



OTTER TAIL LAKES COUNTRY ASSOCIATION

grab-a-bite Best Practices

A Step by step process on how to establish grab-a-bite program in your community.

1. Contact Otter Tail County's Rural Rebound Initiative Coordinator, Erik Osberg, to let him know of your community's desire to participate & to get appropriate marketing materials including logo with your community's name on it.
2. Identify 3-10 "**Locals**" who are willing to commit to taking at least 1 "**Newcomer**" out to grab-a-bite over the next 12 months. Each LOCAL should be willing to commit to:
 - 12 months on the Team of Champions.
 - Recruit & train their replacement.
3. Set up a time for Erik to come to your community & meet with the **Locals**.
4. Prior to this meeting, contact a few local eateries and ask them if they would be willing to be an **Annual Sponsor**. (Cash donations are not required, other suggested options are: Gift Cards, Highly Discounted Coupons, or Buy-one-Get-one free vouchers).
5. Each **Local** should bring with them the name of at least one newcomer to the meeting.
6. After meeting with Erik, **Locals** should take the **Newcomer** out to "grab-a-bite" **one-on-one**.
7. grab-a-bite Rules:
 - **DO NOT**- ask the newcomer to buy, join, sign up for, or attend ANYTHING! If they ask about a Church or how they can be involved in the community, you are free to respond. However, the goal of this contact is to present yourself as a welcoming resource, not get them to join a club.
 - **DO NOT**- let them pay for the meal.
 - **DO NOT**- make assumptions about the person you are meeting with.
 - **DO NOT**- gossip, or otherwise disparage anyone in the community or any other community.
 - **DO**- ask open ended questions about the newcomer: "What brings you to town?" "What did you enjoy about the place you used to live?" etc.
 - **DO**- be prepared to share your contact info & present yourself a reference for future questions. If they need a plumber, hairstylist, Community Club, etc...
8. Create a database with the names of the **Newcomers** who participate in the program, they may become future **Locals**.
9. Establish *quarterly meetings* so your team of **Locals** can get together to share successes, discuss struggles and problem-solving suggestions to avoid any repeat failures.
10. Set up a meeting with Erik after 12 months to facilitate the training of the new team of **Locals**.
11. Repeat!