



Sisters of St. Joseph NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK

Revitalizing a neighborhood. Empowering its people.

February 2011

Winter Edition

Volunteers are the heart of the Neighborhood Network.

In this addition of our newsletter we'd like to pay tribute to the 140 plus volunteers that make it possible for us to make our ministry complete.

There are a variety of programs for children and adults alike. We have a soup kitchen that serves a complete dinner once a week. The office operates a minimum of forty hours a week. The community garden needs daily attention starting in spring and lasting through fall.

To make this all happen it takes more than staff. To share with you how we depend on our volunteers:

- Approximately 11 volunteers staff the office on a rotating schedule.
- Another seven volunteers tutor the children in reading nine months out of the year.
- There are 11 mentors who once a month create a special successful relationship with their child.
- We have approximately 108 volunteers serving at the soup kitchen over the course of a year.
- Five dedicated volunteers at the community garden maintain the trees and lawn.

Without volunteers we would never be able to help as many people as we do. They really are the heart of our organization and are deeply appreciated.



5th Annual
Guess That Tune Gala
March 12, 2011
Bayfront Convention Center
6:00 pm

Call for information and reservations 814-454-7814

A Message from the Executive Director

.....Sister Mary Herrmann



Very often as I start to write the message for our newsletter, I find that my thoughts seem to come back to the ideas of gratitude, thank you and appreciation. The Neighborhood Network started a little over ten years ago. We went door to door compiling the needs of the people in the area. Our mission inspired by the Sisters of St. Joseph asks us to respond to the needs of the neighbor. After identifying those needs and recognizing that the neighborhood could benefit from a sense of community we developed various programs. So much has occurred at the Neighborhood Network -- so many programs and support for those in need that we are starting to see a significant neighborhood improvement. None of this came easy. Reviewing the list of volunteers mentioned in this edition we can see why we've come so far. Our mission is only accomplished with the wonderful support and untiring efforts of so many of our volunteers. And so once again my message must be THANKYOU.

GUESS THAT TUNE GALA

Jim and Barb McNamara, Honorary Chair-Couple

March 12, 2011
6:00 pm
Bayfront Convention Center

Dinner &
Guess That Tune Competition
with Sister Lucille DeStefano
at the piano

Raychel Adiutori
Emcee

Dr. Gary Silko
Cocktail music

Theme Basket Auction

LIVE AUCTION

Lou & Debbie Porreco Yacht Cruise
Loesel- Schaaf Fishing Charter
Parker Galleries—print The Hypnotist
Sparrow Pond - camping weekend

SILENT AUCTION

Dahlkemper Jewelry Connection
Swavoski Crystal Cross Pendant
Swavorski Orchrid Flower (fuschia)
64" coin shapped freshwater pearl necklace
Designer sterling silver cz bracelet
Designer sterling silver cz necklace



GROUP EFFORT

While saluting volunteers in this issue we have to include the following organizations. Volunteer groups from these organizations come into our neighborhood to clean the streets, assist with minor repairs and paint graffiti covered walls with the permission of area businesses. Wally Brown, Housing Coordinator, coordinates the volunteer groups in conjunction with United Way's Day of Caring and at other times throughout the year.

• Cathedral Prep, Little Italy Neighborhood Watch • Gannon University, • Skate ERIE • St. Paul's Episcopal Church Youth Group • Grace Church of McKean – Adults and Youth • Persus House

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

From The Beginning

Marti Kurtzhals is a volunteer who has been with us since 2001. She came to us after she retired from teaching at Our Lady of Mount Carmel School. Because of her education and teaching background, she was a natural to help our youngsters who were one or two years behind their grade in reading. Her steadfast consistent way of teaching the basics in reading has helped many students conquer the vowel sounds, consonant sounds, the Dolch 200 easy words needed for reading, as well as comprehension. Marti has faithfully come to teach our children every year from September to May over the last 10 years. We are deeply grateful to her.



Namaste



SSJNN Staff are happy to announce that the Siwakoti family has joined our Genesis homeownership preparation program. This family comes from Bhutan, a country northeast of India, and have been in the United States since October 27, 2009. Brothers Bishnu and Bali are grateful for this opportunity and are working determinedly to attain their priority which is a home for their three generation family. Their mother, Lachi Maya Siwakoti was recently featured in the Erie Sunday Times for her skilled craftsmanship. Wally Brown is providing hands-on household maintenance mentoring to the men in the family. Sister Phyllis will be supporting the family through budgeting and credit counseling assistance. All are looking forward to the spring when they will transform their backyard into a vegetable and flower garden.



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Empowering its people.

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5th Annual *Guess That Tune Gala* *March 12, 2011* *Bayfront Convention Center*

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:

Mary Herrmann, SSJ, Executive Director
Phyllis Hilbert, SSJ, Family Advocate
Carol Wilcox, SSJ, Program Director
Wally Brown, SSJA, Housing Coordinator
Sue Ann Wisniewski, Development Director

Visit us at:
www.ssjnn.org

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SSJ Neighborhood Network

Additional links:

Historic Little Italy
www.hlierie.org

Little Italy Neighborhood
Watch
www.linw.org