



Neighborhood House of Milwaukee

Programs for Early Childhood ~ Youth & Teens ~ Families & Adults ~ Refugees & Immigrants ~ Outdoor Education ~ Learning Centers ~ and more

whooooo is it?



NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE NEWSLETTER FALL 2013

nh-milw.org



Birds, bats, and things that fly - that's the theme of our fall Gallery Night, and we'll be taking a closer look through arts, crafts, and science.

A key part of this is the making and deploying of our **Super Duper Outdoor Lookers**, simple cardboard binoculars that help young eyes focus and develop observation skills. NH-ers age 3 and up are all making their own customized Lookers.

The kids are also hard at work telling the story of birds in our world through painting, sculpture, and even thumb-printing: Angry Birds; graphical birds based on artist Romero Britto's designs; bird printing on T shirts; sun-printing with feathers; and more. Keep your eyes on us for a great show on October 17th.

Arts programming at NH is supported by a generous grant from the **Helen Bader Foundation**, administered through United Neighborhood and Community Centers of Milwaukee (UNCOM).



Calling All Ghouls!

Bring us your cobwebs, your bat wings, and other creepy, crawly things! The teens are looking for donations of props for their annual Haunted House extravaganza.

Contact James Austin,
Teen Program
Supervisor, 414-
933-6161, xt 137.



FALL FAMILY EVENTS & DATES TO REMEMBER

Family Fun Night

Sharing cultures, sharing harvest

Wed. Sep. 18, 5:30 – 7:00pm

Teen Skate Night

with Safe & Sound

Fri., Sep. 20, 6:00-8:00pm



Family Fun Night

Gallery Night

Weds. Oct. 16, 5:00-6:30pm

Fall Hike, open to public

at the Nature Center, Dodge County

Sat. Oct. 19, 11:00am – 1:00pm

Haunted House

Halloween extravaganza! \$2 tours

Wed. & Thurs. Oct. 30-31, 6pm – 8pm

Family Fun Night

Giving Thanks: Dinner and Show

Thurs. Nov. 21, 5:0 – 7:00pm

Registration is required.



Family Fun Night

Holiday Pageant & Cookie Tasting

Thurs. Dec. 19, 5:30-7:00pm

Kindly register in advance by calling

414-933-6161. All events at Neighborhood House main site, 2819 Richardson Place, unless otherwise noted.

When MPS is off

...Neighborhood House is on!

*Bring your kids here on
MPS off days:*

Friday Oct. 11

Friday Oct. 18

Monday Dec. 9

Contact Phan Sanford to register
for off-day programming,
414-933-6161 ext. 139.



**NH is closed for Thanksgiving, Thursday and Friday Nov. 28-29
and on Wednesday Dec. 25, and Wednesday Jan. 1, 2014.**

FROM TODDLERS TO TEENS Saying it, and Saying It Straight



Miss Amelia uses puppets to teach social skills.

Speaking your mind is not easy. We need good examples, and good teachers. Neighborhood House kids get both.

Toddlers in our **Early Childhood Program** work on social and emotional skills by role-playing with puppets through the *Second Step* curriculum. Here's what one six year old had to say about his friend:

"You've really come a long way. When you first started here, you were angry and people didn't want to play with you - they didn't want to be hurt by you. Now you're nicer and you play with us. We want to play with you, too, and be your friend."

Kids of all ages need positive strategies

for the complex social interactions we face every day - strategies that can make the difference between being heard and respected, or being suspended and reprimanded.

Teens on the Move staff uses *Say It Straight*, a curriculum that empowers teens to engage with difficult questions: *How do I say no to a friend? How do I say I have quit, to my friends? How do I say to a friend, I care about you and I'm scared when I see what you are doing? How do I say to my parents, I love you and I'm scared when I see what you are doing?*

Better communication skills can foster greater self-awareness, higher self-esteem, and healthier relationships. When teens become less likely to engage in risky or destructive behaviors, eating disorders, bullying, violence, preocious sexual behavior and behaviors leading to HIV/AIDS, the whole family benefits.



Congrats to LaNya, Santasia, Maya, and Jolene!

We Create Leaders!

University of Kids Club was especially proud to send representatives to this year's Cal Ripken summer leadership camp in Aberdeen, MD.

The camp is for deserving young people from all over the country come together to learn baseball *while also* working on character-building strategies that will help them continue on the path to success.

UKC kids will also be preparing a presentation for the Neighborhood House Annual Celebration in November at Discovery World. And, Mr. Donte notes there is "a good possibility" of a sleepover sometime this fall.

STAFF PROFILE

"You don't live to loose. There is a possibility that you will win, so keep going. You'll get the next one." James Austin,

Teen Program

supervisor, lives by these words. He grew up not far from Neighborhood House and understands the challenging circumstances many young people face here.



James Austin, Teen Program Supervisor

"Mr. James is my favorite person here because he is very intelligent, has personally invested time into me," said Tayveon, a senior at Washington High School.

An active member of the Wisconsin National Guard, Austin teaches by example, pushing himself and the teens he mentors to succeed and stay positive. A compelling public speaker, he often shares his NH stories at United Way events.

Cassie Rogala contributed to this story.

OUTDOOR & ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION What the Seasons Teach Us

You can use the change of seasons to teach your child about colors, about change, about death and rebirth. Here are some tips from "13 Reasons to Rake Leaves":

Kids love it: For some strange reason kids like to use cleaning tools, like vacuums and brooms. Rakes are just as much fun for them.

It relieves stress: Getting caught in the moment during a cool breeze, and in the sun can make you forget all about the daily stresses life.

It burns calories: A 135-pound person could burn about 240 calories raking leaves for an hour.

Provides a teachable moment: The leaves have changed colors and now they are falling...Why? Young kids love to be



Autumn leaves are a great source of material for arts and crafts. experts of anything. Teach them a thing or two about why leaves fall off the tree. For example: Leaves are what the tree uses to get energy from the sun. Photosynthesis-which makes the leaves green (kids love to learn big words!).

More ideas at
mommylounge.wordpress.com

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY EDUCATION PROGRAM (PREP) Tip\$ for Teen\$

NH's PREP web site has links to some great financial literacy resources for parents and kids. Here are a few tips from TheMint.org:

- **Don't shop for entertainment.** When kids hang out at the mall, they see many things they don't need. But because they see them, they want them.
- **Shop the sales.** If teens shop big sales to buy needed items, their shopping stays focused, and kids get more for their money. (Shop during bonus hours, and use special coupons and discounts.)
- **Wait for the sale.** When kids see an item they like, they should ask a salesperson if the item will go on sale soon.
- **Shop places other than the mall.** There are plenty of them:
 - ~ **Outlet stores** offer good deals on designer/brand names, so popular with impressionable teens. The clothing may be last year's items, overruns, or slightly irregular, but it's affordable logo wear.
 - ~ **Discount stores.** Not everything has to have a brand name or a logo. Help teens find ways to cut corners on "less important" wardrobe items like underwear, belts, socks, etc.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS



Neighborhood House salutes our partners in the **US Forest Service**.

Working with NH staff, they give young people life-changing experiences in the outdoors - camping, canoeing, maintaining trails, and managing prairie ecosystems. Upstream or down, with or without paddle, they're never afraid to get their feet wet with us!



INTERNATIONAL LEARNING CENTER Democracy in Action

International Learning Center's ESL and citizenship students plan to tour the Capitol Building in Madison and meet with State Legislators this fall. A grant from **The Center for Teaching and Learning at Marquette University** will underwrite the trip.

Marquette Professor Louise Cainkar's Immigrant Communities class will assist ILC students in comparing and contrasting democratic governance here with their homelands. They will also support ILC students in taking up a legislative issue: reforming the state's Minority Retention Scholarship Grant so that all refugees are eligible for this financial aid.

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE Educating The Whole Family

When Than Kyi first came to the United States from a refugee camp 5 years ago, she worked hard to learn English to help her family succeed in a new land. At **International Learning Center** she improved her language skills so she could be more involved with her children's education.

This summer Than Kyi achieved a major milestone: she passed the US citizenship test. How did she do it? ILC's on-site preschool meant she could attend a morning citizenship class while her younger children learned their ABCs. Meanwhile, her older children spent the day at **CLC Summer Camp** at Neighborhood House, for six weeks of academic enrichment, field trips, roller-skating, and fun. She was not alone: ILC's bilingual support specialist Nang Kham helped 20 refugee families register for CLC summer and fall programs.



CLC Summer Camper Nathaniel.
His mother Kala studied at ILC.



Than Kyi's family spent the summer at NH

This fall our newcomer families will join in a Family Fun Night of sharing cultures and ethnic food, Wednesday Sep. 18, 5:30 – 7:00pm.



ATTENTION BINGO PLAYERS!
Join our Group Outings as we
boost NH's chances to win!

For details, contact **Jeri Washington**
jwashington@nh-milw.org
414.933.6161 ext. 163

SAVE THE DATE!
Neighborhood House
OF MILWAUKEE
Annual Celebration
Thursday, Nov. 14th 2013
at Discovery World



Do you know someone in this picture? Tell us: info@nh-milw.org.
Watch for alumni photo postings on our facebook page.



Tracy Kreuser, Director of Development
tstraub@nh-milw.org
414. 933.6161 ext 127

MEET THE KIDS OF NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE



Demarus, age 9

FAVORITE MEMORY
Going to the pool and water park.

DREAM
Go camping with family, friends, and their families. I also want to be a popular singer.

More online: nh-milw.org/our-stories



Neighborhood House
OF MILWAUKEE

Executive Director
Richard Cox

Development Director
Tracy Kreuser

Director of Programs
Anna Bierer

Business Office Manager
Jerri Washington

NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE SITES

Neighborhood House Main Building
2819 Richardson Place
Milwaukee, WI 53208
(414) 933-6161

International Learning Center
639 N. 25th St.
Milwaukee, WI 53233
(414) 344-4777

Nature Center and Lodge
Ashippun, Dodge County
nespy@nh-milw.org

Community Learning Center at
Albert Story Elementary School
3815 West Kilbourn Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53208
aharris@nh-milw.org

MAILING ADDRESS

Neighborhood House of Milwaukee
P.O. Box 80515, Milwaukee WI 53208

The mission of Neighborhood House of Milwaukee is to build a strong community by strengthening individuals, families, and the neighborhood. Neighborhood House was founded in 1945 as a safe and nurturing place for urban youth, families and seniors. Since then it has grown into a modern, 60,000 square-foot facility that has served more than a third million children and adults. Today NH serves over 4,000 people annually and provides accredited preschools, programs for kids, teens, parents and seniors.

Visit us on the web: nh-milw.org

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