

neighborhood house of milwaukee
2011 annual report



Neighborhood House
OF MILWAUKEE

making the world
a better place can start

right here

Making Milwaukee

a better place to live

The big global problems of the world often dominate the news, but sometimes we can do the most good in our world right in our own backyard. Milwaukee has very serious challenges of its own and, for 66 years, Neighborhood House has been on the front lines of those challenges, working in the highest-risk, poorest neighborhoods of our city, working directly with those who need our help most. And you have been at the heart of that work.

Your gifts, your time, your in-kind donations have been the lifeblood of our work to help our city's most at-risk children, families and refugees. Your support has helped those most in need to get a good start in life, get job training, learn healthier lifestyle choices and better parenting skills. Your support has helped refugees develop language and job skills and become good citizens and has helped children and youth make the right choices for strong futures. You directly help to better our local economy, create jobs, reduce crime, and make all of our lives better.

Thank you for remembering Milwaukee's most at-risk children and families. Your generous support of Neighborhood House makes the world a better place in very real ways, and it is a smart investment in your own quality of life here at home.



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Helping Families & Children be healthy



Neighborhood House (NH) is first and foremost a safe haven and healthy environment for urban children and families to thrive. Our Community Health Improvement for Milwaukee's Children (CHIMC) program, a partnership with the Medical College of Wisconsin and the Next Door Foundation, is a community-based health project aimed at reducing health disparities and eliminating vaccine-preventable childhood diseases in Milwaukee neighborhoods. Funded by the National Institutes of Health-National Institute for Minority Health and Health Disparities, the CHIMC project is a collaboration between local residents, academic partners and community organizations to increase immunization rates in the communities surrounding Neighborhood House.

CHIMC's target neighborhoods have the lowest immunization rates in Wisconsin, with certain age groups nearly 30% lower than the state average for children who have received all recommended shots. Since its inception in 2005, CHIMC has worked with the families of more than 1,400 Milwaukee children.



2011 CHIMC highlights include:

- Hosting several workshops for parents aimed to help them learn how to use the healthcare system and other support networks
- Presenting research findings at the American Public Health Association Conference in Washington D.C.
- Continued to partner with Children's Hospital and Health System on a city-wide social marketing campaign reminding parents of the importance of childhood immunizations
- Hosting the City of Milwaukee Health Department Flu Kickoff Clinic at Neighborhood House
- Hosting our 3rd annual community health fair with students from the Medical College of Wisconsin



Giving Children

a strong start in life

Early Childhood Services

It's never too early to begin learning at Neighborhood House. NH Early Childhood Services (ECS) took learning to a new level this year by incorporating STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education into daily activities. An international initiative to prepare youth for success, STEM uses fun and creative themes as a foundation for learning. This year, nearly 100 children aged 6 weeks-6 years became acquainted with these skills in developmentally appropriate ways that support later academic success.

Summer Day Camp

An extension of afterschool programming, Summer Day Camp includes ten weeks of intense academic, artistic and athletic programming. This year, nearly 60 children registered for the camp and enjoyed swimming and sailing lessons; took fun field trips to Lakeshore State Park, Discovery World, the Milwaukee Public Museum, the Milwaukee County Zoo, Brookfield Zoo in Chicago, Bay Beach in Green Bay, and others; got their groove on with ballroom dance and dramatic play; and focused on leadership and citizenship through the Badges for Baseball program (supported by the Cal Ripken Sr. Foundation).

Community Learning Center

The NH Community Learning Center (CLC) provides programming similar to NH's ECS at Albert Story School in Milwaukee's urban core through a partnership with Milwaukee Public Schools. Our CLC served about 135 K4-8th grade students utilizing the Quick Reads and Science Immersion Learning curricula to support student learning. Students also participate in wellness activities ranging from yoga to Tae Kwon Do.



Building Hopeful Futures for kids



University Kids Club

NH continued to provide high-quality after-school programming in 2011 through University Kids Club (UKC) for children ages 7 through 12. UKC is a sort of “kiddie college” that provides academic enrichment and recreational activities every day. The program includes core classes centered around literacy, study habits and making healthy choices (through United Way Healthy Girls & Boys program), and Neighborhood House’s unique outdoor and environmental curricula, “Nature Time.” Students also have a choice of electives, including drama, cooking & nutrition, sports, fashion, hair club, and other areas of interest. Partnerships and field trips with such organizations as the Milwaukee Sailing Center, Cal Ripken Foundation, Helen Bader Foundation, Milwaukee Public Theatre, and others provide further learning opportunities.



Teen

The Teen program serves ages 13 through 19 and helps students to learn to make healthy lifestyle choices, hone their study and time-management skills and plan for their future education and career. Our youth program curriculum, Empowering Youth for Success, addresses academic skills and school retention head-on, as well as digging deeper to build character, self-esteem, healthy decision-making, and conflict resolution skills. This year, 158 NH teens were focused on improving their community and developing and achieving goals for their future. They hosted a Skate-a-Thon which benefitted the local food bank, worked with local vendors to increase responsible sales practices and, designed and built a Team Challenge Course at the NH Nature Center. The course combines activities that build teams and increase self-esteem with physical challenges that burn calories at the same time. The Metropolitan Association of Commerce partnered with our teens to build mentoring relationships with business owners and provide teens with exposure to career options and opportunities in a variety of technical and professional fields.



Strengthening Refugee Families through education

Neighborhood House's International Learning Center (ILC) serves over 700 refugees a year directly and benefits another 2,500 family members. They come from 25 different countries, many from war-torn or famine-ravaged Somalia, Burma, the Congo, and Liberia. The ILC continues to serve generations of Hmong refugees displaced after the Vietnam War.

About 86% have little or no prior education in English or their own tongue. The ILC offers adult literacy, math education, pre-GED, citizenship programs, computer and employment training, vocational ESL, and parenting classes. The staff provides bilingual support in a dozen different languages!

The ILC also has an award-winning licensed preschool, and home visits by preschool staff provide immigrants with crucial parenting support. Referrals for trauma counseling, medical needs, and job and school support are also offered.

The ILC's Citizenship Program – one of only 3 area citizenship programs to have Site Recognition and Accreditation by the U.S. Board of Immigration Appeals – continues to expand. This year over thirty students passed the citizenship exam, more than double the number from last year. Volunteers are a key component in this program; In 2011, 82 community volunteers and service learners assisted various programs at ILC.

In the summer, volunteer engineers from Rockwell Automation and NH teens helped build a new ILC playground. ILC refugees began growing food in the Urban Eden community garden with two local churches and Marquette students and participated in a global mural project there.



Bringing Nature

to city kids & families



One of the most unique and beneficial programs Neighborhood House offers its children and families is our Outdoor & Environmental Education (OEE) program. Launched in the 1960s, it is Milwaukee's oldest community-based green program! Central to the Neighborhood House mission, our OEE programming is infused throughout all of our youth and family programs. Our OEE program offers extraordinary facilities: a wonderful in-house Science Lab with aquaponic system, fish tank, worm house, and other types of live flora and fauna; an award-winning, quarter-acre Garden & Play Habitat with play equipment, gardens, composting, arbors, berry bushes, sunflower maze and nature study areas; and our crown jewel, our 93-acre Nature Center & Lodge in Dodge County, which includes a huge fireplace, classroom and kitchen, plus many miles of groomed trails, gardens, outdoor classrooms, and a maple sugaring "shack" for our annual maple sugaring in early spring. In 2011, over 650 children and adults attended the maple sugaring program! They helped tap more than 600 gallons of raw maple syrup that was then boiled down to 40 gallons of bottled syrup. This was sold at agency events throughout the year. This venture serves as an entrepreneurial lesson, which dovetails especially well with NH Teen Programming.



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Following is a list of our generous donors for our fiscal year 2011, July 1, 1010 - June 30, 2011. Thank you for making us strong!

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- #1 Neighborhood House (NH) has touched the lives of hundreds of thousands at-risk Milwaukeeans since 1945. For 67 years, NH has been a safe haven and stabilizing institution at the heart of Milwaukee's poorest, most under-served neighborhoods. Its main facility has as much square footage as the White House!
- #2 NH's award-winning Early Childhood and Summer Day Camp programs are some of the oldest in the city. All NH's youth programs are known for their high-quality curricula.
- #3 Neighborhood House's International Learning Center (ILC) is Milwaukee's leading center for refugees & one of only several national recipients of the Ray Solem Award for Excellence. The ILC recently won the First Lady Jessica Doyle Award for Family Literacy.
- #4 Neighborhood House is Milwaukee's only community center to have its own published book of nature & environmental curricula, "Nature Time," and teaches its program to teachers and thousands of students in MPS classrooms.

Neighborhood House has one of the city's most comprehensive nutrition & healthy living programs, that include partnerships with the Medical College of Wisconsin, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, United Way & other organizations. Together we combat low vaccination rates, poor nutrition, obesity, teen pregnancy, STDs & other pressing health issues.

SPECIAL NOTE: Every effort was made to ensure that our donor lists are accurate. If your name was not included, we heartily apologize. Please contact the Development Department at 414.933.6161.



NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE CENTERS:

NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE (Main Facility)

2819 West Richardson Place • Milwaukee, WI 53208
Phone: 414.933.6161 • Email: rcox@nh-milw.org

NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE INTERNATIONAL LEARNING CENTER

639 North 25th Street • Milwaukee, WI 53233
Phone: 414.344.4777 • Email: abierer@nh-milw.org

NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE NATURE CENTER & LODGE

93-acre center in Dodge County, Wisconsin
Phone: 414.933.6161 ext. 136 • Email: jshorts@nh-milw.org

NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER

Albert Story Elementary School
3815 West Kilbourn Avenue • Milwaukee, WI 53208
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