



The Neighborhood

June 2009

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Our Mission
Neighbors Helping Neighbors' purpose is to increase the ability of our five partner agencies to serve the community through the acquisition, renovation and management of one common facility known as The Neighborhood.

Our nonprofit partners are:

- The Community Kitchen
- CAReS
- River Cities Harvest
- The Dressing Room (Federated Charities)
- Ashland Area Presbyterian Ministries

New website!
www.nhn-ashland.org

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Back in the spring, I spent a week on vacation at the big theme park in Florida. I marveled at how well both the resort complex where I stayed and theme park ran. I'm sure it took a large, well trained staff to ensure that operations flowed smoothly. But I never really saw any of them. Sure there's someone sweeping the street, or working on the landscaping and the occasional housekeeper, but for the most part, the support staff was invisible.

I was reminded of a conversation from several months ago with a friend who commented that he didn't realize how much real need there was in the area. He never saw the poverty. It was invisible to him; he never realized it was there. Truth is, most of us do not realize the number of people who are struggling to meet the needs of their families. They are the area's invisible. They are a group that struggle daily to make ends meet. We see them everyday, but we never recognize the tough time they are having.

They are the working poor. They flip the burgers, answer phones, wait on tables, and clean the office buildings. I wonder if we don't assume that since they have a job (and sometimes two), they are doing okay, but many are not. They work the entry level jobs that make our community run smoothly. Their need is invisible, just like most of the unnoticed staff at resorts and the theme parks.

Is their need unseen because we don't want to look deep enough or acknowledge that many of our neighbors do without basic needs, or is it because we as a community are unaware of the true cost of meeting a family's basic necessities? According to the US Census Bureau the poverty threshold for a family of 2 adults and 2 children is \$21,027. The following website gives an excellent demonstration of a family's expenses and the difficult decisions that must be made.

www.usccb.org/cchd/povertyusa/tour.htm

What choices would I make? How would I cope? How does it feel to be invisible?

Sincerely,

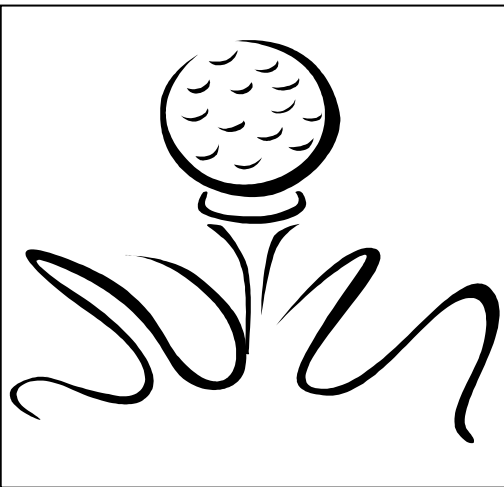
Mary Crowley Martin
Neighbors Helping Neighbors

State and Local Officials at The Neighborhood

The morning of May 14th was a busy one for The Neighborhood as state and local officials and their representatives arrived bright and early for a progress report and tour of the facility. Those attending were treated to a great breakfast provided by Chick-fil-A and heard our Fundraising chairman, J.T. Norris, speak about the progress of our project. Guests saw a Power Point presentation on The Neighborhood's past, present and future. Laurent Houekpon from The Kentucky Housing Corporation shared his views on our project and the positive effect it is having on the City of Ashland. Mr. Houekpon was very impressed with the forethought and cooperation shown by our partner agencies in the development of The Neighborhood concept. CARES executive Director, Trish Hall, wrapped up the session with the benefits CARES has experience since moving into The Neighborhood.



Senator Walter Blevins listens intently to Community Kitchen Director Alfreda Moore



Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Charity Golf Scramble

Hidden Cove Golf Course

Grayson, Kentucky

Friday, September 18, 2009

8:00am Shotgun Start

For information on team registration and sponsorship opportunities please contact Mary Martin at 606-571-9206

Or Lucy Davis at 606-324-3663

Email: theneighborhood.ashland@yahoo.com

Website: www.nhn-ashland.org

One Crisis Away

(Mandy is a real person. She is like many individuals today who have found themselves in financial ruin due to a catastrophe. Her life has been turned completely upside down. A medical emergency, losing a job, divorce, whatever the reason, most of us live just one crisis away from needing some type of assistance. The following is an excerpt from a piece she wrote about her experience. The full article can be found on the NHN website at <http://www.nhn-ashland.org/pages/pdfs/Mandy.pdf>)

My name is Mandy. I am "in the system". I came back to Ashland in the first part of April. The move ended up costing far more than I had anticipated. I came back to town totally broke. I do not have a drinking or drug problem. I have no children. I have two college degrees. I was raised in a white collar neighborhood. Both of my parents worked until they were able to retire. I worked until two years ago, often two jobs at once.

What I am, is terminally ill. I have had three heart attacks, and I have two stints in my heart. I am on oxygen 24/7. As an intelligent woman, a woman who refuses to use the word "handicapped" as a label of what I cannot do, a woman who needs the necessities only, I have found it very difficult to get the help and resources I need for things as simple as air, food, and a clean place to live. Getting the necessary help is more work than a full time job. No single place can help with everything. Due to the condition of my eyes, I cannot drive. Walking (Going) from 13th street, to 25th street, to 40th street, I think, "What if I was on a walker?" "What if I had children in tow?" What if I did not have a network of friends who have been so helpful to me?

Help Build The Neighborhood

I wish to make a tax deductible contribution to help build The Neighborhood.

Enclosed is my donation of \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email address: _____

**Please make checks payable to :
Neighbors Helping Neighbors
P.O. Box 1703
Ashland, KY 41105-1703**

June 2009



Fantastical Theatricals presents

Killing Mr. Withers

an interactive Hitchcock-styled
murder mystery dinner theater

By

David Landau

Saturday, July 11th, 2009

Highlands Museum and Discovery Center

Door opens at 6:00pm

This evening of entertainment includes dinner by Chef Bill Schaefer's Haute Stuff, Inc.

Table Sponsors include Boyd County Ford, Chick-fil-A, Community Trust Bank, Pam Potter, Kings
Daughter's Medical Center, and Smith Goolsby, Artis and Reams, P.S.C.

Tickets are \$25.00 and are available through board members and at The Neighborhood.

For additional information, contact Trish Hall at 606-324-2949 or trish@boydcountycare.org

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