

## *Want to be more active in the community? Zion-Benton Leadership Academy can help*

The greatest catalyst for community improvement is committed leadership that reflects the diversity of the community.

There is a two-sided need for community leadership in Beach Park, Winthrop Harbor, and Zion. On the one hand, agencies and organizations seek new members. On the other hand, many people who would like to take a more active role are not sure how to do so.

The Zion-Benton Leadership Academy was created to meet this need.

ZBLA aims to identify, assist and empower individuals to become active and inspiring contributors to the community.

ZBLA will meet for five three-hour sessions on alternate Saturdays from Sept. 22 to Nov. 17. The five-session curriculum will

develop personal, ethical, leadership, and managerial skills and provide grounding in the history and culture of the Zion-Benton community. The skills will enhance the participants' marketability in the workplace.

Each participant will be matched with a mentor who is an active community leader. Participants will be assisted in finding placement on boards and committees.

Possible placements are committees in agencies, churches, and organizations; sports team management cultural venues; and volunteer interns to elected boards.

ZBLA is sponsored by the Coalition for Healthy Communities/Community Partnerships Task Force, the Zion Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Winthrop Harbor Chamber of Commerce with a grant from

the Charmm'd Foundation.

Applications for ZBLA are available at [zbchc.com](http://zbchc.com) or by calling 847-872-2830 or emailing [angelj@crewinc.org](mailto:angelj@crewinc.org).

Applicants must be 18 or older and live in Beach Park, Winthrop Harbor or Zion. There is no charge to participate. Referrals - of employees, emerging leaders in your organization, neighbors, relatives - are welcome.

Individuals who would like to serve as mentors may use the same contacts.

Margaret Mead wrote, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

Join the Zion-Benton Leadership Academy and be the catalyst to transform our community!