



## **WE WANT TO TALK WITH YOU!!**

We read the newspaper and listen to the news. It is very clear that we face serious challenges as a society -- as serious in their own way as those we faced in World War II. We believe President Obama when he says we need a new "era of responsibility," and that it needs to start with people in every community in the country. As Obama put it: We need to "remake this nation the only way it's been done in America for two-hundred and twenty-one years -- block by block, brick by brick, calloused hand by calloused hand." And we are hoping to start here and now. What do you and your neighborhood need? What can we do to help?

### ***What are our challenges?***

- More than 1 in 5 Hispanics and 1 in 3 blacks are expected to be living below the poverty line by 2010.
- Global warming is likely to lead to major flooding, devastation of farmland, and extreme poverty in parts of the developing world; the U.S. will not be spared from its effects.
- Experts at Harvard predict that there is a 50% chance of nuclear terrorism in the next 10 years on American soil.
- And even if none of that comes to pass, we and especially our children will have to wrestle with a national debt that will mean much higher taxes or much more limited options for public action. (Sources are on our website at <http://www.freedomSummer.us>.)

### ***What can we do?***

- Begin by listening to each other and problem-solving together.
- Help the elderly to lead dignified lives in their own homes.
- Help ALL children in the community to get the tutoring and mentoring that they need.
- Work together to save energy, carpool together, build safe and pleasant outdoor spaces.
- Keep our eyes on the prize: Create a just and prosperous community and nation that has the strength to tackle the challenges that lie before us.

### ***Who are we?***

We are all college and high school students and volunteers for a new nonpartisan nonprofit organization called Freedom Summer '09. The original Freedom Summer in 1964 sent a thousand college students from across the country to Mississippi to help register voters. We believe that America needs a serious nationwide effort – the moral equivalent of the original – to make a better world. **We will be sponsoring a community picnic or event in the next several weeks.** The goal is to give people a chance to think and talk about what can be done. We hope that the talk will lead to planning and action, too, but that is for later.

### ***Why are we in your community?***

We're starting small and wanted to find a few communities where we felt that we could make a difference. We see this as a pilot project, and we hope that you will find our efforts useful.

Interested in working with us or supporting us? Sign now on our website, [www.freedomSummer.us](http://www.freedomSummer.us).

*Thank you for your time!*