

## Inside this issue

Volunteers of Month .....2  
 Food Drive .....2  
 Crestview Family Clinic...3  
 New housing website .....3  
 Spotlight on  
 Volunteerism .....4-5  
 Perspectives .....6  
 Neighborhood Clips.....7  
 Public Meetings .....8

## Mission Statement

To improve the quality of life in the Northland by collaborating with residents, businesses and institutions to empower neighborhoods to build and maintain their own healthy communities. We join with them in absolute dedication to finding solutions and, in that collective spirit, we will leave no neighborhood behind.

## Quick response needed to rescue kids' holiday parties

**M**eg Conger, the Northland's new Kansas City Parks and Recreation Commissioner, urgently needs to raise funds to host holiday parties in Kansas City community centers. These parties, serve more than 3,000 needy children annually, are held in cooperation with Toys for Tots, and are often

the only holiday celebration these kids have. The parties are so popular that children often wait outside to get in due to the crowds. Huge budget cuts put the holiday parties in jeopardy. To cut the Community Center parties during a time when more people than ever rely on charitable organizations would be disastrous for kids

who depend on these gatherings for their only holiday celebration. Make checks payable to the Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners at 4600 East 63rd Street, Kansas City, MO, 64130. The funds will be used exclusively for the Community Center parties. NNI urges everyone to help with whatever you can afford.

## Looking for tax deductions? Think about NNI.

With the year coming to a close, tax time is just around the corner. Some last-minute charitable contributions could impact your tax liability. NNI is a 501(c)(3) community development corporation that needs your tax-deductible contribution to provide home repair, senior services, and neighborhood leader training, and more.

## Another great and safe Trick or Treat event

**N**NI's annual Safe Trick or Treat event on October 31 was a huge success, with more than 4,100 persons attending. Kids and parents enjoyed lots of creepy, scary fun on a balmy Halloween evening. They sweetened the hair-raising experience by consuming 750 cartons of milk, 65,000

pieces of candy (1,330 pounds), and enough popcorn to blanket the Antioch Mall parking lot. More than 100 volunteers devoted a total of 795 hours to the event, including 26 students from Eastgate Middle School, North Kansas City High School, Winnetonka High School, Oak Park High School and St. Pius High School. Key sponsors were Walmart-Gladstone, Walmart-I-29 and Barry Road, Belfonte, and the Neighborhood Tourism Development Fund. Again this year, Paula and Roger Brooks and Anita McWilliams did an awesomely scary job on the Haunted House.



## NNI Board of Directors

### Officers

Mary Jo Burton  
President

Kevin Masters  
Vice President

Marty Schuettpelez  
Secretary

Tom Schweitzer  
Treasurer

### Board Members

Angela Betts

Charles Chamberlin

ElizaBeth Clayton

Lory Daniels

Dick Davis

Mike Duffy

Dan Fowler

Richard King

Park Lightfoot

Keith Nelson

Juan Rangel

## Volunteers of the month Norma and George Cartmill



**The Cartmills spread their volunteer net to NNI and church.**

**G**eorge and Norma Cartmill have become an important part of the NNI family over the last 2 years.

George was born in Independence, Missouri and attended William Chrisman High School. There was a war on, so, after graduation, he enlisted in the Combat Engineers, deployed to the Pacific, and came home in 1946. That's when he met

Norma Bruce, who was raised in North Kansas City and attended North Kansas City High School. They were married June 3, 1949.

Norma and George moved to the Northland in 1951 and, since 1954, have lived in their current home where they raised their daughter Allyson. Allyson is married and lives in Massachusetts with her husband and their two children, Piper and Max.

Since George retired from Church Hill Truck Lines in 1987, he and Norma have enjoyed traveling and have cruised around the world, and then some. Both have become veteran volunteers at NNI, helping with Night Out Against Crime and Halloween Safe Trick-or-Treat events, and being regulars at monthly newsletter mailing chores. They are also very active in their church.

## NNI food drive underway; items desperately needed

**N**NI again this year urges neighborhoods and individuals to collect food to help the St. Benedict Food Pantry at 6600 NE 69 Highway in Pleasant Valley. The struggling economy is keeping the St. Benedict's pantry bare. The families it serves desperately need your help.

The pantry is locally operated and serves all

persons in need regardless of geographic area. Collection of non-perishable food items (canned and boxed goods) began November 19 and will continue through January 31, 2009. Hygiene and baby items are welcome and needed. NNI's goal is to gather 3,000 items by January 31. With your help and generosity, that goal can be met. For information, contact Janet Shaffer at 454-2000.

## Northland housing website now available

**N**orthland Neighborhoods, Inc., with major help from webmaster Lynn Kring, has launched a new housing clearinghouse website. Decent, safe and affordable housing is important for the health of individuals and the broader community. But, in the current financial and housing climate, affordable housing is becoming more difficult to find. To help with this problem, Northland Neighborhoods, Inc., in collaboration with the Mid-America Regional Council, Kansas City Design Center and the University of Kansas Graduate Program in Urban Planning, developed the

Northland Housing Resources website. A grant from the Northland Community Foundation made this website possible.

The website will help people in Clay and Platte Counties find housing help and information. Webmaster Lynn Kring brought his superb computer talents together with his extensive background with the Department of Housing and Urban Development, to produce a resource-filled, comprehensive library of housing information. Whether you're a homebuyer, current home owner, renter, developer or have other special housing

needs, this website has the information you need.

The Northland Housing Resources website is now available, and you can visit it today at <http://www.northlandhousing.org>. The website provides information on housing-related programs and services such as first time homebuyer opportunities, home repair programs, senior housing, home maintenance education, and homebuyer financial education. The website focuses on programs for low and moderate-income residents, with emphasis on helping senior citizens age in place.

### NNI Staff

#### Full-Time

Jim Rice  
Chief Executive Officer

Gina Hopkins  
Director of Administration/CFO

Larry Washington  
Director of Housing Services

Jennifer Presberry  
Manager, Community Development

Janet Shaffer  
Community Development Coordinator

#### Part-Time and Contract

Pearl Brown  
Administrative Support

Jenny Ellis  
Administrative Support

Pat Estes  
Housing Assistant

Yvonne Herrick  
Housing Assistant

Lola McCloud  
Special Projects

## Family clinic opens at Crestview School

**T**he Northland has a badly-needed new gem. The Family Medical Clinic at Crestview Elementary, 4327 N. Holmes, had its official ribbon cutting October 29, but the clinic had begun serving students and their families even before the grand opening.

The clinic is a partnership of the Clay County Public Health Center, North Kansas City Schools, and Northland Health Care Access. Clients must be uninsured or have certain Medicaid program coverage. Family Nurse Practitioner Donna McKown, FNP-BC, provides the primary care during the following hours:

Monday

8 a.m. to Noon and  
1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and  
2 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Friday

8 a.m. to Noon

Walk-Ins please call ahead at 816-413-4708.



## Spotlight on Volunteerism

By Reta Jo Mitchell  
**Change for the Better**

**W**hen Bob Dylan told us in song that “The Times They are A-Changin’,” he didn’t know the half of it. Since those turbulent Sixties, there have come startling changes—especially in attitude.

It is now acceptable to recycle and reuse everything from apparel to playthings. We are into “the new frugality” according to The Kansas City Star (10/18/08). Especially in hard times, it is all

and I spoke to student achievement classes at Winnetonka High School about the Great Depression. I related how, in the 1930s, my mother helped set up our school’s free lunch program, only to find some parents too proud to accept a hot meal for their children. Bruce explained the government’s “dole” of free food staples back then, that some rejected even during a 24 percent unemployment rate.



**Tonka Thrift Manager Desiree Evans accepts a donated Griffins' spirit jacket.**

“Second Hand Rose” lingered long in memory.

How far we’ve come! Garage sales are booming. There is even a website called “The Winning Edge” offering yard-sale expertise. Regarding outlets, the Kansas City area has over 85 thrifts and 62 consignment shops with surplus or resale merchandise.

At the Act II Shop, one can browse through Ralph Lauren or Calvin Klein creations,

surplus or gently used. Or, find bargains at intriguing boutiques like “Consigning Women” and “Out of the Closet.”

When passersby select from Bulky Item Pickup items, they are doing more than benefiting themselves. They are reducing waste and often reclaiming essential metals like copper and brass.

I asked my neighbor, 13-year-old Isaac Ray, why it was important to reuse and



**This Vivion Road billboard hails Animals In Need Thrift Store**

right to seek help, and to know fulfillment when giving help.

Recently, my husband Bruce

In those hardscrabble times, there were few rummage sales, consignment shops or thrift outlets. Singer Fanny Brice’s plaintive ballad about



**Pictured left: Kittens await a home at the Animals In Need Thrift Store.**

checked out the school's new service facility called "Tonka Thrift." There, students can get a free notebook or pencil or a needed winter coat. Store manager, Sophomore Desiree Evans told us that everything goes fast and that donations of books, school supplies, coats and especially Griffins Spirit Wear are welcomed. The Store's sponsor is WHS teacher Cathy

Coquyt.

As I write this, Bruce is off on a mission to thrift stores. He seeks to trade our two used but great-looking Schwinn bicycles for winter coats and jackets. You see, as we concluded our visit to Tonka Thrift, two boys came in looking for jackets. The day was growing colder, and one of the boys was wearing a short-sleeved shirt.

recycle. He put the question to several Maple Park Middle School classmates, all of whom saw the need to care for the earth through conservation. They understand reducing the need for more landfill space, and applaud extending help to others.

None give more than our non-profits like the Salvation Army and Goodwill. Or, the Nearly New where donated clothing and house wares produce profits for charities like the Northland Christmas Store and the Clay County Clothes Closet. Another, the Assistance League's ReSale Shop, sells clothing, toys, even jewelry to fund such good deeds as outfitting needy school kids.

In nearby Riverside, there is even a resale store called "Animals In Need Thrift" whose profits go to organizations caring for and saving homeless animals. At this, and all other such thrifts, do-

nations are fully tax-deductible.

A Kansas City gem is the ReStore where used and surplus building materials are sold at bargain rates to fund Habitat for Humanity. Do you need some hardwood or ceramic tiles, a stove or an elegant chandelier? Visit ReStore. On a recent tour, I met a family selecting white oak flooring for their living room, and a young couple about to purchase their first hot tub. Thus far, ReStore has earned 800,000 dollars for Habitat homes.

Next door to ReStore is Kansas City's reclamation center where used oil is processed into heating oil for ReStore and several Kansas City facilities. (Remember: one gallon of dumped oil spoils thousands of gallons of our drinking water.)

At our recent visit to Winnetonka, Bruce and I




**Rylee Quinn, Gavin and Brennan McGraw serve refreshments at Meiv folks' Holiday Hills Garage Sale.**

# Perspectives

By Jim Rice

## Even in hard times, much to celebrate during holiday season



**T**he world is on hard times these days. U.S. financial institutions, auto and housing industries are in deep trouble. As a non-profit, NNI takes a double hit. We have fewer resources; yet, more families need home repair and other help. To top it all off, most experts say it may be a year—or even two—before things get better. This kind of gloom just isn't right for this usually festive season twixt Thanksgiving and Christmas. So, let's show Old Man Gloom to the door and ask him not to come back. Call me Pollyanna but, on reflection, we have a lot to be thankful for this season.

Here's a partial list: We've just elected our first African-American president. Regardless of political persuasion, people of good will everywhere sense that we've taken a giant step toward dispelling the demon of racism from our national soul.

The NNI staff is doing without even cost-of-living raises this year, but every one of them continues to work their hearts out each day because

they believe so passionately in the work they do.

Our new Northland parks commissioner Meg Conger and Councilwoman Deb Hermann are quietly raising money to restore the City's community center holiday parties so thousands of needy children can have at least a little Holiday joy. (See story on page 1.)

Since June 1 of this year, NNI volunteers have logged in nearly 3,500 hours of selfless, loving service. It would be a sad world without them.

Reta Jo Mitchell and her husband Bruce maintain their own relentless volunteer schedule, much of it devoted to children. And Reta Jo spreads the good news of volunteering with her masterful writing. Each quarter, she shares her literary gifts with the NNI family through her marvelous stories of people helping people. (See story on pages 4-5.)

Elected officials from the Northland's counties and municipalities serve with integrity and distinction. Again

and again, they come through for NNI and the neighborhoods we serve.

Businessman Charles Gorney, a 21<sup>st</sup> Century J.C. Nichols, stamps his residential and commercial developments with unique quality and elegance. He has given the Northland and the region a set of crown jewels that will last into the 22<sup>nd</sup> Century.

Anita Gorman. A Northland leader for decades, she tackles the big challenges (like the recent 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Northland Fountain) with surgical precision and always with civility, intelligence and grace.

And finally, the hundreds of Northland neighborhood leaders who toil, often thanklessly, day-in and day-out to build a better quality of life for all of us.

Yes, amid all the turmoil and hardship, we still have abundant reasons to give thanks as an eventful 2008 gives way to 2009. May the new year bring peace, love and understanding to our city, our nation and our world.

## Neighborhood Clips

### Correction:

The November issue of Northland Neighborhood News incorrectly listed the name of our new Animal Control Officer. The correct name is Robert Shafford. He can be reached at NNI, 454-2000, Wednesday through Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

### Last call for Neighborhood leadership course

NNI's second EXCEL neighborhood leadership program, to begin in January, still has a few slots open. Call Jennifer Presberry at 454-2000 to get enrolled in this comprehensive leadership program.

### December Senior workshop, the holiday edition

The December 10 senior workshop will be all fun and no work. Festivities begin at 9 a.m. with bingo and prizes, followed by NNI's traditional holiday luncheon. Seniors planning to attend should make a reservation with Janet Shaffer at 454-2000 or [jshaffer@nni.org](mailto:jshaffer@nni.org).

### Volunteers needed for flood victims in Southeast Kansas

The flood of 2007 created horrific loss for many Southeast Kansas families. FEMA is now requesting that families move from FEMA trailers, within the next 30-45 days. Approximately 10 homes require work prior to the families moving in. The Long Term Flood Relief Committee is in dire need of work crews. If you and a few friends would like to extend a hand to our Kansas neighbors, it would be greatly appreciated. Most of the work is in Neodesha, Coffeyville and Independence. Please contact Ed Morgan, Long Term Flood Relief Committee, 316-640-3499, [emorgan@sktc.net](mailto:emorgan@sktc.net).

### Get your child's and your home's health checked FREE

The Kansas City Safe & Healthy Home Partnership will review your child's health, and the health of your home. The Home environmental assessment includes checking indoor air quality and ventilation, dust and allergen levels, moisture and mold, a household chemical survey, a home maintenance survey, and a home safety check-up. You can enroll today by calling 816-235-6331 or contact Yvonne Herrick at NNI, 454-2000. Check below to see if your family qualifies:

- Do you live in the Kansas City Metro Area?
- Do you have a child with asthma, allergies, sinus problems, a constant cough, headaches, or other constant health problems?
- Is your child between 2 and 17 years of age?
- Does your child stay at your home at least 4 nights per week?
- Do you own your home, or have you lived in the same rental unit the last 6 months, and plan to live there the next 12?
- Does your family make less than 80% of the KC Metro Median Family Income?

### NNI looking for qualified home repair contractors

NNI seeks qualified contractors to work for home repair programs dedicated to low and moderate income Northlanders. We are requesting qualification proposals from Section 3-eligible contractors to conduct home repair services in the following categories: Heating and Cooling (HVAC) Systems; Roofing; Windows and Doors; Gutters; Plumbing and Water Heaters; Code Violation Remediation; Siding; Removing Barriers to Ac-

cess; Weatherization Activities; Lead Testing and Abatement; Flatwork/Concrete; and General Contracting. Please contact Larry Washington or Yvonne Herrick at 816-454-2000 if you are, or know, a contractor interested in earning money while helping improve the quality of life for individuals and the community.

### Northland's Grace Baptist Church aids refugees

Ethnic diversity in the Northland is increasing rapidly due mostly to migration from war torn countries around the world. Grace Baptist Church, 3101 NE Vivion Road, recently began a program of mentoring and friendship of more than 50 Karen ethnic refugees now living in the Northland, most at the Timberline Apartments on Northeast 38<sup>th</sup> Street. In November, Duane Binckley, the church's global consultant for resettling Karen in the U.S., came to the church to assist with the Karen ministry. The newly resettled refugees, some of whom have been living in refugee camps in Thailand for as long as 20 years, were originally from Burma but were chased out of their land. According to Grace Baptist's Carolyn Baxter, the Karen refugees are a gracious, caring people who have found themselves in a new land. Carolyn strongly recommends checking out the web site [Karenconnection.org](http://Karenconnection.org) to learn more about these new Northlanders.

### Check out NNI for neighborhood newsletter ideas

NNI's Neighborhood Bulletin Board has samples of neighborhood newsletters. They are full of ideas that can be borrowed or adapted for your newsletter. Stop by NNI and browse.



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

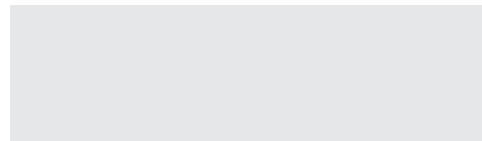
Return Service Requested

3015 NE Vivion Road  
Kansas City, Missouri 64119

Phone: (816) 454-2000  
Fax: (816) 454-1747

info@nni.org  
www.nni.org

**WE WILL LEAVE NO  
NEIGHBORHOOD BEHIND.**



## Public Meetings at NNI December 2008

Wednesday	12/10	Senior Workshop - Holiday Edition	9:00 a.m.
Monday	12/15	NNI Board Meeting	6:30 p.m.
Tuesday	12/16	Greenhaven Neighborhood	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday	12/17	Cop Talk at NNI	6:00 p.m.
Thursday	12/25	NNI offices closed for holiday	
Friday	12/26	NNI offices closed for holiday	

**Note:**

**No Meet Your Councilpersons Meeting in December**  
**No 1<sup>ST</sup> District roads meeting in December**