My Hometown Initiative – Individuals and Couples – City, Church, & Community combine resources and work together

Typical Length of Service: 18 months Hours per Week: approximately 20

About Us: Two main emphases:

1. Community Development: Missionary outreach to residents via handouts, knocking doors, etc. to build a sense of community, including finding block captains. A church building becomes a community resource center during the week, providing any help needed (employment, Pathway, grants, etc.) at no charge to the residents. West Valley City may pay for an annual block party.
2. Days of Service: Neighborhood missionaries identify homeowners who require assistance (remove tree, repair/new fence, painting, etc.). Utilizing a partner stake/ward, labor and equipment is provided, and the homeowner (or occasionally West Valley City) purchases materials. Well planned events to help revitalize the community.

Missionaries currently serve as representatives of West Valley City. This is a relatively new initiative and is only within the Utah Area and therefore may not be listed on the Church website. Service missionaries are called and set apart by their home stake presidency. Service Missionaries serve under the direction of executive directors – Jon with his wife Larraine Rowberry of our stake serve in this capacity. Service is often performed in the evening and weekends. My Hometown Initiative began with two stakes in West Valley City and two more are beginning in each - Provo, Salt Lake City, and Ogden.

Purposes:

To assist West Valley City in the Granger Stake geographic area in revitalizing neighborhoods, developing a community spirit, and helping individuals and families with what they need assistance with or projects they don’t know how to do or where to begin. My Hometown Service Missionaries help the city, Church, and community care for the poor and needy and create an environment where families move in and want to stay instead of trying to move out asap.

Responsibilities:

• My Hometown Service Missionaries are assigned to specific areas to assist under the executive director’s direction. • They are encouraged to devote their time and energy to a specific neighborhood and get to know individuals and families. • They assist block captains (local residents) in creating a spirit of unity and neighborhood, help individuals overcome challenges, improve their lives, and become self-reliant. • If a community resource center is established in the area, some Service Missionaries may be called with specific assignments for only a few hours a week (possible 2 to 4 hours) teaching English as a second language (ESL), group piano lessons, computer skill, basic life skills, etc.

Qualifications:

Individuals or couples should possess the following skills and attributes: • Have a desire to serve others, and a willingness to not judge others. • Able to mentor others with love and patience. • Ability to take direction from others. • Training and orientation to the specifics of the assignments will be provided. • Spanish and other languages skills can be helpful but are not required.