



# Sisters of St. Joseph NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK

Revitalizing a neighborhood. Empowering its people.

June, 2011

Spring/Summer Edition

Welcome Spring and Summer! Spring represents a time of rejuvenation of spirit and reflection of all the wonderful things we have to be thankful for in the past year. At the SSJNN we are forever thankful to all of you. We appreciate your loyal support of the ministries of the Sisters of Saint Joseph Neighborhood Network. We are blessed to have such wonderful neighbors in unity with us, sharing our mission to love and support the community. You all have made a difference in the lives of others, in a neighborhood that yearns for revitalization and the hearts of all of the staff working at the SSJNN. As we look to the next season we hope that you will continue to support our mission to respond to the changing needs of the community by partnering with local residents and the broader community to provide growth and neighborhood revitalization. We continue to strive to provide hope, empowerment and stabilization to the Little Italy neighborhood. Without you, it would not be possible. Thank you for reading our newsletter and the stories of the people, projects and neighborhood positively affected by you. Blessings for a wonderful Spring and Summer.

Sincerely,

*Rose, Sister Phyllis, Sister Carol, Sue Ann & Wally*

Rose Graham, Sister Phyllis Hilbert, Sister Carol Wilcox, Sue Ann Winiewski and Wally Brown



## AWARDS ANNOUNCED

Gary McEnery and the Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network were awarded special plaques of appreciation from the CHAMPS program for their service and support to CHAMPS children through the International Flavors Community Garden.

Gary McEnery, director of the neighborhood garden was featured as a workshop presenter at the Penn State Master Gardeners' Spring Workshop at the Erie Art Museum. All were captivated with Gary's photos of the garden's progression from teaching the CHAMPS and neighborhood network students how to build the garden box, prepare the soil, plant and nurture the seeds/seedlings, harvest the organic produce, and prepare the delicious recipes from the garden. The involvement of the neighbors helped to build community and positive growth in our International neighborhood.



## *Namaste!* Welcome to the neighborhood

We welcome the third Bhutanese family to our neighborhood. The Chandra Kumar Basnet family is now living at 417 West 17<sup>th</sup> Street. They are related to the Siwakoti and Shibakoti family living at 446 West 17<sup>th</sup> Street. These families are eager to establish themselves in Erie and are very motivated to do whatever is necessary to secure stable housing and employment. We are grateful for their enthusiastic and flexible adjustment to a new culture and the SSJNN is happy to assist them as they continue their transition.

### WHAT'S HAPPENING IN PROGRAMS?

The **Ophelia Project** has made an impression at the SSJNN. In the fall of 2010 and the winter and spring of 2011, our children have learned about S.T.A.R.S (self esteem, teamwork, attitude and respect) Qualified teachers have worked with our 1st, 2nd and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders over five weekly sessions. Our middle grade boys were introduced to Boy Talk, another program from Ophelia, and our middle grade girls experienced Girl Talk.

#### **Boy Talk** by *Ophelia Project*



An invitation was given to the children to belong to a **Thousandaire Club**. Our youngsters are selling candy bars and saving their money. They received special coin collection sets and are learning to look for coins that have certain dates on them. They are also learning the rules to becoming a thousandaire and the importance of saving even a small amount of money. Every penny counts.

### **comments on Gary's Workshop**

*"excellent wonderful job on community gardens"*  
*"HATS OFF -- awesome community project"*  
*"wonderful learning experience for city children, families and the community"*

### **voices of our Clients**

*"I just love coming here" ....Kwanisha*  
*"I wish I could stay in Time Out For Mom's for long time" ....Alice*  
*"Thank you for believing in me" ....Anonymous*  
*"You've made a difference on 18th St...A Neighbor"*



**Thanks to the Gannon Students who cleaned West 18th St during the United Way Day of Caring.**

**Thanks to the Associates who painted upstairs during the SSJA Dear Neighbor Day.**



### **HOW CAN YOU HELP....**

**Contributions**— for your convenience an envelope is enclosed.

**Volunteer**—Tutor, Mentor, Soup Kitchen, Assist with office duties, Participate with our other programs.

**Donate**— Hygiene products, paper products (i.e. toilet paper, diapers, tissues), non-perishable food items, paper products for the soup kitchen.

*Donations now being accepted on-line at [www.ssjnn.org](http://www.ssjnn.org)*

### **UPCOMING EVENTS.....**

**May** - Planting of the community garden

**June 5** - Community garden mulching party

**July 27** - Picnic in the neighborhood with WJET TV

**August 2** - National Night Out

**August 12 - 14** - Italian Festival at St. Paul's RC

**September 10** - Women's Bocce Tournament La Nuova Aurora Club

**September 17** - Men's Bocce Tournament, La Nuova Aurora Club



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Sisters of St Joseph Neighborhood Network  
425 W18th St  
Erie PA 16502  
Phone: 814-454-7814  
Fax 814-454-7915  
Email: rgraham@ssjnn.org

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Empowering its people.

### SSJ Neighborhood Network Board of Directors

#### Thank you to our Board Members:

- Craig Corsi
  - Ron DiVecchio
  - Mary Ellen Dwyer, SSJ
  - Margaret Frank, SSJ
  - Abby Gallo-Lechner
  - Rosmari Graham
  - Charleen Kerr-Piper
  - Mary Maxwell
  - Phyllis McCracken, SSJ
  - Carol Morehouse, SSJ
  - Denis O'Brien
  - Andrew Schmidt
  - Michael Tellers
  - Scott Whalen
- President—Steve Erhartic  
Vice President—Barbara Drew  
Secretary—Charlene Sisson  
Treasurer—Karen McElhinny



**BOCCE TOURNAMENT**  
benefitting the  
Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network's  
Historic Little Italy Project  
*save the dates*



September 10, 2011 Women's ----- September 17th, 2011 Men's

**OUR MISSION**  
The SSJ Neighborhood Network sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph of NW Pennsylvania, provides leadership, advocates for local residents, and partners with the broader community to develop opportunities for both personal growth and neighborhood revitalization.

**Executive Staff:**  
Rose Graham, Executive Director  
Phyllis Hilbert, SSJ, Neighborhood Advocate  
Carol Wilcox, SSJ, Program Director  
Wally Brown, SSJA, Housing Coordinator  
Sue Ann Wisniewski, Development Director

Visit us at:  
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*Additional links:*  
Historic Little Italy  
www.hlierie.org  
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