



Northland Neighborhoods, Inc.
Annual Report
2021 - 2022

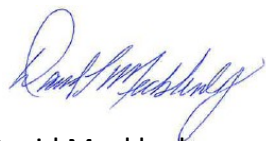
A Message from NNI Leaders

We kept hoping and looking for “normal” this year at NNI but never quite found it! This year brought its own special challenges. Concerns about the pandemic continued along with masks and social distancing. We tried to open our offices only to be shut down again when a new variant arrived. NNI had instituted strict pandemic protocols since the onset of the virus. As a result, we had successfully avoided COVID and remained healthy. However, in January of 2022 most of our staff and their families became ill and tested positive for COVID! Thankfully due to the effectiveness of vaccines, no one suffered serious illness and we were back to work in pretty quick order.

Supply chain issues and drastic construction material price increases impacted NNI’s Home Repair Program. Projects had to be limited and delayed. However, due to the professionalism and great effort of NNI staff, all projects were completed and grant requirements were met.

Once again, due to the deep commitment of the NNI Board of Directors and extraordinary efforts of NNI’s professional staff, NNI persevered with an unrelenting goal of always keeping the needs of our clients NNI’s top priority.

We look forward to the upcoming year but we are still hoping and looking for “normal”!



David Mecklenburg
President



Deborah L. Hermann
Chief Executive Officer



David Mecklenburg
NNI President



Deb Hermann
Chief Executive Officer

P.S. For more detailed information on NNI, visit nni.org.

Northland ~~1st District~~ Problem Solving



Redistricting of Kansas City council districts will occur in 2023 and will bring new opportunities and challenges to NNI and our residents. Introducing neighborhoods and residents to new elected officials will be a top priority.

Beginning March 1st, 2022, the very popular and informational 1st District Problem Solving Meeting became the Northland Problem Solving Meeting. Councilmembers from the first, second, and fourth districts are invited to attend. The meetings held have been met with enthusiasm with over fifty residents in attendance at each meeting.

Agenda topics have included the introduction of new Kansas City department directors at Water, Health, and Neighborhood Services and their respective goals. We have also learned about major road projects, school district activity, the city budget, upcoming ballot issues, the Sidewalk Program, and other timely issues.

Northland Problem Solving will continue the first Tuesday of each month at 9:00 a.m. and NNI will continue to bring people together.



Northland Neighborhoods, Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to neighborhood **improvement** and **revitalization** in Clay and Platte counties. NNI works with residents, governmental entities, and other organizations to find resources and solutions for better housing, better communities, and better lives. NNI helps ensure the Northland is an **outstanding** place to live. Founded in 1996, NNI is the only community development corporation serving the Northland.

Raymond R. Brock, Jr. Hall



We had been anxious to put our new Raymond R. Brock, Jr. Hall to good use. Bringing people together to solve problems and proactively plan is essential to NNI's mission. The hall has a capacity to seat nearly 200 people comfortably. Due to the pandemic, in-person meetings started slowly and had a few hiccups when the virus surged again. Even with these challenges and restrictions, NNI hosted 218 meetings or events that included 4,018 attendees.

Just a sampling of the opportunities where citizens gathered at NNI to engage in their community —

Residents came together to learn how to make their home and neighborhoods safer at Block Watch programs presented by community interaction officers from KCPD North Patrol and Shoal Creek Divisions through NNI's partnership with KCPD.

Receptions were held welcoming Major Joel Lovelady and Major Santiago Garza to their new northland leadership positions. We also gathered to welcome Dianna Wright to her new position as Clay County administrator.

Focus Vivion Road and NNI Planning and Development meetings gave residents an opportunity to review proposed development projects and proactively plan improvements for the area.

In-person Senior Workshop meetings were finally able to resume in April 2022. It was a homecoming for many of the seniors. They were last able to meet together in March 2020. Sadly, two of their long-time members succumbed to COVID and were missed at the reunion of the group.

We know Raymond R. Brock, Jr. Hall will be filled with engaged citizens often in 2022-2023.

Meet Ebby!

Ebby is a brave adventurer! Being over 6,500 miles from her Nigerian hometown and legally blind since birth does not slow her down! Immigrating, alone, to the United States six years ago. She completed a masters degree, works full-time, and maintains her own home. Her positivity and easy smile is contagious.

Ebby manages very well with public transportation. She is well-versed on the services available to her and how to access them. The challenge she was having when she contacted NNI was getting from her house to her driveway safely. The path that existed was mostly a dirt trail and a old, damaged parking space. This created a real hazard for Ebby, especially during inclement weather.

Ebby's laundry facilities are in her basement. The old basement stairs were rickety, uneven, and dangerous. It was important to NNI staff that Ebby was able to move through her home safely too.

Safe sidewalks were installed around her home and the basement staircase was replaced. Ebby is thankful to have discovered NNI and we are overjoyed that we have been able to help her!





"This world needs more people like you all!"

"The contractor persevered even [as] the job got more and more challenging. He was determined to completely fix the plumbing issue."

"They answered my questions without hesitation [and] made me feel that I was part of their team."

"One of the best experiences in my senior years. Absolutely respectful contractor and impeccable work."

NNI completed over \$1,000,000 In home repairs in 2021/22

NNI Home Repair

"I feel so much safer getting in and out of my shower...and I can once again use my sink!"

"[This repair] is going to keep water out of my house. [The] new electrical panel is making it safer and [the] new back stoop is safer to walk out the door!"

"You have...very good, helpful and reliable [contractors] working for you."

"I am able to use my lift chair to carry groceries in the house."

● = Home repair/rehab completed in FY 2021-2022



Meet Rita

The year was 1967.

- *Lyndon Johnson was President.*
- *The Beatles released Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band.*
- *11,363 American troops died in the Vietnam War.*
- *The Graduate was the top grossing movie.*
- *Rita immigrated from Germany to the United States.*

Rita is full of life and energy! We first met her when she came to NNI offices seeking assistance. Initially, we were very concerned for her. She seemed winded and requested a drink of water. We then learned that she had walked over two and one half miles from her home to our office! Her course that morning had been difficult; mostly without sidewalks and traversing the intersection of I-29 and North Oak Trafficway. Suffice it to say, we expedited Rita's application and made sure she had a safe ride home that morning.

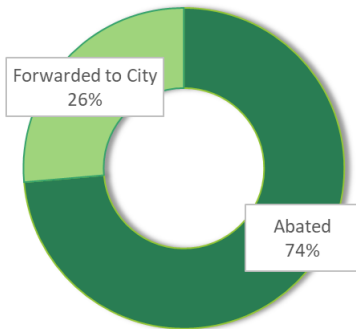
Rita is an avid gardener and immaculate housekeeper. She is very proud of her home in Crestview but struggles to make needed repairs since her husband, a retired KCATA bus driver, died in 1996. She does what she can including, mowing her own yard with a weedeater because she can no longer handle a heavy lawn mower.

Rita has been the victim of scammers and unscrupulous contractors. This is a persistent and infuriating issue NNI sees often. We counseled Rita on how to avoid being swindled. We also connected her with Shepherd's Center, where she may get assistance with transportation and yard care.

Drainage was her top priority. Her gutters and downspouts needed to be replaced and her foundation was in need of extensive repairs. Rita is very appreciative of the assistance NNI provided. NNI plans to follow up and replace Rita's aged HVAC system when additional grant dollars become available.



NNI at Work



Total Cases: 2,221

Since 2016, the NNI at Work program has sought to preserve and stabilize neighborhoods through code enforcement support and community connection to resources. NNI partners with the Kansas City Neighborhood Preservation Department and the 311 Action Center in order to help Kansas City residents and property owners avoid violating Nuisance Ordinances and/or Property Maintenance Codes. NNI works to connect residents with resources to assist with correcting code violations. NNI at Work's efforts resulted in an abatement rate of **74%**.



What to Watch For in 2022/23!



We are excited about the upcoming fiscal year and the many exciting new projects planned that will help make our community the best it can be.

- NNI will lead the planning effort for the redevelopment of the abandoned Vivion Road Kmart site.
- Real Change not Spare Change - encouraging generous giving to agencies that serve the homeless.
- NNI will convene a group of neighborhood and business leaders to research solutions to the affordable housing crisis.

Thank You to Our Donors



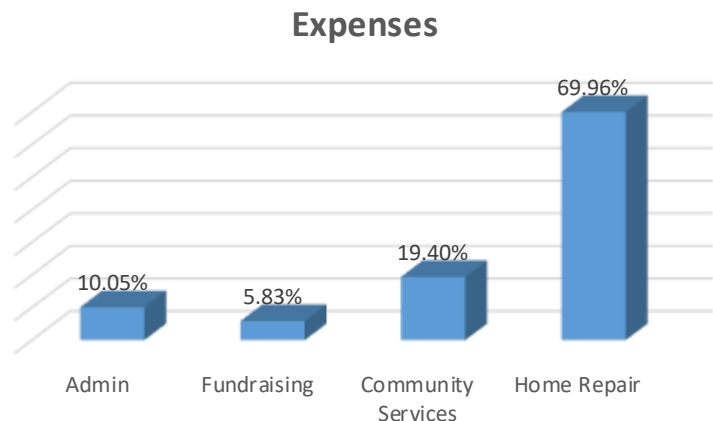
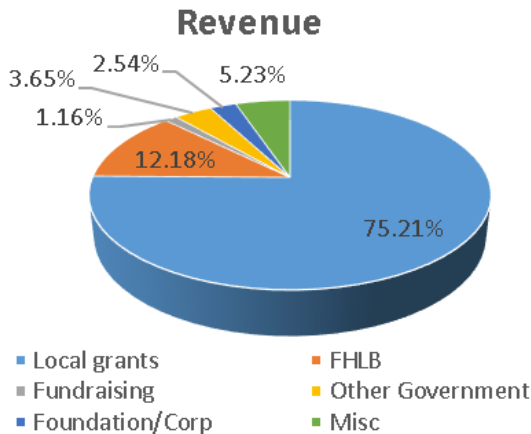
Amazon Smile
 Antioch Redevelopment Partners—
 David Horn
 Barry Harbour/Hunter's Ridge HOA
 Timothy & Rhonda Basler
 Jim & Elaine Bowers
 Stephen Brainard
 Stephanie Braun
 Briarcliff Trails of our Community
 Raymond Brock
 Robert & Jane Bromberg
 Aaron & Ashley Bryant
 Rae Ann & Patrick Burke
 John Byram, Jr.
 City of Gladstone - General Administration
 City of Gladstone Community Development
 Henry & Mary Clark
 Robin Clark—Clemons Home Team
 Dan & Allison Clemens
 Bonnie Sue Cooper
 Curry Investment Company
 Clay County Senior Services
 Clay County
 Dick & Virginia Davis
 John Dillingham
 Allen & Sandi Dillingham
 Marjorie Finley
 Ford Motor Company
Honorable Dan Fowler
 Terry Gabel
 Anita Gorman
 Teri Graves
 GKC Community Foundation—
 Irven E. & NeVada P. Linscomb
 Foundation Fund

Pamela Harman
 Honorable Heather Hall
 Heartland Combined Federal Campaign
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 Stuart & Angela Hunt
 Hy-Vee Reusable Bag Program
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 Mike Nichols—City of North Kansas City
 North Kansas City Hospital
 North Kansas City School District
 Jim Nutter
 Olsson Associates
 Honorable Kevin O'Neill

Cindy Onelio
 David Phillips
 Platte County Senior Fund
 Elsie Quagraine
 QuikTrip Corporation
 Leslie & Patrick Rainey
 Ralph C Johnson & Company, PC
 Rouse Frets White Goss Gentile, PC
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 Terry Rynard
 JC Sanders—Reese Nichols Real Estate
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard Sayles
 Sandra Schmude—Real Estate SL, LLC
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 Markus & Ronda Smith
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 Beth & Chris Sullivan
 Scott, Talary & Gino Summers
 Target Heroes and Helpers
 The Trails HOA
 Truman Heartland Community Foundation
 Chris & Ellen Todd
 United Way of Greater Kansas City
 Lin Van Meter
 Van's Fence, LLC
 Jim & Clara Vaughn
 Terri & Steve Wolfe
 Anne Wright

Finances

NNI is funded through government, foundation, and corporate grants, as well as generous donations from individuals and businesses. Fundraising is a challenge for all nonprofits. NNI is no different and works very hard. Our work is being rewarded with a community that has become increasingly aware of the desperate need of some of our neighborhoods and families and recognition of the success NNI is achieving to address those needs. There is always more to do, but we celebrate our success and are deeply appreciative of the support.



Due to NNI's dedicated professional staff and a board committed to accountability and transparency, NNI has achieved ten years of flawless audits!

2021/22 Board of Directors

NNI has been fortunate to have a long history of dedicated board members, who work very hard and ask for nothing in return. The NNI Board of Directors of this fiscal year certainly followed that model. In a very difficult year, they directed and supported NNI's professional staff to not only meet, but surpass all expectations. Their service and commitment is deeply appreciated.

David Mecklenburg, President
 Beth Sullivan, Treasurer
 Henry Clark
 Dick Davis
 Darren Hennen
 Jan Lewis
 DeJ'on Slaughter
 Scott Wingerson

Mark McHenry, Vice President
 Richard Sayles, Secretary
 Dan Clemens
 Charles Hayton
 Janet Kenny
 JC Sanders
 Ellen Todd

NNI Staff

Deb Hermann
Chief Executive Officer
Terri Wolfe,
Director of Administration
Lori Morgan,
Director of Finance & Compliance
Cliff Mehrer
Home Repair Lead
Mary Dusanek
Housing Associate
Scott Henness
Housing Associate
Katrina High
Special Projects
Dave King
311 Specialist
Erin Waller
Operations Support Specialist

Contact Us

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NNI's mission is 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***.

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