



2015-16 ANNUAL REPORT Neighborhood House O F M I L W A U K E E

Neighborhood House Main Facility 2819 W. Richardson Place Milwaukee, WI 53208

(414) 933-6161 info@neighborhoodhousemke.org

Neighborhood House Nature Center Dodge County, WI **International Learning Center**

639 N. 25th St. Milwaukee, WI 53233 (414) 344-4777 ilc@neighborhoodhousemke.org

Safe Place at Albert Story School 3815 W. Kilbourn Ave. Milwaukee, WI 53208

www.neighborhoodhousemke.org







This year marked the 71st year of Neighborhood House operations and impacts. We are proud to report on another strong year of providing high quality early child care, after school programs to children and teens, literacy education and job skills training to refugees, and broadly-based support for area families. As we made great strides in improving our financial health this year, we also increased the participant numbers and boosted the outcomes and impacts in almost all of our program areas.

Our success would not be possible without the support of our community partners. We would like to extend a special thank you to the many friends and organizational partners whose contributions are recognized within these pages.

With your gifts, backed by the dedicated work of Neighborhood House staff and volunteers, we were able to accomplish so much in 2015-2016. Highlights included:



Terry Young, Judith Shane, and Jeff Martinka

- Service to nearly 3,500 participants, aged from 6 weeks to 90 years!
- Earning of a top YoungStar 5 Rating for our preschool program from the State of Wisconsin, placing us within the top 6% of programs in the region
- Complete re-construction of our preschool playground (Thank you Next Door!)
- Major improvements at our 93-acre Nature Center in Dodge County, including trail upgrades, invasive species removal, and facility improvements (Thank you Americorps NCCC volunteers!)
- New growth at the Neighborhood House Garden Park, including a new mosaic bench created by Neighborhood House kids and artist Sally Duback (Thank you SHARP Literacy!)
- Creation of a weekly art program for our preschool, school age, and teen participants (Thank you Mary Nohl Foundation!)

Neighborhood House today stands stronger than ever, continuing to honor the legacy of our founders and predecessors in fulfilling our mission - To inspire and connect to strengthen families and our community.

Sincerely,

Judith Davidson Shane President, Board of Directors

2014-2016

Terry Young President, Board of Directors

2016-2018

Jeff Martinka **Executive Director**

By the Numbers

In the 2015-2016 year, we served:

Nearly individuals served

children in our Early **Childhood Services** program

youth in our University Kids Club and Teens on the Move programs

youth through our Safe Place program at Albert Story School

adult learners through our Refugee Program at the International **Learning Center**

Neighborhood House Board of Directors 2015-16



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From the Treasurer

I am pleased to report that Neighborhood House continued its dramatic financial turnaround in 2015/2016. We posted a \$91,000 audited surplus for the year ending 6/30/2016. The community center did not need to access its line-of-credit at any point in the year and exited the year in a healthy cash position. In addition, Neighborhood House received another clean audit and is a Gold Level GuideStar agency.

Our fiscal success is grounded in strong community ties and careful resource management.

Thank you for your ongoing support. With friends like you, Neighborhood House will remain a cornerstone for families on Milwaukee's near west side for decades to come.

Susanh Huky

Susan M. Hickey Treasurer, Board of Directors 2014-2016

NH youth man the lemonade stand at Community Unity Day 2016

BALANCE SHEET

as of June 30, 2016

Total Assets Total Liabilities Total Net Assets Total Liabilities &

Net Assets

\$2,489,487 \$ 284,639

\$ 2,204,848

\$ 2,489,487

Change in Net Assets (\$91,367)

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

Revenues 2015-16

Contributions 31% Government Grants 27% United Way 21% Wisconsin Shares 8% Childcare/Membership Fees 6% Contract Services 6%

Expenses 2015-16

Early Childhood Services 32% International Learning Center 18% Facilities & Administration 15% Community Programs 11% Teen Programs 9% Marketing & Fund Development 8% Family/Environmental Programs 7%

Total Revenue: \$2,286,508

Other Income 1%

Total Expenses: **\$2,195,141**

Programs at a Glance

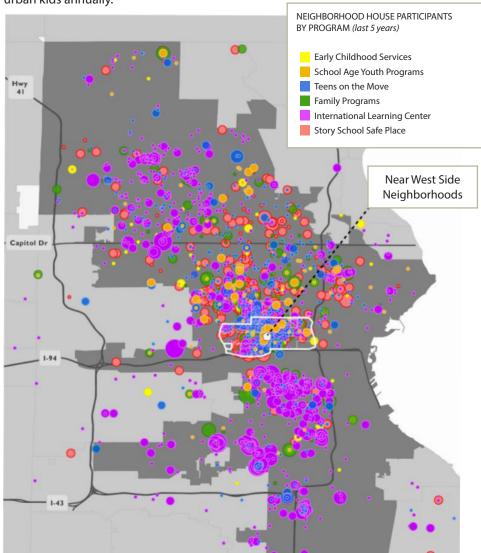
At Neighborhood House, our mission is to inspire and connect to strengthen families and our community. We strive to be a safe and nurturing cornerstone in the community, for constituents of all ages. We do so by bringing together the three most important factors that, when together, determine the success of a community and its people: Families, Education, and Community Ownership.

PROGRAMS

- **Early Childhood Services** Ages 6 weeks to 5 years Challenging young minds, developing social/emotional skills and school readiness.
- School Age Youth Programs Ages 6-12
 Boosting academic engagement, building character and life skills.
- Teens On The Move Ages 13-19
 Empowering teens to set goals, engage academically, and become leaders.
- Outdoor & Environmental Education and Nature Center All ages

Integrating field experiences with classroom lessons for +1000 urban kids annually.

- International Learning Center All ages Empowering refugees to be effective and self sufficient parents, workers, and citizens.
- Safe Place at Albert Story School Grades K4-8
 Providing critical after-school academic support and enrichment to urban children.
- Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP)
 Ages 10-19
 Promoting financial literacy and healthy, positive life choices for teens



In July of 2016,
Neighborhood House
welcomed Norm McGee as our
new Director of Programs. a
Milwaukee native with a long
and proven track record of
working successfully with area
families and youth, Norm has
already used his expertise to
strengthen our programming.



Norm McGee, Director of Programs

Early Childhood Services

The goal of the Early Childhood Services (ECS) program is to develop and support high quality, community and family-focused early childhood education through the use of multi-disciplinary activities that enhance early brain development and cognitive skills. Last year, the program served **108** infants and children between the ages of six weeks and five years, about the same number served in 2014-2015.

Our ECS program earned a top YoungStar 5 rating from the State of Wisconsin in May 2016, placing it in the top 6% of preschool programs in the Milwaukee area. The program continues to operate under the prestigious Early Headstart Partnership Program, under the coordination of our partners at Next Door. As part of this effort, major ECS facility improvements were made in 2015/2016, including the addition of a completely new, \$60,000 ECS playground, new classroom and curriculum improvements, and expanded training efforts for our talented ECS teachers.

Additional program outcomes include:

- 89% of children improved communication skills
- 88% of children improved their social & emotional skills

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STA

Neighborhood House's preschool program secured a top, Youngstar 5 ranking from the State of Wisconsin, putting us in the top 6% of preschool programs in the Milwaukee region, and top 10% in the state.



NH youth perform at the Annual Holiday Pageant in 2016

The Schlitz Audubon Center visits as part of our Urban Birders Program



Brandon came to Neighborhood House at 11 months, and was soon after diagnosed with scoliosis. Left untreated, scoliosis can impact mobility and cause pain and discomfort. Brandon's parents were told he'd have to wear a cast surrounding his back and chest for 3 years.

Adjusting to the hard cast which left him physically unstable proved difficult for Brandon. His mother was under a great deal of stress as well, worried about the quality of life her young son would have.

With the support of Neighborhood House staff, Brandon was given the extra help he needed to adjust to his scoliosis diagnosis and casting. Lead teacher Miss Shannon understood the importance of providing a safe classroom of knowledgeable staff equipped to handle Brandon's unique situation: "I spent hours researching how to take care of a child in a cast. Not only his physical needs, but also the emotional component of his care."

After just over a year, Brandon was given permission to remove his cast. This liberated the toddler, transforming him socially and emotionally. Brandon, a "strong child always excited to learn," became more independent, and his mother excited about his future.

Youth Programs

Our Youth and Teen After School and Summer Camp Programs served **474** in 2015-2016 (up 33%). The School-Aged Youth Program included a licensed, YoungStar 5-rated after school component for children ages 6-12 years. Age-appropriate activities are organized around a group structure and are designed to develop a strong sense of self, as well as provide a balance of social and academic skill preparation.

Neighborhood House also operates the **Safe Place** afterschool program at Albert Story Elementary School in cooperation with the Milwaukee Public Schools. Our Story School program served **137** children and youth last year. The older youth program, called **Teens on the Move**, promotes positive behaviors for youth 13-19 years of age. Teens participate in homework help, organized sports, teen leadership and enrichment activities and youth employment and career development workshops.

Both the school-aged and teen programs of Neighborhood House offered a full-day, ten week summer camp program comprised of age-appropriate activities organized around a group structure and designed to develop a strong sense of self, as well as social and academic skills.

Youth Outcomes for 2015-2016 included:

- 97% of youth improved on trying their best in school
- 87% of youth improved school attendance

Our positive teen outcomes for 2015-2016 included:

- **98%** set goals and made plans for their future
- 91% reported completing homework on time
- 98% reported understanding why it's important to do well in school

Neighborhood House Baseball Week 2016, which featured former Brewer's All-Star Larry Hisle NH teens build a composting bin

Neighborhood House a softspoken girl who kept to herself. She would simply go with the flow, meeting the minimum requirements of what was expected without going above and beyond. Staff feared she wouldn't reap the full benefits of the opportunities available to her at Neighborhood House and beyond.

Over time, it was clear to NH teen counselors that Tania had great leadership potential. As she started to realize the power of her influence and her natural ability to impact those around her, her self-confidence soared. She soon became the leader of the Youth Council at Neighborhood House.

Today, Tania serves as
Neighborhood House's
spokesperson at multiple
community meetings. She
understands the importance of
building up her community, and
plans to continue to use her voice
as a vehicle for change.



International Learning Center

The International Learning Center (ILC) prepares newly-arrived refugees, mainly from Southeast Asia and East Africa, for self-sufficiency and success by conducting English as a Second Language (ESL), citizenship, and financial literacy classes, and by helping participants prepare for and seek employment.

ILC served **767** refugees in 2015-2016 (up 22%). **41** of our learners earned US Citizenship last year, **90** found new employment, and **147** retained prior employment. To offer whole family services, the ILC also provides early childhood education for the children of adult ILC students. In addition, the ILC continued to expand its contract work to provide job training skills to our refugee students during the year, responding in large part to major employer layoffs in the area.

We also successfully brought our Older Refugee Program for refugee seniors into our main facility last year. Finally, we extended our partnership with the Southeast Asian Literacy Program (SEAL) over the last year. The link brings 40-60 Burmese youth to Neighborhood House twice a week for homework help, English classes, and mentoring.

Specific International Learning Center outcomes included:

- 41 learners obtained US citizenship
- 162 learners increased one ESL reading and writing level
- **466** learners attended center-sponsored field trips and special sessions with guest speakers
- 90 learners obtained new jobs, and 147 learners retained prior employment



Youth during the annual ILC Thanksgiving Potluck Party



An ILC student receives her U.S. citizenship



ILC students lend a hand in the garden

Older Refugee Citizenship Program

The Older Refugee Program was designed to address a unique need: To offer the specialized training necessary for our senior refugees. Because elders have more barriers to learning - not only language but literacy level, culture, and social isolation - ILC combines citizenship instruction with native language interpreting, social interaction, and a supportive environment with hands-on activities such as arts & crafts, exercise and gardening.

Health & Family Programs

Neighborhood House provides a variety of community programs in the health and family service areas. As an example, Neighborhood House operates the Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP) in cooperation with the Medical College of Wisconsin and an initiative focused on teaching financial literacy in coordination with other Milwaukee neighborhood centers. PREP served **399** youth last year (+200%).

Our Outdoor Environmental Education programs provide environmental and urban agriculture programming to our families and youth, both at our Milwaukee facilities and at our 93-acre Nature Center near Neosho, WI. Our environmental work served **612** individuals last year (up 44%). The Neighborhood House Nature Center itself hosted **350** youth for programming over the year.

2015-2016 Outdoor Environmental Education highlights included:

- An expansion of our Outdoor Environmental Education programs with increased
 Neighborhood House Garden Park programming and growth in OEE education efforts with partner schools
- Utilizing a grant from Cornell University to enable **20 Neighborhood House teens** to participate in an **urban birding program**
- A new generation of environmental stewards
 – five urban high school students earned paid internships and received 12 weeks of valuable training and job experience as environmental educators and nature interpreters through our innovative Lead & Learn program



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Gifts of Time and Talent

Over **300 volunteers**

provided a boost of time

and talent in 2015-2016, donating over **3,000 hours**

of support. This includes reading and math tutors at our International Learning Center (about 40 of them in any given class week!), Board of Directors and Committee support, and facility and special project helpers at the

of Caring volunteers from Johnson Controls, Rockwell **Automation**, and **BMO Harris Bank** also helped with key

United Way-sponsored Seasons

Nature Center and main site.

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☞ Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of our donor list for the fiscal year July 1, 2015- June 30, 2016. If your name has been omitted, misspelled, or incorrectly listed, please contact Claire Van Fossen, Director of Development, (414) 933.6161 ext 127, cvanfossen@neighborhoodhousemke.org.

