Happy Holidays from Northland Neighborhoods!

The Connection

Annual Awards Breakfast

On Friday, October 19, Northland Neighborhoods, Inc. hosted its Annual Awards Breakfast from 7:30 to 9 a.m. at Embassy Suites KCI 7640 NW Tiffany Springs Parkway. Here are the 2012 award recipients:

* The Jay Dillingham Lifetime Achievement Award to Briacliff Development CEO Charles Garney.
* The Ruthanne Harper Outstanding Public Service Award to retired volunteer Dave Olson.
* The Richard Noll Excellence in Government Service Award to Assistant Kansas City Manager Pat Klein.
* The Larry McManus Good Neighbor Award to Northridge Neighborhood resident David Perry.
* The Good Neighbor Business of the Year Award to local area business Quik Trip.
* The Beta Jo Mitchell Best Newsletter Award to North Bennington.
* The Beta Jo Mitchell Best Article Award to Highland Gardens.

Northland Neighborhoods, Inc. would like to thank Bayer Corporation, Kansas City Aviation Department, Kansas City—City Manager’s Office, Hunt Midwest, R.H. Johnson Company, Tri-County Mental Health Services, Burns and McDonnell, Saint Luke’s Health System and their other gracious sponsors who support NNI’s mission to build a stronger Northland by helping neighborhoods help themselves. It’s never too late to make a donation. Please call NNI at 816-654-2000 if you would like to make a contribution to the organization.

Healthy Homes Program Changes Lives

Northland Neighborhoods, Inc. received the following letter from a family member who recently benefited from the Healthy Homes program:

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is written to endorse and praise the support that Northland Neighborhoods Inc. provides for our community. Our family personally benefited from their services at a very critical time in our lives. NNI’s work helped to ensure that our home was medically safe for our daughter and lessen my anxiety associated with her well-being. (Invaluable support, indeed!)

Our story begins with Sierra, our daughter who was diagnosed with leukemia at the age of 14. We were considered “lucky” because she had the “good kind” of leukemia. Well, in that regard, perhaps we were lucky. Sadly though, she developed a very life-threatening invasive fungal disease during the induction phase of her chemotherapy treatment. There is still no known cure for the type of fungus she developed. We were told she most likely would not survive—especially when her lungs filled to capacity with fungus and fluids. Friends and family said their “good-byes” to her for she was truly at death’s door. Lo and behold, she hung on and we witnessed a miracle! She survived! We were amazingly blessed!

Eventually, after living four and a half months at Children’s Mercy Hospital, we were able to bring our girl home. During our stay at CMH, I learned about the Healthy Homes Program designed to promote improved wellness for children. This is accomplished by educating parents and making home improvements. Our concern was fungus in our house.

The Healthy Homes Program workers assessed our home and identified several interventions to prevent the growth and/or removal of excess mold and fungus colonies. NNI teamed with Healthy Homes to provide the contract work.

Continued on page 2

INSIDE:

- NNI New Offices.......................... 2
- Welcome To The Connection........... 3
- Complete Audit.......................... 3
Healthy Homes Program

Multiple jobs were performed by our very friendly and conscientious contractor including repair/replacement of water-damaged parts under sinks, leaky toilets, hot water tank, HVAC work, door install between garage and basement, and more. We would not have been able to make these repairs ourselves. We were drowning in medical bills, without work or money and emotional wrecks. Our lives had forever changed and “survival” took on a whole new meaning.

I thank God for the many that not only helped us survive this trauma, but learn and grow through it. Without a doubt, Northland Neighborhoods Inc. falls within this group. Northlanders are blessed to have NNI in our community to make life’s hardships a bit more bearable. We hope they are around for a very long time! Respectfully yours,
Sherri King

Welcome to The Connection

On behalf of Northland Neighborhoods, Inc. I would like to introduce you to our first quarterly newsletter and a glance at our new brand image and logo. We wear many hats and juggle many projects at NNI, and will be utilizing this newsletter to highlight the various projects, news, events and meetings happening in our communities.

NNI has recently experienced many exciting changes. We moved our office to Chouteau Trafficway and could not be more pleased with the new space. It’s central location is easily accessible for visitors and the facility is bigger, renovated and perfect for large meetings and events.

Our other big change is the new brand image of NNI. We wanted our logo to have a fresh, clean look that best represented our organization’s core values of empowering neighborhoods to build and maintain their own healthy communities.

Looking forward to 2013, we have even more changes and enhancements planned for our neighborhoods. Our numerous minor home repair programs continue to grow as more requests are being submitted. Sadly, the demand for low-income home repair and housing continues to rise. We rely on grants and donations to fund these programs.

NNI LeaderWorks, which began in 2012, is off to a great start. The 2013 Excel classes will begin soon. Participants will develop leadership by learning how to apply skills, knowledge and attitude to guide their neighborhoods to success.

NNI Receives High Marks on Audit Report

Last August, NNI completed their audit for the 2011-2012 fiscal year ending on May 31, 2012. Overall, it was a good year for NNI and the communities they serve. Support and Revenue increased 93 percent last year, allowing the organization to jump start the minor home repair programs. Those minor home repair expenditures increased 147 percent last year and will provide more assistance for residents and significantly increase unrestricted income in the future. NNI also added a “Purchase Rehab” program, and currently has four homes being rehabilitated which will then be purchased by low—moderate income citizens.

The quality of life for residents living in Northland neighborhoods is directly impacted by commercial, industrial and retail projects adjacent to those communities. New projects, as well as maintenance upgrades of existing facilities, provide jobs, shopping opportunities and expansion of the tax base for much needed public services. A strong, local economy yields benefits for home investments, better schools and public infrastructure.

NNI has taken a proactive role in making certain that neighborhoods participate in the planning of economic development projects and, whenever appropriate, benefit from tax-supported development incentives through targeted home repair programs and capital improvements,” said NNI Chief Executive Officer Deb Hermann.

In order to maintain efficiency and sustainability, the administration and the Board of Directors reviewed all functions and programs, several of which were reduced or eliminated. The goal is to remain focused on core programs and services, so that none of these are lost or diminished. The quality of life for residents living in Northland neighborhoods is directly impacted by commercial, industrial and retail projects adjacent to those communities. New projects, as well as maintenance upgrades of existing facilities, provide jobs, shopping opportunities and expansion of the tax base for much needed public services. A strong, local economy yields benefits for home investments, better schools and public infrastructure.