“It’s a beautiful day in this neighborhood, A beautiful day for a neighbor. Would you be mine? Could you be mine?...” – Fred Rogers
Our Mission Statement

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

Our Vision Statement

The Neighborhood Network will work toward mobilizing local leadership, providing a focus for self-help initiatives, earning the trust of the neighborhood residents, and the confidence of the broader community.

Revitalizing a Neighborhood
Empowering its People
Dear Friends:

“At the center of the universe is a loving heart that continues to beat and that wants the best for every person. Anything we can do to help foster the intellect and spirit and emotional growth of our fellow human beings that is our job. Those of us who have this particular vision must continue against all odds. Life is for service.” – Fred Rogers

Don’t you just love Fred Rogers and his wonderful quotes! As part of the amazing team here at the SSJNN we all strive in our lives of service to “foster the intellect and spirit” of a neighborhood and the people living in that neighborhood. We came here 11 years ago to bridge the gaps of a broken community by generating life and energy through our works of empowerment, education and revitalization. It has been a journey blessed with God’s grace and we are thankful daily for the gifts this neighborhood has brought to all of us. “In giving we shall receive,” and we have. Every day we love coming to work and there is never a day that ends without an uplifting and amazing story that inspires us to greatness.

We hope that our stories included in this annual report demonstrate the great works you have accomplished through your support of the SSJ Neighborhood Network. We are forever grateful for your loving heart. You are the center of our universe as we work to cure a badly bruised and neglected neighborhood. Without our loyal donors and grantors our work here could not be accomplished. You have prevented hunger, enriched the lives of children, revitalized a blighted area, empowered women and families, created community involvement and fostered the mission of the SSJ Neighborhood Network. We together are changing this world, one person, one building, one block, one neighborhood at a time.

We are blessed by the presence of you. You truly have “fostered the intellect, spirit and emotional growth of your fellow human beings.”

Sincerely,

Rose Graham  Carol Wilcox, SSJ  Phyllis Hilbert, SSJ  Wally Brown, SSJA  Sue Ann Wisniewski, SSJA

Executive Director  Program Director  Neighborhood Advocate  Housing Coordinator  Development Director

Wally, Sister Carol, Rose, Sister Phyllis, Sue Ann
MEASURING and dividing the length of boards, discovering the difference between a wrench and pliers; and screws and nails.

BEING AMAZED at how that little seed got to grow into a plant you can’t even reach the top of and at how many different things people from other countries grow.

LEARNING about different types of tomatoes and beans so you get the right seeds to plant on the window sill.

READING recipes and measuring ingredients to bake the zucchini cupcakes or cook the spaghetti sauce.

GETTING DIRTY fingernails, and sore backs, and serious thirst while you mix the soil, and put in the plants with the kid down the block you’ve always seen but never talked to.

EATING hot dogs off the grill, and getting into the newspaper, and knowing you’re doing a good thing for the neighborhood.

“One touch of Nature makes the whole world kin.”  
– Shakespeare

submitted by: Gary McEnery

How does our garden grow?  With the assistance of 44 children and 23 adult volunteers.

Watch our Garden Grow…
Refugees Brighten Our Neighborhood

New Life has come to our neighborhood! Families from Bhutan, and Somalia have chosen to begin their American life with us. We have grown from two families to seven families with a future promise of more families joining us. Due to their strong work ethic and goal oriented focus, our first family will be ready in a few months to move from renting to homeownership. Wally Brown from SSJNN staff connects these families with neighborhood landlords when apartments are available. Catholic Charities, the International Institute and the Multicultural Center collaborate to assist the refugee families as they transition to their new life in America. We at SSJNN have been encouraged by their example of steadfastness in their daily struggle to maintain their beliefs and values.

Genesis Home of Historic Little Italy Neighborhood

SSJNN rents at below-market rent to a family who dreams of homeownership and is willing to practice the discipline to make it happen. If the family decides to buy in the historic Little Italy Neighborhood they will be eligible for a $1200 grant. Genesis House has provided safe and affordable housing for six families. Presently one of those families is in the process of purchasing their own home.
WHO HAS BEEN FILLING OUR METER...

A Trusted Name, Inc
A-1 Automotive, Inc
Anonymous x 4
Larry and Susan Adiutori
Eleanor Agnello
Agresti Law Offices
Sister John Frances Aiello

in honor of the 2010 Golden Jubilee

Edward and Kathleen Althof
American Hollow Boring Co
Ameripac Industries, Inc
Jay Armbruster
Elaine Arrigo
Mary Ann Ashworth
Judith Askins
Assessment Evaluation Inc
Dr. Edward Bajorek
Dr. Charles and Mrs. Beverly Bales
Peter and Linda Balter
Albert and Mary Barbato
John and Bridget Barber
J. Leonard Barretta
David and Mrs. Bartnicki

in memory of Mary Ann Teubert-Reppert

Rev. Don Baxter & Honorable Sue Baxter
Dr. Warren and Mrs. Christine Beaver
Linda Bebko-Jones
Sister Mary Francis Becker

in honor of Sisters Mary Herrmann & Carol Wilcox
in honor of Sisters Maria Sullivan & Michele Healy

Dr. Jeffrey Bednarski
Mark Behringer
Janet Bergkessel
A. Bergquist
Michael and Mary Teresa Beuchert
Jerome and Mary Blakeslee
William Bleil
John and Colleen Bloomstine
The Bloomstine Family Fund #1 of the
Erie Community Foundation
Atty. Lawrence Bolla
Edward and Diane Bolt
Bonnell’s Collision

Angela Bonvido
Dr. Richard Boyle
Judge Daniel Brabender
Dr. William and Mrs. Pepe Brereton
Paul Brugger
Brugger Home for Funerals, LLP
Casimer Brozozowski
Mary Burke
Brian and Heidi Burton
Atty. Donald Buseck
Dr. Joseph and Mrs. DeeDee Cacchione
Rita Cappello
Captain Ron’s
Dr. Willis and Mrs. Mary Cardot
Carl Carlotti
District Justice Thomas Carney
Carrara Steel
Gay Catania
Cathedral Women’s Council
Catholic Charities
Serafina Cavicchio
Dr. Mary Beth Cermak-Bell
Jeanette Chimenti
Church of St. Mark the Evangelist
Parish Lenten Project
Roland and Geraldine Ciacchini
Circolo Nazionale Lodge #122
Dr. Christopher and Mrs. Kaitlyn Clark
The Cleonice Tavani Family Trust
Dr. Richard and Mrs. Sue Cogley
Joan Collins
Dr. Mary Colt
Ronald and Delores Corsi
Craig and Julie Corsi
CROP Walk – Soup Kitchen
Joseph and Ann Cuzzola
Edward and Christine Dahlkemper
Dahlkemper Jewelry Connection
Jeff and Kathleen Dammeyer
Donald and Rosemarie Damion
John and Kathleen Davison
Mike DeDad
David DeSante

Brenda Desser
Susan DiCara
Sister Jean Baptiste DiLuzio
in honor of the Diamond Jubilee 2010
in honor of the Diamond Jubilee 2011
Linda DiRienzo
Dr. Bernadino DiStafano
Chuck and Nancy Donnelly

in honor of Sisters Mary Herrmann & Carol Wilcox
Dr. Robert Dowling
John Doyle
Joanne Doyle
John and Barbara Drew
Sister Mary Drexler

in honor of Sisters Mary Herrmann & Carol Wilcox
Robert Duberow
Drs. Frederick & Kathleen Dudenhoefer
George and Judith Dufala

in honor of Sisters Mary Herrmann & Carol Wilcox
Mary Duval
Sister Mary Ellen Dwyer
Honorable Jane Earll
Eddie’s Collectibles
Charles and Mary Eisert
Thomas and Susan Elliott
Steve and Sarah Erhartic
Erie Bayhawks – Hoops for Hunger
PNC played for SSJNN
Erie Beer Company
Erie Indemnity Company
ERIEZ Magnetics
ETG Communication
Evans Capital Management
Representative Flo Fabrizio
James Fatter
Dr. Thomas and Mrs. Jill Fessler
Sister Andre Feulner

in honor of the Diamond Jubilee 2010
Dr. Denise Finazzo-Gaines and Mr.
Michael Gaines

in honor of SSJ Associate Kathleen Anysz
Evelyn Finnecy
Marjorie Fischer

in honor of Sisters Mary Herrmann & Carol Wilcox
Sister Nancy Fischer
in honor of the Sisters Mary Herrmann and Carol Wilcox
in honor of the Sisters Moria Sullivan and Michele Healy
James Fischer
Debra Flaherty
Forquer Technology Group

William and Janet Fowler
Sister Margaret Frank
in honor of Sisters Mary Herrmann and Carol Wilcox
Joseph Fries
Sister Mary Fromknecht
in honor of Sisters Mary Herrmann and Carol Wilcox
in honor of the Sisters Moria Sullivan and Michele Healy
in honor of Ed and Lynn Metzger
in honor of Mary Jane Kidd
Thomas and Charlene Fucci
Alice Fuhrman
Edward and Esther Gallagher
James and Dolores Garvey
in memory of Rita Esser
Dr. William Garvey
GEEDC General Services
James and Joan Gehrlein
Richard Gensheimer
Linda Gier
Chester Giermak
Atty. Paul Gitnik
in honor of Chuck Scalise’s 50th Birthday
Giuseppe Mazzini Civic Association
Brad Gleason

Robert and Mary Alice Glowacki
Dr. Paul Gmuer
Sister Josefette Gocella
Dr. Jack and Mrs. Maxine Gold
Tina Gowen
Yvonne Gralak
in honor of Sisters Mary Herrmann and Carol Wilcox
Great Lakes Metal Finishing, Inc
Rick and Frances Griffith
Shirley Grobson
Deborah Haibach
in memory of Mary Ann Teubert-Beppert
Dorson Hamilton
in memory of Ann Hamilton Billak
Janice Hamscher
Alana Handman
Dottie Hanna
Mark Hasenhorl
John and Judy Hauser
Sister Michele Healy
in honor of Chuck Scalise’s 50th Birthday
Jean Heintzel
Nan Held
Carol Hermann
Sister Mary Herrmann
in honor of Ed and Lynn Metzger
in honor of Chuck Scalise’s 50th Birthday
Sister Susan Herzinger
in honor of Francis and Helen Herzing
Brian and Kathie Hickey
Highmark
The Hilbert Family Fund of the Erie
Community Foundation
John and Nancy Hilbert
The John and Nancy Hilbert Fund of the
Erie Community Foundation
Joseph Hilbert
The Joseph M. Hilbert Fund of the Erie
Community Foundation – Helping Today
Sister Phyllis Hilbert
in honor of the Diamond Jubilee 2010
in honor of the Diamond Jubilee 2011
William and Rebecca Hilbert, Jr
The William and Rebecca Hilbert Family
Charitable Endowment of the Erie
Community
William and Martha Hilbert, Sr
Erie Community Foundation – Edward C. Doll
Award 2010 honoring William Hilbert, Sr
HANDS
Kristina Huber
John Huegel
in honor of Chuck Scalise’s 50th Birthday
Mary Huff
Ginny Hughes
Jane Hume
Dr. Floyd and Mrs. Rosanne Hyatt
Fred and Bernadine Infield
Innovative Revenue System, Inc
Richard and Shirley Ireland
Italian American Women’s Association
Ann Joint
Michael Kennedy
Sister Mary Claire Kennedy
in honor of Sisters Mary Herrmann and Carol Wilcox
in honor of the Golden Jubilee 2011
Thomas Kennedy
Kennedy Catholic High School- Action Club
Charlene Kerr-Piper and John Piper
Daniel and Yasuko Klebes
The Klebes Family Charitable Fund –
Vanguard Endowment Program
Midge Klebes
Renee Kloecker
Patricia Kuehl
Dr. Richard and Mrs. Kay Kuhn
William and Marti Kutzhal
Raymond and Dolores Kutzler
Mary Kwiatkowski
Dr. Albert Lamp
H. Jack and Maria Langer
Janice Larrey
Larry’s Central Market
Dr. Paul and Mrs. Jane Layden
Sister Emily Rose LeBoeuf
B.J. and Barbara Lechner
in honor of Sisters Mary Herrmann and Carol Wilcox
in honor of Chuck Scalise’s 50th Birthday
LECOM
Frank Leonard
John and Fran Letterio  
Dr. Howard and Mrs. Jane Levin  
Bill and Beth Lewis  
Barbara Lewis  
Lisa Locke  
Robert Loeffler  
Mary Lombardo  
in memory of Mary Ann Teubert-Reppert  
Nancy Lombardo  
in memory of Mary Ann Teubert-Reppert  
Laura Lombardozzi  
Lord Corporation  
Lyn Lord-Wolfe and Glen Wolfe  
Sister Joyce Lowrey  
in honor of the Sisters Mary Herrmann & Carol Wilcox  
in honor of Ed and Lynn Metzger  
Paul Lukach  
in honor of Chuck Scalise's 50th Birthday  
James and Judith Lynch  
Mary Lyons  
MacDonald, Illig, Jones and Britton  
Andy Machuga  
Dr. Francis Mainzer  
Mark and Cheryl Majewski and Family  
in memory of Mary Ann Teubert-Reppert  
John Maleno  
David Malone  
Carol Mando  
in honor of the Sisters Mary Herrmann & Carol Wilcox  
Judge Paul Manzi  
Rachel Marcinko  
in memory of Mary Ann Teubert-Reppert  
Marquette Savings and Loan  
Richard and Pat Marshall  
Rev. Dennis Martin  
Art and Helen Martinucci  
in honor of Chuck Scalise's 50th Birthday  
George Mason  
Dina Mason  
Patricia Mayer  
Rev. Msgr. Richard Mayer  
Don McCain  
in honor of Chuck Scalise's 50th Birthday  
Mary McCarthy  
Richard and Karin McCormick  
The McCormick Family Fund of the Erie Community Foundation  
Michael and Karen McElhinny  
Virginia McGarvey  
Joseph McGill  
Sister Rachel McGuire  
in honor of Sisters Mary Herrmann & Carol Wilcox  
in honor of Sisters Moria Sullivan & Michele Healy  
Mechanical Contractors Association  
designated to the Soup Kitchen  
Christina Mercer  
in honor of George and Chrystal Deitrick  
Judy Miculandra  
Dr. Robert and Mrs. Gretchen Mikelsonis  
Millcreek Community Hospital  
Ronald Miller  
Dr. John and Dr. Deborah Mingey  
Judith Minichelli  
Robert Minichelli  
Judy Minnaugh  
Sister Veronica Mittal  
Ann Moffett  
Robert and Connie Monahan  
Montenero Ladies Society  
Sister Carol Morehouse  
in honor of Sisters Mary Herrmann & Carol Wilcox  
in honor of Ed and Lynn Metzger  
Maradee Morrison  
Sister Marie Eileen Moyer  
in honor of Sisters Mary Herrmann & Carol Wilcox  
Dr. James and Mrs. Carolyn Mraz  
John and Mary Ida Mussato  
Mary Narus  
Mary Nelson  
Donna Nicholas  
Janet Nicolia  
Northwest Savings Bank  
Linda Nyberg  
Denis and Patty O'Brien  
in honor of Angela Bontempo  
Sister Margaret O'Brien  
in honor of Diamond Jubilee & 60 year Anniversary 2011  
Sister Rosemary O'Brien  
in honor of Ed and Lynn Metzger  
Sister Maria Onuffer  
in honor of the Diamond Jubilee 2010  
Christine Opron  
Q. Gregory Orlando  
Alice Orr  
Nellie Orr-Cyr  
Our Lady of Mount Carmel School  
Our Lady of Peace/Annette Kane  
Jason and Jane Owen  
Sister Colette Palmer  
in honor of Sisters Moria Sullivan & Michele Healy  
Partnership of Women Religious POWR  
Timothy and Loretta Patton  
PHB Industries – United Way Campaign  
Dean and Monica Piccirillo  
Poggemeyer Design Group  
Barbara Pollock  
Joseph Pomorski  
Port Harbor Company  
William and Carolyn Power  
Preferred Systems Inc  
Dr. Frank and Mrs. Jane Pregler  
Sister Nancy Prenatt  
in honor of Sisters Mary Herrmann & Carol Wilcox  
Daniel Prischak  
Thomas and Mary Quinn  
John Quinn  
Quinn Buseck Leemhuis Toohey & Kroto  
Dr. Richard and Mrs. Willie Rahner  
The Bruce and K.D. Rainy Fund of the Erie Community Foundation  
Dr. Stephen Raj  
Raven Rental  
Reddog Industries - United Way Campaign Distribution  
Sister Mary Alice Reed  
Margaret Reinwald  
Marilyn Renkes  
in honor of Chuck Scalise's 50th Birthday  
J.D. and Carol Restifo  
Sister Martha Ann Rinderle  
in honor of Sisters Mary Herrmann & Carol Wilcox  
Donna Roberts  
Dr. John Roberts  
Roth Marz Partnership P.C.  
Theresa Rotunda  
Lynette Rotunda  
Jamie Rupp  
Robert and Ann Rutkowski  
James and Mary Rutkowski  
Lucille Ryan  
Dr. Ravinder Sabherwal  
Sacred Heart Usher’s Society, Inc  
Saint Joseph’s Society  
designated to the Soup Kitchen
Saint Mary’s Home of Erie
in memory of Florence Hill James

Saint Mary’s Home of Erie

Saint Vincent Community Service Fund

Saint Vincent Health Center

Saint Vincent Medical Group

Saint Vincent Quarter Century Club

Saint Vincent Surgery Center

Joseph and Anita Salvia
Lucia Salvia and John Faulkner
Mary Sharrar

in memory of Mary Ann Teubert-Reppert

Jay and Darby Scalise

in honor of Chuck Scalise’s 50th Birthday

Debbie Scalise

in memory of Mary Ann Teubert-Reppert

Catherine Schaaf

in memory of Chuck Scalise’s 50th Birthday

Mary Schaaf

in honor of Chuck Scalise’s 50th Birthday

William Schaaf

Joseph and Rhonda Schember
Ben Schneider
Dr. Peter and Mrs. Ellie Scibetta
The Scibetta Family Fund of the Erie Community Foundation
Mary Lou Scottino
Dr. Dennis Scully

Marlene Scully
Sister Mary Julia Scully
Ron and Emily Sertz
Sister Angela Servidea
Raymond and Martha Showman
Antonia Siggia
Cathy Simmons
Mary Schaaf

in memory of Mary Ann Teubert-Reppert

Ernie Simpson
Dr. Kripa Singh
Charlene Sisson

Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern PA

in honor of Graham Lund

in honor of Sisters Mary Herrmann and Carol Wilcox

Peter Lyons gift
designated for Emergency Utility Assistance
designated for Christmas gifts
designated to the Soup Kitchen

Lucille Sitzler
Beth Sivak
Ray Snead
Dr. R. Tony and Mrs. Kathy Snow
Olivia Soccocio
Sons of Italy
Greg and Susan Sorce
South One Supply & Home Center, Inc
Mary Spadacene
Dave Spadacene
Adelaide Sperduto

Ruth Spiece
St. Jude Church

Parish Lenten Project

St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Church

Dave and Assunta Stadler
James and Maggie Stolley
Mary Strenio
Frank and Lucille Strobel
The William and Kathleen Stroh Family Fund of the Erie Community Foundation
Christine Strub

in memory of Bill and Louise Strub

Sister Mary Ann Stuckert

in honor of the Sisters Mary Herrmann & Carol Wilcox

in honor of the Sisters Maria Sullivan & Michele Healy

Jacqueline Swanson
David and Deborah Swatelle

in memory of Mary Vincent

Norman Sweet
Don and Ann Swift
Mary Tellers

in honor of Chuck Scalise’s 50th Birthday

Michael and Alicia Tellers
Daniel Tempestini
Jane Theuerkauf
Antonia Tinti

in honor of George and Chrystal Deitrick

M.S. Tkach

in honor of Chuck Scalise’s 50th Birthday

Laura Todd-Brown and Steve Brown
Atty. James and Mrs. Mary Ann Toohey
Dr. Jerome Troncone
Timothy and Susan Trott and Family

in memory of Mary Ann Teubert-Reppert

Robert Tullio

in honor of Chuck Scalise’s 50th Birthday

UPMC
Tammy VanBuren
Pamela Verity

in honor of Chuck Scalise’s 50th Birthday

Bettie Veshecco

in honor of Sisters Mary Herrmann and Carol Wilcox
Mary Veshecco  
Villa Maria Academy  
Villa Maria Convent  
in honor of the jubilarians  
Villa Maria Elementary School/Student Activity  
Villa Maria School of Nursing  
Sister Ricarda Vincent  
in honor of the Diamond Jubilee 2010  
in honor of the Diamond Jubilee 2011  
George and Columbia Vlahos  
Bernie and Doris Warzynak  
in memory of an Aunt who cooked at St. Joe’s Orphanage  
Norma Webb  
Wedgewood Investors Inc  
Welders Supply  
Dr. Scott and Mrs. Linda Whalen  
Mary Ann White  
Sister Mary Ann White  
Sister Carol Wilcox  
in honor of Diamond Jubilee 60 year Anniversary 2011  
Betsy Williams  
Ken and Lori Wisniewski  
Richard and Sue Ann Wisniewski  
in honor of Sisters Mary Herrmann and Carol Wilcox  
Dr. Thomas and Mrs. Annette Wittman  
Ted Wright  
Edwin Wright  
designated to the Soup Kitchen  
John and Maryann Young  
Robert and Jane Zawadzki  
in honor of the jubilarians  
Sister Marilyn Zimmerman

PNC Bank  
Power of Women Religious POWR  
Saint Vincent Health Center  
Women in Action  

**GIFTS IN KIND...**

- Rebecca Acuna  
- Larry Adiutori  
- Allburn Florist  
- Ambridge Rose  
- Jack and Marian Armstrong  
- Arrowhead Wine Cellars  
- Avalon Hotel  
- Sue Bello  
- Barbara Bettwy  
- Bianchi Honda/Lou & Debbie Porreco  
- Wally and Shelly Brown  
- Cabot Creamery  
- Donna Carlino  
- Craig and Julie Corsi  
- Czarnecki Galleries  
- Kathleen Dahlkemper  
- Dahlkemper Jewelry Connection  
- DeSantis Signs  
- Ron and Ann DiVecchio  
- Steve and Susan Drabant  
- Steve and Susan Erhartic  
- Erie Bayhawks  
- Erie Beer  
- Erie County Farms  
- Sister Andre Feulner  
- Gannon Small Business Department  
- James Gehrlein  
- Sister Margaret Ann Hardner  
- Harley Davidson of Erie/Susan Lapping  
- Sister Mary Herrmann  
- Joseph Hilbert  
- Martha Hilbert  
- William and Rebecca Hilbert, Jr  
- William and Martha Hilbert, Sr  
- Thomas Horvath  
- International Bakery  
- Charlene Kerr-Piper and John Piper  
- Midge Klebes  
- H. Jack Langer  
- Larese Floral Design  
- Renee Laube  
- Matt and Abby Lechner  
- Loesel-Schaaf Insurance Agency  
- Mary Lyons  
- Catilda Madonia  
- Michael and Karen McElhinny  
- Gary McEnery  
- Atty James & Mrs. Barbara McNamara  

Harry Miller  
North American Gallery  
Sister Margaret O’Brien  
Our Lady of Mount Carmel School/Mission Club  
Parker Gallery  
Joe Piliteri  
Robert and Vickie Pirrello  
Sam Pirrello  
Potratz Floral Shop  
Pulakos 926 Chocolates  
Dale and Diane Rapela  
Donna Roberts  
David Rupert  
Jamie Rupp  
James Sabol  
Saint Mary’s Home of Erie  
Saint Vincent Health Center Auxiliary  
Saint Vincent Health Center  
Ben Schneider  
Marlene Scully  
Evelyn Seyboldt  
Sherwin-Williams Co  
Sisters of St. Joseph of NW PA  
Sparrow Pond Campground  
St. Jude Church  
St. Julia Church  
St. Paul’s Holy Name Society  
St. Peter’s Elementary School  
St. Stanislaus Church  
Philip Templeton  
The Remnant Store  
Tipperary West  
Tops Market  
Michael Vincent  
Elizabeth Way  
Wegmans  
Sister Mary Ann White  
Sister Carol Wilcox  
Besty Williams  
Rich and Sue Ann Wisniewski  

**GRANTS...**

City of Erie  
Erie Community Foundation  
Erie Community Foundation  
Women’s Club  
Erie School District  
GECAC-ECBC  
Highmark  

Atty James & Mrs. Barbara McNamara
Learning Camp

Twelve of our children enjoyed coming to our third Learning Camp. The children were divided into three groups and each group rotated so that they had the opportunity to cook each day with vegetables from our garden, play educational games on the computers and watch inspiring DVD’s. With the help of Linda Rys, Josie McGrath and two high school students, Lydia and Izzy Laythe, the children had a great experience of learning many different skills and cooperation. On the fourth day, we took everyone to Waldameer and had a great time.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

During the 2010 to 2011 fiscal year the Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network offered 60 unduplicated children various programs that included:

Mentoring     Tutoring/Reading  
Sewing         Cooking          
Keyboard       Photography      
Art             Woodworking

Board Games with Villa Students
A Thousandaire Club - a saving program for children
Ophelia project including Girl Talk, Boy Talk, and Ophelia 1-2-3
LEA Earthforce 2010
Gardening

Penn State Ext, Penn State Ext. Co-op, Ophelia, LEA Earthforce, Villa Maria Academy, the Junior League of Women and many more volunteers make all these programs possible.

The volunteers also assist with the various fieldtrips the children take during the year, including Barnes & Nobel, the Erie Zoo, various cultural and educational activities along with sporting events.
FREE HELP IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

We had a great year with help from all the volunteers and all the people sent to us by District Justice Thomas Carney and Adult Probation that needed to complete community service hours. Under the direction of Wally Brown, Housing Coordinator, many community work projects were done including painting over graffiti, cleaning up trash, lawn care for seniors, helping shovel snow and the list of needs never ends.

We also had help from juveniles from the Erie County Juvenile Probation Learn & Earn Program. With their help, we were able to help Erie Parks Department with manicuring and detailing Ruby Schaaf Park and Columbus Park with the flowers gardens, edging grass along the sidewalks and removal of weeds and vines along the fencing; plus they helped Erie Redevelopment Authority with their lots in the Little Italy area.

With all of our great volunteers throughout the year, including students from Cathedral Prep, Villa, Gannon and Mercyhurst along with a team of volunteers from ServErie, we were able to accomplish painting, yard clean up and picking up trash.

We would not be able to accomplish all these tasks without the help of our volunteers. Without the help of these volunteers our work would not be possible.
Expenses:

Management 9%
Fundraising 4%
Programs 87%

Revenue:

Events 21%
Grants 15%
Programs 4%

Expenses:

Management $27,147
Fundraising $12,339
Programs $259,721

Revenue:

Donations $191,680
Fundraising $70,109
Grants $50,000
Programs $12,480

Staff:

Rose Graham, Executive Director – rgraham@ssjnn.org
Sister Phyllis Hilbert, Neighborhood Advocate – philbert@ssjnn.org
Sister Carol Wilcox, Program Director – cwilcox@ssjnn.org
Wally Brown, SSJA - Housing Coordinator – wbrown@ssjnn.org
Sue Ann Wisniewski, SSJA - Development Director – swisniewski@ssjnn.org
TIME OUT FOR MOM

Our moms combined their produce from the garden for two cooking sessions. Gary, the garden shepherd, introduced the moms to pesto. The moms went to our garden across the street and pulled the garlic, onions, and basil that were needed to make the pesto. The next week a Penn State Extension Nutritionist, Tina Saunders, had the moms pull parsley, onions and tomatoes from the garden to make spinach topped tomatoes. Combining the garden with nutritional talks has been a winning event for all involved.

This year’s theme for the moms is just one word, Believe. We will have talks on belief in self, belief in others and belief in a higher power. The nine moms will be going on field trips to pick apples, to Claytopia and to the Erie Playhouse this year. Talks on the 40 Developmental Assets children need and a life coach will be a few of the educational opportunities offered to the moms.

CAMP NOTRE DAME

Eighteen children from our neighborhood were able to attend Camp Notre Dame this summer. Thanks to the wonderful generosity of Bill Hilbert Jr, the children had the experience of a lifetime. They participated in archery, canoeing, swimming, hiking, bonfire events and acting out short plays. Over the past six years, Mr. Hilbert has enabled many of our children to enjoy camping at Camp Notre Dame.

We know that it is a safe environment for the children and that they always come home refreshed and enriched by many experiences.

Some of their comments:

“I had so much fun, I hope I can go back again next year.”
“This was the first summer of my whole life that I got to go camping.”
“Archery and canoeing were my favorite times.”

6th Annual Guess That Tune Gala

It’s that time of the year again to SAVE THE DATE for the Guess That Tune Gala. The Gala will be held at the Bayfront Convention Center, Saturday, March 10, 2012.

Tim and Annalynn Shuttleworth will be the Honorary Chair-Couple, with Raychel (Vendetti) Adiutori and Dr. Gary Silko hosting as Emcees for the evening. Organize your teams, revive your musical libraries and mark your calendars for March 10th!!!

Volunteers are the Heart of the Neighborhood Network
Thank you!!
I Am Woman, Hear Me Roar!

What does an increase to 42.2% mean? If we use this as a measurement for liquid it means that your glass is almost half full. If we look at it in terms of our investments, it means our funds grew a substantial amount. Both of these are great increases. Unfortunately, this number represents the number of single mother families living in poverty. Yes, nearly half of single mothers are living in poverty. Of this, 21% are in extreme poverty. To many single mothers, this would be a glass half empty. The stress of having to make ends meet, raise your family and not fall into the pitfalls of a neighborhood in crisis is a difficult task.

Valerie came to the SSJNN seven years ago to participate in our Time Out for Mom’s program. Years of trying to support her family and dealing with the multitude of issues related to a life of poverty affected the mental and physical health of Valerie and her family. Low self-esteem and obesity are two of the most common things we see resulting from extreme poverty. It is expensive to eat healthy and there is not a source for inexpensive food in Little Italy or even within walking distance. The mental strain of poverty not only affects parents, but children. Valerie’s four children were having extreme behavioral issues due to life survival problems faced by children everyday who are trying to survive in blighted, poor neighborhoods.

Because of the Time Out For Mom facilitators encouragement and after spending time with Sister Carol in the program we began to see a rise in Valerie’s self-esteem. Time Out for Mom’s provides educational programming, activities, and a caring supportive environment to share frustrations and learn solutions. Valerie decided after hearing the empowering messages that she was going to take charge of her life. With Sister Carol’s help, she enrolled all of her children in counseling. Her next plan was to lose weight. She sought out medical advice and a doctor suggested a medical procedure to help her lose weight. She had the procedure done and has lost over 100 pounds due to her perseverance with following her diet and exercise program.

Although Valerie had always worked, her low self-esteem prevented her from moving up in her company and at times keeping a job long term. Look out World – Valerie is not only now employed full time but has been promoted to Assistant Manager at McDonalds. Valerie and her story are just one example of the many people who have developed positive skills as a result of programming at the SSJNN. In addition to Valerie’s success story, her children are also following in her positive glow! They are doing well emotionally have have set goals for themselves.

We will change the world, one person, one family, one neighborhood at a time!
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Visit us at our website:
WWW.SSJNN.ORG
or
on Facebook
SSJ Neighborhood Network

How You Can Help...

Contributions - for your convenience an envelope is enclosed or donations are accepted online at WWW.SSJNN.ORG

Volunteer - Tutor, mentor, Soup Kitchen, Assist with office duties, Participate with our other programs - contact Sister Carol Wilcox

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

Remember - Please consider making room in your long term financial plans for the future support of SSJNN

Please let us know if you have a change of address, if you would like to receive our newsletter; if you are receiving more than one newsletter; or if you would like to be taken off the mailing list.