



# The Neighbors' Place

*"People helping people"*

Newsletter for everyone in our neighborhood

Winter 2010



## 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ICE TEE CLASSIC

*Come frolic and laugh with us as we golf in the snow!*

**Saturday, February 20, 10am – 3pm  
On the 400 Block in Downtown Wausau**

Please join us for a fun-filled miniature golf-style outing in the snow to benefit The Neighbors' Place. This major event is sponsored by area businesses and organizations that design themed holes. Golfers swat tennis balls with distinctive "golf clubs," i.e. tennis racquets, brooms— and even real golf clubs.

Entry fee is a suggested donation of \$2 per person (\$5 maximum per family). All are welcome, regardless of their ability to pay. **Mark your calendar and plan to have some fun!**

**Business sponsors are key to the success of the Ice Tee Classic.** Sponsorship levels range from \$50 to \$1,500. Interested in being a part of this important event? Please call Tom Rau at (715) 845-1966 today. *Every dollar goes directly to provide services that support our local neighbors.*



## MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHTER WORK

*A message from Tom Rau, Executive Director*

With high unemployment rates and the many economic challenges of 2009, I have been struck by the incredible generosity of you, our community neighbors. It seems that everyone is willing to share whatever they can to help those who have even less.

All year, we've experienced an increase in the number of families needing assistance – averaging about 300 families per week to the Food Pantry. In the seven days before Thanksgiving, we saw 96 to 110 families every single day. Between Thanksgiving and Christmas, we provided food to more than 75 families each day. On December 23, nearly 130 families were looking for help.

Remarkably, we have been able to meet those demands – a feat made possible only through the many people who have given whatever they could. The businesses, organizations and families that have organized fund and food drives are what make The Neighbors' Place tick. There have been far too many events and donations to list, but if you visit our Web site – [neighborsplace.org](http://neighborsplace.org), you'll see a growing list of supporters who have embraced our fellow community members in need.

Thank you to each and every one of you who has reached out to lend a hand – together, we can meet the needs of our neighbors. Together, we can manage the work more easily.



## ***A LIFELINE FOR THE COMMUNITY SUPPORTED BY THE COMMUNITY***

More than 3,000 people access the TNP Food Pantry every month – it truly is a lifeline, helping them put a few meals on their tables when times are tight. This community provides great support for this service, and we are grateful. We continue to work hard to keep foods available for those in need.

The Neighbors' Place received a Sam's Club community grant to help purchase a commercial freezer for the Food Pantry. The new lockable, mobile freezer is more energy-efficient than the array of home-size freezers currently utilized, and will allow the Pantry to expand offerings of meat and other perishable items.

**Part of a group? Here's an opportunity for you** to become involved in keeping the shelves of our Food Pantry stocked throughout the year. TNP is looking for commitments from schools, congregations, service clubs and other organizations to each select one month of 2010 in which to hold a food drive. Partnerships with area groups will ensure a more steady flow of food to keep up with increasing demand.

Watch our Web site and Facebook page for info on the Feinstein Million Dollar Challenge to fight hunger!



## ***JOIN US FOR WINTERFEST***

**January 30, 11am-2pm**

**The Village Cooperative of Wausau – 1508 Merrill Avenue**

Join our neighbors at The Village Cooperative for some winter fun – there will be horse-drawn wagon rides, hot chocolate, chili and brownies as well as other fun activities for the family. Admission fee: A donation of non-perishable food or cash, all to benefit The Neighbors' Place.



## SANTA'S WORKSHOP: 745 SCOTT STREET

*More than 1,000 children benefited from the goodness of TNP supporters*

The Christmas Assistance Program of The Neighbors' Place was busier than ever this year, providing gifts to more than 1,000 children from 300 families who might otherwise have gone without.

Families who were able to plan ahead registered in October to get sponsors who provided gifts according to their children's wish lists. Others waited in the snow to shop at the TNP Christmas Store the weekend before Christmas, selecting new unwrapped gifts donated by local businesses, organizations and individuals. Each family was able to select a gift for each of their children in the store, and choose some smaller items as stocking stuffers. Volunteers worked with them to wrap their gifts before they took them home.

Special thanks to all the sponsors, volunteers, donors and Santa himself for making this year's Christmas Assistance Program a great success. **Thanks to you, there were 1,000 extra smiles on December 25<sup>th</sup>.**



## THANK YOU

Huge gratitude goes out to all our neighbors who have responded to our recent request for program funding. Many of you will soon be receiving your limited-edition signed print of Sid Kyler's artwork depicting the work of The Neighbors' Place. If you haven't responded yet, it's not too late...your contribution is needed now more than ever, and is always appreciated.



## FREE & CLEAR!

We're happy to announce that with the funds raised through our capital fund drive, we were able to pay off the mortgage on our building before the end of 2009. Sincere gratitude goes to each of the donors who helped make this possible. During 2010, you will see continued renovations and improvements to our building. With guidance from the Samuels Group, we will create a more inviting and functional facility, focusing on improving efficiencies and creating a more environmentally friendly place.



## 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL EMPTY BOWLS WAS ANYTHING BUT EMPTY



Held on a beautiful October Saturday afternoon, Empty Bowls brought a tremendous crowd to the Rose Garden in Wausau. More than 100 people lined up outside before the event began, and the crowds continued throughout the event. Attendees signed up for free door prizes, and for just \$10 admission, selected unique handmade bowls donated by local artists, students and supporters, and enjoyed their choice of a huge array of delicious soups, bread, cookies and beverages. Barry Liss and Parker Siems (aka "The Barry & Parker Band") performed, and attendees enjoyed competing to win their favorite items in the Silent Auction. New to this event was *Soup to Go* – a very popular option that allowed many to take a good meal home to their families. Guests took their handmade bowls home with them as a reminder that hunger is always present. When all was said and done, more than \$12,000 was brought in to fight hunger through the TNP Food Pantry.



## LOG ON TO WWW.NEIGHBORSPLACE.ORG

We've recently updated our Web site to keep you better informed. At the site, you'll find information about all of our valuable programs, events and news, as well as hours and contact information to help you with whatever you need. We're also listing the many groups and businesses that have supported us through collections, fundraising and special events.

With the help of Kinziegreen Marketing Group, we are committed to keeping our information current. Please take some time to check it out, and be sure to add it to your Favorites for return visits. By staying connected, we can better meet the needs of those we serve.

 <p><b>The Neighbors' Place</b>  <i>"People helping people"</i>  <b>745 Scott Street</b>  <b>Wausau, WI 54403</b>  <b>715-845-1966</b>  <a href="http://www.neighborsplace.org">www.neighborsplace.org</a></p>  <p><i>A Member Agency of the United Way</i></p>	<p><b>The Neighbors' Place Staff:</b>  <i>Executive Director:</i> Tom Rau  <i>Director Community Outreach/Youth Programs:</i>  Naomi Peters  <i>Adult Education/Provider Storyteller Network:</i>  Marcy Rau  <i>Provider Storyteller Network:</i> Maichao Lor  <i>Latino Outreach:</i> Fernando Soto  <i>Garden Coordinator:</i> Gene Jacobson  <i>Donations:</i> Kurt Scheidemann  <i>Senior Aides:</i> William Bublitz, Charles Coolidge, Briane Pasholk, Anna Tanck, Lou Ann Wood, Va Thao Xiong</p>	<p><b>Board of Directors:</b>  Linda Lawrence, Co-President  Rhonda Grabow, Co-President  Walter John Chilsen, Vice President  Sean Valiska, Treasurer  Liz Sheahan, Secretary  Mark Baldwin, Joan Bouldin,  Ann Brooks, Calvin Dexter, Jane Dolan,  Ann Herda-Rapp, Carol Lamansky,  Darryl Mayfield, Tom Neal,  Bethany O'Day, Kathryn Rubino,  Libby Vaughn, Dr. Gary Zimbric</p>
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## PREFER EMAIL?

To receive this newsletter via email, zip a message off to [tom@neighborsplace.org](mailto:tom@neighborsplace.org).



## ON FACEBOOK?

*Become a Fan of TNP!*