

Northland Neighborhoods, Inc.
5312 NE Chouteau Trafficway
Kansas City, MO 64119

**NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
KANSAS CITY, MO
PERMIT NO.1848**



The NNI Board of Directors will meet August 15 at 6:30 p.m.

NNI Meetings in August

Tues.,	August 2	Holiday Hills Neighborhood Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Wed.,	August 3	CIMO	6:30 p.m.
Thurs.,	August 4	Barrington Ridge Homeowners Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Mon.,	August 8	Penguin and Davidson Parks improvements	6:00 p.m.
Tues.,	August 9	“Connections” - Jim Bergfalk, SBG Communications	6:30 p.m.
Wed.,	August 10	Senior Citizen Workshop	9:00 a.m.
Thurs.,	August 11	Greenhaven Neighborhood Association	7:00 p.m.
Mon.,	August 15	NNI Board Meeting	6:30 p.m.
Tues.,	August 16	Charleston Harbor Neighborhood Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Thurs.,	August 18	Auburn Hills Neighborhood Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Mon.,	August 22	Meet your Councilperson	6:00 p.m.
Wed.,	August 24	Citywide PIAC Hearings	6:30 p.m.
Sat.,	August 27	ABOPT Clean-up (anti-freeze, batteries, oil, paint and tires)	8:00 a.m.-Noon

Partnership brings "Wonderful Life" to Northland Family



Participants in the July 20 grand opening of the new Jacobs house were (left to right) Mike Lewis, NNI President; Councilwoman Deb Hermann; Councilman John Fairfield; Dan Fowler, Habitat Board member; Kay Fugate, NNI Board Secretary. The project resulted from an innovative NNI partnership. Story on page 2

2. Partnership brings "Wonderful Life"
3. Spotlight on Volunteerism
4. Perspectives
5. Neighborhood Clips
6. Ball Corporation and NNI, Baptist Youth Camp impacts Northlanders
7. NNI Board
8. Citizen Police Academy, ABOPT, National Night Out Against Crime
9. Meet Your Neighbor
10. Perspectives
11. Join the NNI Bandwagon
12. Calendar

Partnership brings "Wonderful Life" (continued from page 1)

The 1946 film, "It's A Wonderful Life" is a holiday tradition for American families. But one Northland family is living a real-life version of the Frank Capra classic thanks to a demonstration project of Northland Neighborhoods, Inc. (NNI), Northland Habitat for Humanity, the Housing and Economic Development Financial Corporation (HEDFC), and the North Kansas City School District Interior Design Department.

The project produced a new affordable house for Irene Jacobs and her children ...and a fresh start in life. Northland Habitat constructed the new home, HEDFC provided construction financing, and NNI coordinated the project and provided support services for the family. North Kansas City School District Interior Design teachers and students created an extraordinary interior.

The idea for the partnership resulted from a request for a home repair grant for the Jacobs family in late 2003. The Jacobs' house at 5815 NE 60th Street was outside the grant area, but NNI inspected the house to explore other ways to help the family.

"The estimate for repairs to bring the house to minimum standards of safety and livability far exceeded the value of the house," says NNI Executive Director Jim Rice. "In any case, Irene had no extra resources to make any of the necessary repairs. But we just could not turn our backs on this family."



The Jacobs family will soon move to their newly completed home.

That's when the partnership idea began to come together. NNI already worked with HEDFC to produce new infill housing. NNI and Habitat had met to discuss potential partnerships. And Irene Jacobs badly needed a new house.

"Irene not only needed a new house; she deserved a new house," Rice says. "She struggles every day to make ends meet, but her whole life is focused on her children. When we approached her with the idea of a new house, her first question was can the kids remain in their neighborhood schools. Irene's first priority is getting those children a stable and successful education. That spoke volumes about her character."

Construction of the new house took about eight months. The

old house will be demolished when the Jacobs family completes their move in early August. NNI raised about \$5,000 in cash and in-kind contributions to furnish the new home, and North Kansas City School District Interior Design instructors did the finishing touches that make the new house a very special part of the Jacobs family's new "wonderful life."

JOIN THE BUSINESSES THAT HAVE CLIMBED ABOARD THE NNI BANDWAGON!

The following individuals and businesses contributed cash or in-kind contributions to Northland Neighborhoods programs:

Applebee's
 Argosy Casino
 B & B Movie Theater
 Balls Price Chopper
 Bayer CropScience
 Bed, Bath & Beyond
 Bill Woods Ford
 Bishops Family Restaurant
 Blockbuster Antioch
 Blockbuster Chouteau Crossings
 Jim Bowers, Attorney
 Ed Bradley, Liberty First Bank
 Mike Burke, King Hershey
 Mary Jo Burton
 Virjean Burton
 Chandelle Ross
 Misty Dawn Casey
 Contemporary Conversations
 Group at North Cross United
 Methodist Church
 Cracker Barrel
 Earl May Nursery
 Festival Foods Grocery
 Kay Fugate, ReMax of Kansas
 City
 George Cascone, Cascone's
 Restaurant

Lisa Gioia, CPA
 Anita Gorman
 Hall Family Foundation
 Hardware Café
 Hometown Buffet
 Roberta Jones
 Mike Hagen Electric, Inc.
 Leona Moorman
 Nancy's Cheesecakes
 Nearly New Foundation
 Outback Steakhouse
 Papa Johns Pizza
 Papa Murphy's Pizza
 Pedcor/Crooked Creek Apts
 Perkins
 Pete and Mac's Pet Resort
 Ponderosa - Worlds of Fun
 Sandra L. Reeves
 Jim Rice
 R.T. Salsman Caterers
 Ryan's Steak House
 Saint Patrick's Catholic Church
 SBC
 Scimeca's Italian Market
 Steamatic of Kansas City
 Sunfresh Grocery Store
 YMCA

Partnerships

- *City of Kansas City, Missouri*
- *Cohen-Esrey Development*
- *Department of Housing and Urban Development*
- *Kansas City Police Department*
- *Local Investment Support Corporation (LISC)*
- *North Kansas City School District*
- *Northland Habitat*



Your contribution to NNI is tax-deductible. Please return the form below with your check to:

Northland Neighborhoods
 5312 NE Chouteau Tfwy.
 Kansas City, MO 64119
www.nni.org



I want to sign up for:

- Basic Bandwagon \$100
- Deluxe Bandwagon \$200
- Premium Bandwagon \$300
- Other amount \$_____
- I can't help now, but please keep me informed of your progress and activities.
- Please contact me about _____

 Name

 Company

 Address

 Phone

 E-mail address

Method of Payment Bill Me
 Check enclosed

Perspectives:

[The following story was excerpted from the Old Northeast community development corporation newsletter. While it is focused on Kansas City's Old Northeast area, it could apply to many older KC neighborhoods, including some in the Northland. The article has been edited for length.]

Stop Dumping on Northeast!

By Nancy Kwilas

Northeast is rich with many treasures: fantastic park spaces, Cliff Drive, amazing houses, the Kansas City Museum, and a rich history. But there are even greater treasures than that. The people! Northeast is overflowing with people committed to making Northeast the best place to live, work, raise a family, and play. Active neighborhood associations and politically savvy leaders help keep services flowing in Northeast. Individuals volunteer their time for crime watch, clean-ups, and just staying in-touch with their community.

I know many people who are motivated to make a difference and to return Northeast to its former stature of being one of Kansas City's premiere neighborhoods. I know that at times this mission is overwhelming and frustrating. Good people have gotten worn out during this seemingly endless fight to reclaim Northeast. Some have moved to other parts of the city or even out of the area altogether. Many new people have moved in and some people have moved back. Others are drawn to Northeast, having never lived here.

I have a theory: Everybody in the Kansas City area has a connection to Northeast.

I hear it all the time when I tell people what I do. Everyone

has an anecdote about Northeast, but most people had a close friend or family member that lived or worked here. The thing that always gets me is the heartbreak in their voices. I know the sentiment—a happy childhood memory that fades

“Why do I feel so passionately about Northeast and Kansas City? Because kids should have better homecomings.”

—Nancy Kwilas

given the current reality.

Recently I had left a meeting with a colleague of mine where we were discussing various aspects of community development and some new projects that we were involved in and might be able to work on together. After the meeting I was ready to conquer the world. I was inspired by our conversation and the possibilities that lay ahead. I started writing.

Sone years ago, I drove through my old neighborhood in Detroit, and Madonna's "This Used to Be My Playground" came on the radio. My eyes filled with tears. My home, the house I grew up in, that I still to this day remember as the best house I ever lived in, had bars on its windows. The tree my mom had planted and that we sat beneath on the bench my father had built had grown to twice the height of the house. The row of evergreens that flanked our neighbor's yard, having once afforded us

privacy and a terrific fort, were all gone.

The most striking memory of that lonely Sunday afternoon was that so many homes had bars on their windows and nobody, not a single person, was out in the front yard. There weren't throngs of kids riding their bikes or running across their neighbor's yard. That neighborhood used to be my playground.

Why is community development a worthy cause? Why do I feel so passionately about Northeast and Kansas City? Because kids should have better homecomings.

So, when I hear people talking trash about Northeast, it gets my dander up. I know the treasures of Northeast and I regale people with them. When a segment on "America's Most Wanted" calls Independence Avenue the "red light district," I counter with "porch light." When dumpers come into the area, the community responds with clean-ups. (Unless the illegal dumpers are caught in the act and then the community responds with calls to City Hall.) When crime trends emerge, we respond with programs to counter it.

The bottom line is there are good people here in Northeast fighting on a daily basis to make this community better for everyone to enjoy. We need to stay the course and counter all the affronts to our Northeast. Tell the media, tell the criminals, tell the naysayers: STOP DUMPING ON NORTHEAST!

Spotlight on Volunteerism:

Justice for all: A promise unfulfilled



by **Reta Jo Mitchell**

These sunlit days of chasing the ice cream truck and swinging in the park are also known as “The Summer of Missing Children.” While most of us feel sympathy’s momentary pang, only those who have walked in sorrow’s shoes know the anguish of a loved one murdered. Especially a child.

In the United States, the past six years have seen a 67 percent increase in children slain. We even have a national service organization called “Parents of Murdered Children and Other Survivors of Homicide” (POMC), with 200 chapters and 40,000 members--survivors and their supporters.

On August 11-14, Kansas City will host the 19th annual convention of POMC, with members uniting to extend solace and professional help to those who have suffered life’s sharpest cut. They will explore ways to improve our justice system and make life safer. This is a crusade that needs our help.

Through POMC’s efforts and those of other groups, there have been improvements. Laboring in the cause have been individuals like John Walsh, father of 5-year-old

Adam, snatched from a Florida store; and Californian Mark Klaas, father of 12-year-old Polly, stolen from her slumber party.

We got the 1996 Megan’s Law requiring notification of a community when a known sex offender moves in. And, the Amber Alert of 1997 which has led to the rescue of many children. Tiny Victoria Jo Stinnett of Skidmore, Missouri--taken from her mother’s womb--was delivered alive into her father’s arms, thanks in part to an Amber Alert.



The Remembered Angels Memorial Marker in the Northland’s Children’s Fountain Park

More needs doing, like a National Sex Offenders’ Registry, and Carlie’s Bill (US House Bill 4150) mandating civil commitment after prison. (Carlie Brucia, age 11, was killed by a sex offender set free after only 43 months.) Urgent is the passing in every state of Florida’s Jessica’s Law requiring a minimum sentence of 25 years for child rape. (Named for the little Florida girl taken from her bed, raped, then buried alive.) This might have saved the children in Cour d’Alene, Idaho.

The United States Congress must re-authorize NOW the VOCA Fund (House Bill 2862) which gives federal fines money to crime victims. In Missouri, we should monitor ongoing efforts to water down the posted sex offenders list. Our area also needs to reactivate the McGruff Safe House program that gives frightened kids a place of safety.

My family’s children study karate to acquire self-assurance. Hopefully, they won’t go with a man seeking his “lost puppy.” If lost in a mall, they are taught to approach an adult in uniform or a cashier or a lady with kids at her side.

We Mitchells help by donating to POMC. If we see a child alone in a store or mall, we observe quietly until he is reunited with a parent. We badger state and federal politicians to pass needed laws.

I learned about POMC in 1996 at the dedication of their “Remembered Angels” memorial marker in the Children’s Fountain Park. How sad it was to hear them say that “in America, victims have no rights.” I signed a petition to keep a vicious rapist behind bars. And I wrote a poem in the hope it might help with fund raising.

For more information on POMC call 816-850-6455.

For legislators call the Clay County Election Board at 816-415-8683.

Perspectives:

The following is an excerpt from Linda Callon's response to Yael Abouhalkah's Kansas City Star editorial, "City Hall has no answers for neglected neighborhoods," July 7, 2005. It has been edited for length with her permission. Ms. Callon is director of the Westside CAN Center and is recognized as a pioneer in community policing.

It is not the sole responsibility of City Hall to come up with all the answers for our neglected neighborhoods. The answer, as many of our neighborhoods have discovered, lies within them - taking ownership of the situation instead of playing the blame game. The answer is good old fashioned, hard dirty work - sweat equity, pride of place, and zero tolerance for inappropriate and destructive behavior.

Taking ownership means becoming civically engaged. Taking ownership means going to the polls to vote for people who will affect change for the greater good. Change comes from taking ownership, claiming the problems as ours, having a candid community dialogue, developing and implementing the solutions by participation in programs through KCMO/Neighborhood and Community Development/Center for Community Solutions and Kansas City Neighborhood Alliance.

Being poor doesn't mean you can't get the trash to the curb. Being poor doesn't mean that your yard has to have weeds 3 feet tall growing out of abandoned tires, or having fast food containers and aluminum beverage cans littered all around. Being poor doesn't mean you can't wash the windows or repair screen doors. Being poor doesn't mean you can't pick up trash and litter on the sidewalk or right-of-way, even

if you didn't put it there.

Being poor doesn't absolve you of your responsibility as a parent to teach your children civility, respect for other's property, and appropriate behavior.

Many neighborhoods constructively use the tools made available to them - property maintenance codes inspectors, city and social service programs, and creative collaborations. Many neighborhoods learned to sublimate or overcome their fear and distrust of the police.

"The power of one is remarkable - the power of a majority of residents or stakeholders in a neighborhood is unstoppable."

-Linda Callon

They now call the police. But more specifically, they learned that crime abatement and crime prevention is not "snitchin." Giving the police the information they need in order to do the job we've hired them to do is the only way to take back a neighborhood. Silence aids and abets the crime and the criminal making you part of the problem, not part of the solution. The police are only as good as the information they receive.

The real facilitators of change are the residents themselves. The power of one is remarkable - the power of a majority of

residents or stakeholders in a neighborhood is unstoppable. Past experience here and in neighborhoods around the country shows us that change begins with the determined efforts of a small number of residents. Success builds on success.

Building more affordable housing is only successful long-term if you have people who have the interest, capacity and income to take action to maintain their government subsidized housing. Jobs programs must raise people up, not continually lower the bar to be able to claim a "successful program". City Hall must hire qualified people with a demonstrated strong work ethic....period.

Mr. Abouhalkah's predictions will hold true as long as too many of us expect "someone to do something to fix it, but don't count on me to do anything, it's not my job, that's why I pay taxes." Without the ownership and civic participation of all community members, we will continue to reap the city government and neighborhoods we deserve.... good or bad. On the other hand, maybe I'm totally wrong and maybe we can hire another \$375.00/hour consultant from Denver who can solve these problems too.

Meet your Neighbor: Winnwood-Sunnybrook's Steve Boniello



Steve Boniello
*Winnwood/Sunnybrook
Neighborhood Association*

(“Meet Your Neighbor” is a quarterly column that features a person who makes a difference in the life of our neighborhoods.)

I was born in the early 60's at St. Mary's Hospital in Kansas City, Missouri. My family lived between Kansas City and Independence until 1969 when we moved to the State of New York. I lived most of my childhood in a town named Peekskill, New York.

I married my wife Theresa 19 years ago and we have 3 boys. We decided to move to Kansas City in 1994 and purchased our home in Winnwood/Sunnybrook in 1995. I also began working with the Kansas City Weatherization Program in 1995. My position as an Energy Auditor enables me to visit clients' homes and find where energy may be getting lost due to construction deficiencies, lack of insulation, or poor heating equipment.

The things I like to do when I'm not working include playing guitar, play station games with my sons, and helping my wife whenever I have time.

For the past nine years I've lived in this neighborhood. I've taken advantage of grants, taken part in neighborhood parties, and especially liked it when we had neighborhood clean-ups so I could get rid of all my trash. I never considered, when I did one of these things, who volunteered their time or who put in the effort so my wife's and my children's lives could be improved. It never even occurred to me that somebody had to get the ball rolling. Of course I was grateful; who wouldn't be? After all, I received a new roof, a wood stove, a small addition to my home—all from grants given through Northland Neighborhoods and by the neighborhood association. We wouldn't have even known about any of these programs had it not been for the hard work and dedication of my predecessors.

I was approached by a man I consider a friend and asked to be president of Winnwood/Sunnybrook Neighborhood Association. My reply was what yours might be, “NO!” “That's not my thing, I don't want to be president, I don't even want to be involved, period!” It was then I realized that my words said more about me than what they meant. I came up with all kinds of reasons not to, but in my case it boiled down to being associated with a group or people whom I didn't know and I was scared I'd flop.

I was elected President of Winnwood/Sunnybrook neighborhood in January. This wasn't something I asked for and it hasn't been fun or easy, and certainly not what I'd call glamorous. In all honesty, being president has made me a better and stronger person and I have gotten to know some really great people I wouldn't have otherwise. The other officers and I have done some good things for the neighborhood and it's been a real learning experience for me.

My goals are to get to know my neighbors, bring the neighborhood together, help out those who need it the most, and have some fun.

Citizen Police Academy seeks applications

The Citizen Police Academy is a ten-week program which provides an introduction and overview of the operations of the Kansas City Police Department.

The goal is to give the graduate a better understanding and appreciation of the complex nature of police work and create a partnership between police and the citizens they serve.

Upon completion, the graduate should have a greater sense of how their police department operates to serve them, their family and friends.

The program is scheduled to begin on Tuesday, September 13, 2005 and will continue each Tuesday through November 15, 2005. Classes are from 6-9 p.m. Applications are available at NNI, 5312 NE Chouteau Trafficway.

You must be at least 18 years old to attend, be a resident of, work in, or attend school in Kansas City, and have no prior felony convictions.

For more information call Officer Markus Smith at 467-7204.

Bop over to Antioch Center for "ABOPT" (Anti-freeze, Battery, Oil, Paint & Tires)

Saturday, August 27, from 8 am to Noon, Northland Neighborhoods, the City of Kansas City, and Antioch Center will provide residents an opportunity to safely dispose of household waste. Residents of Kansas City North and other participating communities may safely dispose of anti-freeze, batteries, oil, paint and tires (ABOPT). No aerosol cans, please. **Tires will also be accepted from Kansas City residents ONLY.**

The Center is located between Antioch Road and Chouteau Trafficway at Vivion Road. The drop-off site will be on Antioch Center's east parking lot off Chouteau Trafficway.

If you would like more information, contact Janet at 454-2000.

Participating cities include: Kansas City, Kearney, Liberty, North Kansas City, Northmoor, Parkville, Platte City, Platte Woods, Pleasant Valley, Riverside, Smithville, Sugar Creek, unincorporated Clay County, Weatherby Lake and Lake Waukomis.

Identification with proof of residency is required. Residents of nonparticipating cities will be charged a disposal fee of \$75.00. There will be a 300-CAR LIMIT, so it is first-come first-served.

National Night Out Against Crime slated for August 2

The 22nd Annual National Night Out (NNO), a unique crime and drug prevention event sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW), is scheduled for Tuesday, August 2.

This is a time when residents and community members join together, by turning on their porch lights, to show their support in fighting crime.

By participating, you: heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime programs; strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

NNI and the Kansas City Missouri Police Department, Shoal Creek Division and North Patrol Division, held a Night Out kick-off July 31 at Penguin Park.

If you need more information about the August 2 event, contact Janet at 454-2000.

Neighborhood clips

Connections: Speakers now scheduled for August, September and October meetings

Jim Bergfalk, SBG Communications, will speak on August 9 about a new program that could help victims of predatory lenders.

Ron Yaffe with the Regional Association of Realtors will discuss the KC Home Programs initiative. It's about removing barriers to home ownership.

The ever-popular **Mike Herron**, Kansas City Parks and Recreation Department - North Region, will give yet another encore presentation at the October 11 meeting.

Test your memory at the NNI senior seminar

"I can't find my car keys again! Where are they this time? What's his name? I know I know it!" Have you experienced anything like this lately? Join Carolyn DeLaMare from the Clay County Health Department on Wednesday, August 10, 9 a.m. to have fun and discover helpful tips and strategies to improve your memory.

For more information, call Janet at 454-2000.

Trash expert gives KC's semi-automated trash proposal a failing grade

Bob Mann, Kansas City attorney and founder of the recycling advocacy group "Bridging the Gap," strongly criticized the City of Kansas City's Semi-Automated Trash Collection proposal in a July 12 letter to the Mayor and Council. Some of Mann's key points:

- The program would increase KC's annual operating costs by \$990,000 and require an initial capital expense of nearly \$6 million.
- Since many of the City's trash contractors will not convert to automated equipment, the touted savings in personnel will not materialize.
- The program would eviscerate the long-time-in-coming curbside recycling program and encourage citizens to put out more trash, thus costing the citizens even more in landfill costs.

Mann closed his letter with a plea to the Mayor and City Council: "We have struggled for most of two decades to change Kansas City trash collection, recycling and hazardous waste practices. These changes have moved our city from the basement to the front lines as a model. Let us not now, in an anxious moment, take this dramatic step backward."

SMART set to launch in August

The Sustainable Maintenance and Renewal Today (SMART) program, funded by a \$900,000 HUD grant, will launch in August if the City of Kansas City completes the HUD-required environmental review.

The five neighborhoods targeted for the home repair program are Sunset-Dixon, Crestview, the 40-46 Neighborhoods, and two neighborhoods in Gladstone, Stormy Acres and Evanston Place. The program is closely modeled after the Chouteau Housing and Maintenance Program (CHAMP).

Northland Neighborhoods, Inc. Board of Directors - Officers

Mike Lewis	President
Mary Jo Burton	Vice President
Tom Schweitzer	Treasurer
Kay Fugate	Secretary

Jim Rice - Executive Director
Janet Shaffer - Newsletter Editor
Christy Harris - Director of Operations
James Cianciaruso - Director of Planning and Development

www.nni.org

5312 NE Chouteau Trafficway
Kansas City, MO 64119
816-454-2000
816-454-1747 - Fax

Ball Corporation partners with NNI's Custom Solutions program

On June 22, 2005, Northland Neighborhoods, the Shepherd's Center, and Ball Corporation entered into a new relationship to revitalize communities one person at time. On this sweltering hot day, 12 dedicated Ball Corporation employees spent their day off clearing out brush, trimming trees, mowing grass, raking leaves, planting flowers, and contracting poison ivy.

The task was so monumental that the initial dumpster obtained by NNI was filled within an hour. Allied Waste Services was contacted to obtain a second dumpster and found that NNI's mission of helping residents improve their lives meshed with their own idea of community service. So, Allied donated another dumpster free of charge. This entire effort was dedicated to one northland senior citizen in need of assistance.



Ball Corporation employees: (left to right) Front row: Dave Baker, Floyd Yingling. Middle row: Betty & Glenn Miller, Rick Turner, Julie Harris, Tim Caselman, Rusty Brown. Back row: Karen Barlow, Eve Carlise, Paul Jury

The Shepherd's Center and NNI empowered this Custom Solutions client improve her immediate situation and help build a better quality of life for herself and her neighborhood.

There are several important points that should be made. First, community citizens have the obligation and opportunity to help neighbors in need. Second, the ability of organizations, like the Ball Corporation, the Shepherd's Center, and Northland Neighborhoods, to collaborate creates a greater capacity to impact neighborhoods and the residents living in them.

This community development endeavor is all the more meaningful because of the persons and organizations involved. We not only build relationships between our agencies, but friendships between individuals.

Baptist youth Camp impacts Northland lives

July proved to be a busy month for NNI's Custom Solutions program. This program has assisted a multitude of northland residents with minor home repair and is in a continual state of collaborating with new partners and continuing existing relationships built amongst neighborhoods, non-profit organizations, churches, and municipalities.

One such relationship is with the Baptist Church and its Youth Camp held in Holt, Missouri. NNI and the Baptists have dedicated resources and labor to five northland area residences. These residences were in need of new paint, hard work, and a little TLC. The Baptist Youth and NNI were up to the task. Yet, this story is about more than the bricks and mortar of minor home repair.

The hard work and dedication of these young people is an expression of a basic American urge to help those in need. James Cianciaruso, NNI's Director of Planning and Development, manages the Custom Solutions program.

"It has been a wonderful opportunity to experience youth-involved activities that strengthen both the individual ties between agencies, but also the impact on our neighborhoods," says Cianciaruso.

Northland Neighborhoods, Inc. Board of Directors: 2005



*(left to right) Front row: Misty Casey, Stan Cunningham (holding the Larry McMannas Good Neighborhood Award plaque; Stan was the 2005 recipient), Kay Fugate, Mario Mayorga
Middle row: Kevin Masters, Park Lightfoot, Mike Lewis, Mary Jo Burton
Back row: Matt Guilfoil, Gene Hankins, Tom Schweitzer, Bob Corbet.*

Board Members not pictured: Virjean Burton, John McNerney, Bill Sanders