



The Neighbors' Place

"People helping people"

The newsletter for everyone in our neighborhood

Spring 2011



A message from Tom Rau, Executive Director

Recently, I was at a meeting discussing a program that helped young mothers-to-be with prenatal medical care. The lady speaking said "aside from just caring about these mothers and their unborn children, this program has proven long term cost benefits". The statement jolted me. "Aside from caring"

The following are my remembrances from a speech given in 1968. There was a certain man who fell among thieves. And seeing him, a Levite and a priest passed by on the other side. They didn't stop to help him. Finally a man of another race came by. He got down from his beast, deciding not to be compassionate by proxy. He administered first aid and helped the man in need. This man is remembered as the good neighbor, because he had the capacity to project the "I" into the "thou," and to be concerned about his brother.

We use our imagination a great deal to try to determine why the priest and the Levite didn't stop. At times we say they were busy going to church meetings, and that they had to get to Jerusalem so they wouldn't be late for their meeting. At other times we might speculate that there was a religious law that governed their behavior. And every now and then, we begin to wonder whether maybe they were going down to Jerusalem, or down to Jericho, to organize a "Jericho Road Improvement Association." It's a possibility. Maybe they felt that it was better to deal with the problem from a less "hands on" approach, rather than to get bogged down with an individual effort.

But I'm going to tell you what my imagination tells me. It's possible that these men were afraid. You see, the Jericho road is a dangerous road. It's a winding, meandering road. It's really conducive to ambushing. And you know, it's possible that the priest and the Levite looked over at that man on the ground and wondered if the robbers were still around; or it's possible that they felt that the man on the ground was merely faking, and he was acting like he had been robbed and hurt in order to lure them closer for quick and easy seizure. And so the first question that the Levite and the priest asked was, "If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?" But then the Good Neighbor came by. And he reversed the question. He asked, "If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?"

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered the speech from which these memories come, in support of the striking sanitation workers at Mason Temple in Memphis, TN on April 3, 1968 – the day before he died.

We are challenged to choose the kind of life we will lead when times are uncertain, even scary. These moments define each of us.



***FORE!* WATCH FOR INFORMATION ON THE 9TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING**

MONDAY, AUGUST 15, 2011

WAUSAU COUNTRY CLUB

All proceeds benefit The Neighbors' Place programs meeting the core needs of our neighbors. For sponsorship or foursome information, please contact Tom Rau at 715-845-1966. Everyone is welcome to participate!



STRONG COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO YEAR END APPEAL

Thank you to each of you who donated to our year-end appeal. You contributed more than \$32,000, which provides tremendous funding for our programs – Adult Education, Children's Education, Community Garden, Free Market, Food Pantry, and our annual Christmas Assistance Program. Each of these programs addresses core needs of our neighbors, and helps them to attain independence in many areas of their lives. Thank you for your kindness and support. Together, we are stronger.



FUN IN THE SNOW

16TH ANNUAL ICE TEE CLASSIC A GREAT SUCCESS

The Neighbors' Place 16th Annual Ice Tee Classic took place on Saturday, February 19, 2011 at Yawkey Park (behind Woodson YMCA) in downtown Wausau from 10am to 3pm. Over 150 participants took part in this fun, winter miniature golf style event, and played through a course consisting of seven themed holes carved into the snow and ice by area businesses and organizations.

Many participants and families used a variety of "clubs" such as brooms, shovels and hockey sticks to swat yellow tennis balls through each hole on the course. Each participant was awarded a small giveaway or treat at each hole and all were entered into door prize drawings. All Ice Tee participants played free of charge, although many generous individuals provided a free-will offering to play in this festive event.

Thanks to the generosity of the participants and local businesses and organizations that sponsored the event, approximately \$4,000 was raised to support the programs of The Neighbors' Place, in addition to donations of food. Thank you to all who came out to play and have fun in the snow and ice... watch for this family friendly event next winter!



EMPTY BOWLS TO BE HELD SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2011



Please join us at the Rose Garden in Wausau for the fourth annual Empty Bowls event, where you'll enjoy the delicious cooking of area restaurants and groups while mingling with others who are all working together to combat hunger in our community. You'll take home a unique bowl and have a chance to bid on sensational items in the Silent Auction. Mark your calendar, and plan to participate! For more information, watch our web site and our Facebook page.



NEW TNP WEBSITE IN THE WORKS

We are currently in the process of creating a new website to keep you informed and up-to-date about all of our wonderful programs, events and news, as well as hours and contact information to help you with whatever you need.

In the meantime, check us out on Facebook and watch for our new website unveiling!

 <p>The Neighbors' Place <i>"People helping people"</i> 745 Scott Street Wausau, WI 54403 715-845-1966 www.neighborsplace.org</p>  <p>United Way <i>A Member Agency of the United Way</i></p>	<p>The Neighbors' Place Staff: <i>Executive Director:</i> Tom Rau <i>Administrative Assistant:</i> Khamsao Yang <i>Community Outreach/ Youth Program Director::</i> Naomi Peters <i>Food Pantry Director:</i> Fernando Soto <i>Donations Director:</i> Kathy Rubino <i>Adult Education/ Provider Storyteller Network Director:</i> Marcy Rau <i>Provider Storyteller Network:</i> Maichao Lor <i>Garden Coordinator:</i> Gene Jacobson <i>Senior Aides:</i> Christopher Drew, Irene Robbins, Anna Tanck, David Windorski, Lou Ann Wood, Va Thao Xiong</p>	<p>Board of Directors: Liz Sheahan, President Walter John Chilsen, Vice President Sean Valiska, Treasurer Ann Brooks, Secretary Melinda Bartell, Joan Bouldin, Calvin Dexter, Dawn Follendorf, Ann Herda-Rapp, Tina Johnson, Bethany O'Day, Christy Parks, Pong Thao, Dr. Gary Zimbric</p>
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