Fourteen Steps for Building a New Neighborhood Organization

1) A crisis or an organizer’s initiative provokes a few people.
2) This determined handful forms the beginning team.
3) The team defines the exact nature of the issue to be worked on and begins to move.
4) Additional members are recruited as efforts on the issue pick up steam.
5) The team and followers achieve some success on the issue and seek outside allies if needed.
6) The team and others involved move to form a permanent organization, choosing to build the structure from either existing organizations or individual members.
7) The new organization evolves a strategy: it will get things done by pressure on government and other targets, or it will provide services to people, or even try to do both.
8) The new organization picks an additional issue or two, building power, utilizing cooperation, campaigning, and confrontation as appropriate.
9) Members are trained to be more effective.
10) Regular communication is established with members and with the public.
11) A stable source of income is developed, but no more than needed.
12) Alliances are made with other organizations as useful.
13) Evaluation is made a habit.
14) Recruiting new members and facing new issue go on continuously.