



SUMMER 2023 – STAFF INFORMATION

We are looking for young adults who believe that serving others and working for justice is primary to faithful living. Summer staff will work to empower and equip groups to put their faith into action through service and justice in ways that are relational, sustainable and dignity-affirming through direct service, education, justice-work, advocacy and reflection. Summer staff will work in partnership and collaboration with site directors, group leaders, youth, non-profit partners and educators to ensure that justice-based service-learning trips are safe, organized, positive, inclusive, empowering, and filled with opportunities for learning and growth, so that when participants complete their trip, they are equipped and ready to put their faith into action in their own community. We are looking for young adults to host, lead, and teach youth and intergenerational groups that come to learn and serve with Be The Neighbor. The work can be demanding, and the hours are long (although we will do our best to ensure you get the rest you need to thrive), but we promise you will learn more than you can imagine. The summer might even change your life!

You will serve alongside a team of folks who are passionate about social justice. You may be pushed beyond your comfort zone. You will do work that is fun, along with tedious (but necessary) tasks. You will serve so that others can serve and learn.

Be The Neighbor weeks are planned in Albuquerque, Austin, Chicago, Dallas, Fort Worth, Kansas City, Nashville, Tucson and Tulsa.

In 2023 we will have Connect & Reach Staff opportunities. Connect staff will work in one location (Dallas, Fort Worth, Kansas City, Nashville or Tucson) and will have the option to live at home, on site, or with a host family. Connect staff is best suited for applicants with previous leadership experience as this position requires more independent leadership and responsibility. Reach staff will work at several sites (Albuquerque, Austin, Chicago, or Tucson) and applicants will live on-site with a team throughout the summer. This position is best suited for applicants interested in significant leadership training who are discerning their future call and career path and who are excited to build community working with a team.

Summer staff will work four to six weeks (in addition to training) in one or two cities. Summer staff will receive a scholarship upon completion of the summer. If you are not currently in school or have completed your education, other financial arrangements will be made. First year summer staff receive a \$3000 scholarship. Returning staff receive an additional \$500. (Scholarship amounts may adjust if you work additional or fewer weeks.) Volunteers also receive most meals, housing, and travel to and from each service city. We are grateful to University Christian Church in Austin, Texas for funding the scholarships, meals, and housing for our summer staff.

Be The Neighbor summer staff will lead our mission and justice education program for participants. The work is physically, mentally, and spiritually demanding, but very rewarding. You will work under the guidance of a Site Director to lead the daily activities. Summer staff will work to form a supportive and encouraging atmosphere. Each team member is a representative of Be The Neighbor and is expected to act as a role model to youth, be collegial and communicative with group leaders, and be respectful of and work collaboratively with partners, educators, and partner organizations. In conjunction with group leaders, the staff is responsible for the safety and security of participants. All staff must satisfactorily complete the summer commitment to receive the scholarship, and are also requested to complete an evaluation of their experience.

General Responsibilities: Be the Neighbor Summer Staff are responsible for keeping groups and group leaders on schedule. Staff will lead morning gathering and some evening worships, education/simulation activities, make presentations, host guest leaders, run errands, and answer questions. Staff will assist with meal prep and clean up. Staff may need to wash dishes, clean up a meeting area, or do other servant leader tasks in order to keep the program functioning on schedule. Staff will work closely and collaboratively with site directors and partner organizations throughout the week.

Be the Neighbor Summer Volunteer Staff Requirements

- Be at least 19 years old
- Seek to follow the ways of Jesus
- Be open and curious to different beliefs and understandings of faith different than your own
- Be committed to serving others and working for social justice
- Be comfortable with progressive/liberal theology
- Be welcoming and affirming to the LGBTQ+ community
- Be willing to work as part of a team
- Be willing to complete the full training program
- Be able to complete the entire commitment for which you are hired
- Complete a comprehensive health form
- Submit to a background check

Summer Overview

- 1. Staff Training:** June 2-10 staff training and prep. Staff will get acquainted and learn about Be the Neighbor. There will also be training in Safe Conduct, CPR/First Aid, anti-racism, food handling and more.
- 2. Transportation:** Be the Neighbor will provide transportation between sites during the program.
- 3. Lodging:** Lodging is available throughout the program (including during the training). Some locations require that you stay onsite during the program week. Other locations may allow for you to stay at home if you live in the area.
- 4. Food:** Breakfast and lunch will be provided during all program weeks. Lunch and some dinners will be provided during training. Be the Neighbor covers the cost of meals during travel.
- 5. Weekly Schedule:** Most weeks, staff begin service on Sunday at 2:00 pm. Groups arrive on Sunday at 6:00 pm. On Sunday evening, staff will lead an orientation and introduction as well as a staff meeting for adults. Most groups depart on Friday morning by 10:00 am. After clean-up and a brief evaluative conversation, staff will depart for weekend rest or travel to the next program location.
- 6. Health Concerns:** Be the Neighbor will follow all CDC, state, and local health and social distancing recommendations.