



Built to Last – Saluda Service Network

Seven years of meetings and service have provided valuable lessons in building sustainability for the Network. Here are a few learning insights that have made this Network built to last:

- **Be open with invitations.** There is no limit on your list of invites for your initial meetings. Offer the invitation to join a positive group of community members looking to make a difference in their community.
- **Be consistent with meetings.** The first five years this group met monthly. During year six, meetings were scheduled every other month (six times a year), which has worked better for the needs of all members. Each meeting lasts **ONE** hour to respect everyone's time and other obligations.
- **Be patient.** Understand that everyone you invite may not be committed the first year. Be clear about your mission and purpose and patient as you trust the process. Continue to do the work and communicate! The actions and impact of the network's efforts will be seen and bring others along.
- **Food matters.** Since network meetings are usually during the lunch hour for attendees, providing lunch can really be a help for all. If you are in a larger area, it is possible to get some lunch sponsors.
- **Focus on the purpose.** Be purposeful in meeting topics and general conversation. Share an agenda (electronically) before each meeting and stick to the agenda and task at hand. Welcome/introduce any new members and know not everyone will need to share during each meeting. Follow-up with notes and action steps to all participants, including school/ district administration.

If you have questions or need more information on the

Saluda Service Network, please email:

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