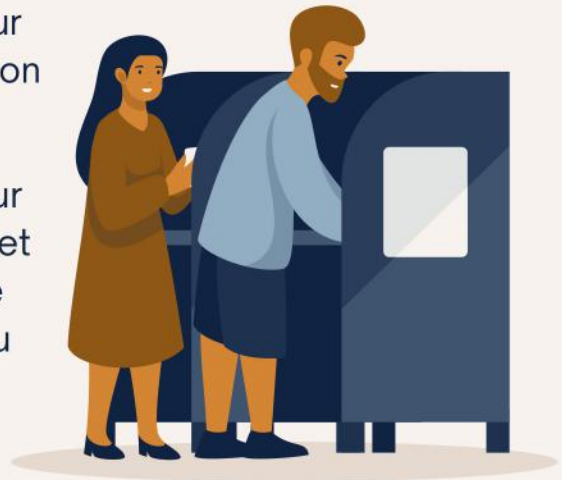


## ENGAGE IN CIVIC ADVOCACY:

### DID YOU KNOW?

AROUND **10%** OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS IN DENTON COUNTY VOTE IN LOCAL ELECTIONS.<sup>3</sup> THIS MEANS ONLY 10% OF THE POPULATION IS INFLUENCING LOCAL POLICIES.

40. Follow your local City Hall and City Council Member on social media and subscribe to their email list. (15 min, \$0)
41. Look at various voter guides to become more informed on issues, view a sample ballot and learn dates for your next local election. (30 min, \$0)
42. Go and vote in the next local election. (2 hrs, \$0)
43. Attend a city council meeting. (2 hrs, \$0)
44. Volunteer to become a poll worker for an upcoming election. (16 hrs, \$0)
45. If applicable, attend your neighborhood association meeting. (2 hrs, \$0)
46. Identify and contact your local representatives. Let them know what they're doing well and what you would like to see changed. (2 hrs, \$0)





## REFLECTIONS & NOTES:

*How are you currently involved in civic activities? In what ways do you think your participation does or doesn't affect your community?*

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*If you had a million dollars to spend on behalf of your city, how would you spend these funds? Why?*

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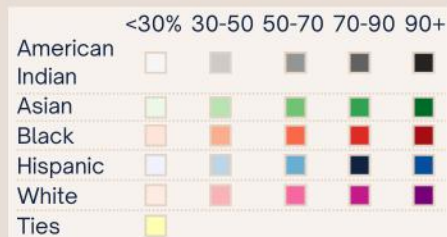
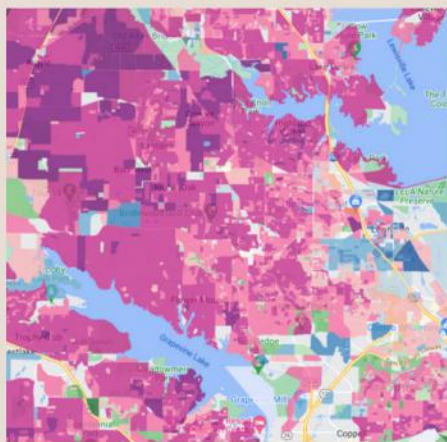
# APPENDIX:

## VISUALIZE YOUR COMMUNITY

“Where a person lives influences their access to education, jobs, and community resources. Even health outcomes have been shown to be correlated with a person’s zip code. Research has shown that when areas are more diverse, all groups living in them experience better outcomes.”

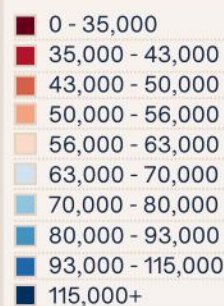
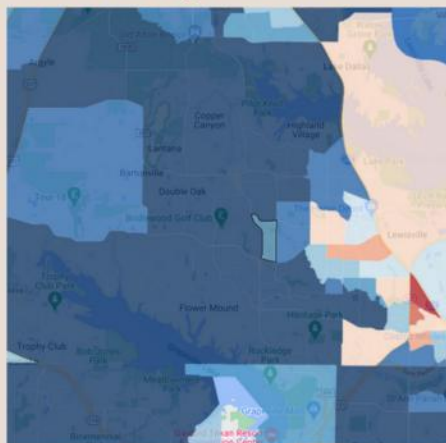
- Community Foundation of Texas Economic Opportunity Assessment<sup>4</sup>

### Our Area by Race:



Map visualizations from [justicemap.org](http://justicemap.org).

### Our Area by Income:





## CONCLUSION

Why the Good Neighbor Guide? **Why a whole year on the theme of invest?** The reason we are doing this is because we believe everybody spends eternity somewhere. God has placed you in specific territories (places where you live, learn, work and play) and given you unique influence in the lives of your “neighbors” in those territories.

The goal of being a good neighbor and investing in your neighbors is ultimately to build a relational bridge strong enough to support the weight of the gospel message that hopefully, you will one day invite them to hear, consider and receive.

Let’s keep praying for and investing in our neighbors for the sake of the gospel.





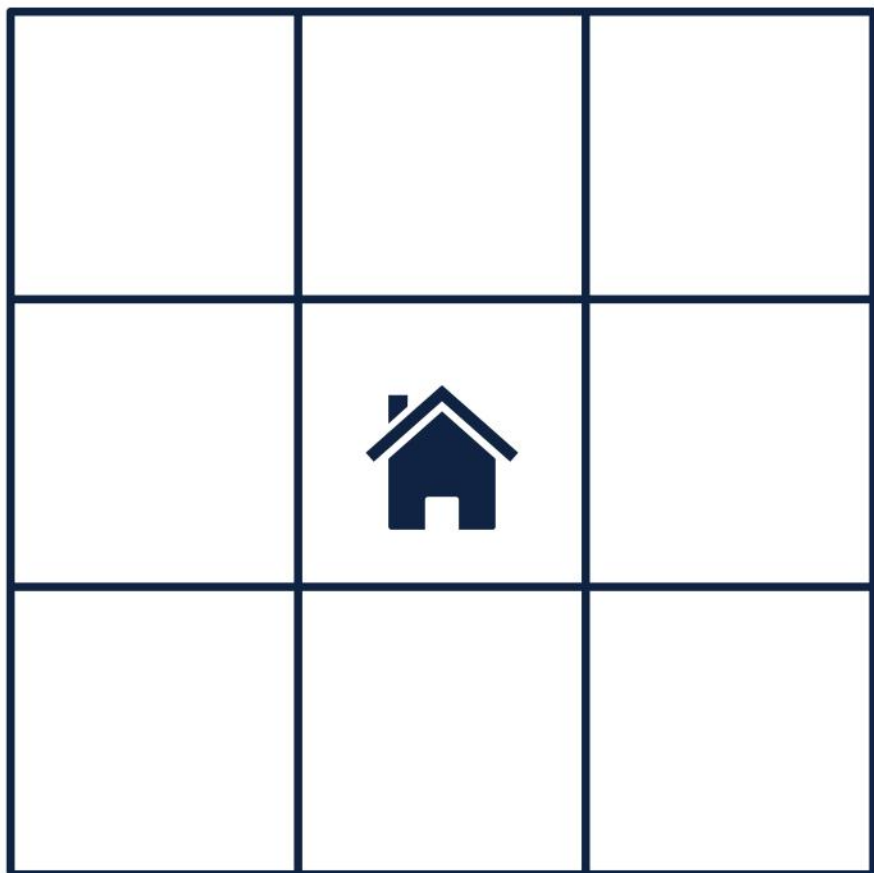
# CITATIONS

Citations hyperlinked throughout the guide can be accessed at [rpc.fm/invest](http://rpc.fm/invest). Additional citations are referenced here:

1. Goodreads. (n.d.). All of us, at some time or another, need help. <https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/7057503-all-of-us-at-some-time-or-other-need-help>
2. Ikigai Living. (n.d.). What is Ikigai? <https://ikigai-living.com/what-is-ikigai/>
3. City of Denton. (n.d.). Election Results. Retrieved from <https://www.votedenton.gov/election-results-and-maps/election-results/#PastElections>
4. Community Foundation of Texas. (n.d.). Economic Opportunity Assessment. <https://www.cftexas.org/community-impact/economic-security/economic-opportunity-assessment>



## MY NEIGHBOR MAP



Do you know your eight closest neighbors? Use this map to help. Cut out this page and put it somewhere you'll see it, like your fridge. Fill in the names of the neighbors you already know, then meet the others to fill in all the boxes.







Cut out this coloring page and put it somewhere you'll see it, like your fridge.

As you complete an action point, color in the corresponding window!





