



## **Case for Support**

### **Neighbors for More Neighbors**

Our vision for cities and towns across the Southern Blue Ridge Mountains is for residents to have a wider range of housing options and to discourage sprawl and the destruction it can bring to our natural environment. The more we can build housing in convenient, walkable communities with a variety of safe and easily accessible modes of transportation like transit and bike paths, the less carbon footprint we will generate in our day to day activities.

Standing in the way are regulatory barriers, a fear of change to existing neighborhoods, and persistent opposition to development. These challenges make it difficult to build on land where infrastructure and amenities already exist. Our historical preference for detached single family homes requires more land, new roads, and increased travel times for regular activities.

Neighbors for More Neighbors WNC will inspire communities by demonstrating the benefits of diverse housing types and walkable neighborhoods. Through our advocacy, residents will see the prospect of new homes being built in our own neighborhoods as an opportunity rather than a threat. To achieve this, we will analyze existing regulations and advocate for changes that will lead to healthy, diverse, and thriving communities. We will host community forums, publish opinion pieces in local newspapers, run social media campaigns, host education programs, share articles and stories in our newsletters and blog posts, and work with trusted community partners to spread this vision beyond our existing audience. By growing a grassroots base of support for walkable communities with a healthy mix of housing types, we can support elected leaders and local government staff as they make difficult decisions to benefit both existing and future residents.

Our partner organizations include Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity, Thrive Asheville, Asheville on Bikes, and Mountain Housing Opportunities. We have also been accepted as a member of the Welcoming Neighbors Network, a national network of local organizations working to fix the US housing shortage. These groups share our vision and are ready to work alongside us to make it a reality. In year one, we will expand our partnerships and grow a strong volunteer network. We anticipate building a regional network across communities in and around Boone, Brevard, Bryson City, and Hayesville.

A successful Neighbors for More Neighbors WNC program will cost \$80,000 to implement and will demand a committed volunteer base of supporters. **Where do you see yourself fitting in to make this vision a reality for our mountain region?**

**VISIT: [moreneighborswnc.org](http://moreneighborswnc.org)**