

Handout 6.5 – Who Is My Neighbor?

For the next and final week, each participant (including the facilitators) should do some investigating around your neighborhood(s) – by internet or the phone directory or walking around or all of the above. Who are the immigrants in your communities? Even if you live in a community that seems homogenous, do not assume that there are no immigrants there. Often times people are unaware of the diversity that exists in our own towns and neighborhoods because we tend only see those with whom we normally come into contact.

Suggestions to help get you started:

Restaurants – Do you have Chinese or Mexican or Indian or Ethiopian, etc... restaurants in your neighborhood? Who owns and works in them?

Stores – How about independently owned shops? Ethnic foods markets, botanicas, beauty shops...

Houses of worship – Are there churches that do Spanish-speaking services? Or maybe Korean or another language? What about mosques and temples? Which groups do they serve?

Services – Many organizations exist to help immigrant communities. They would likely be able to tell you about the demographics of these communities (after you've explained that your church group is trying to make connections with immigrant communities in your area).