



Racine Neighborhood Watch, Inc.
800 Center Street, Room 316
Racine, Wisconsin 53403-1444
(262) 637.5711
www.racinenw.com

October 14, 2016

Amy Connolly, AICP
Director, City Development
730 Washington Avenue, Room 102
Racine, WI 53403

Dear Ms. Connolly,

Racine Neighborhood Watch is requesting \$40,000 of Redevelopment Authority (RDA) funds to be used for Group Workcamp 2017. Maintenance of the City's housing stock has a direct bearing on property values and the economic health of the greater Racine community. To date, 944 Racine homes have benefited from the efforts of Group Workcamp, the one-week summer program; June 18-24, 2017 marks our 19th annual Workcamp and will likely push us over the 1,000-home mark!

For eighteen years, a partnership between Racine Neighborhood Watch, Group Mission Trips, the City of Racine, S C Johnson, and Racine Unified School District has resulted in a creative, cost-effective way to assist income-eligible home owners with needed home repairs and improvements. The number of projects is correlated with the expected number of volunteers, estimated this year to be 400-450 youth and their leaders according to *Group Mission Trips*, the non-profit organization based in Loveland, Colorado which recruits young people from across the country to give back to their communities through community service work.

Typical repairs that can be completed during the one-week Workcamp include: fence installation, interior and exterior painting, building or repairing porches and wheelchair ramps, building or repairing steps, and other minor home repairs. No plumbing, electrical or roofing work is done.

Funds requested (\$40,000) would be used to cover administrative costs to notify owner occupants who are potential participants; conduct personal on-site interviews to determine eligibility based on income, physical limitations, and feasibility of work being completed by volunteers; write job specifications; arrange housing and meals for volunteers; coordinate with local vendors for project supplies; arrange for loan of any needed equipment; and perform other related duties to ensure the successful completion of the project. RDA funds would be utilized in coordinating projects within the Uptown area and the half-mile buffer (TID 19), with an emphasis on the central core of TID 19.

Thank you, in advance, for your careful consideration of this request.

Warm regards,

Charles M. French
Executive Director

Charlie French
Executive Director
charlie@racinenw.com
(262) 636-9256

Susan Feehrer
Program Director
susan@racinenw.com
(262) 635-3327

Lisa Kane
Community Outreach
lisa@racinenw.com
(262) 636-9574