SPECIAL NEIGHBORS MARKS
35-YEAR MILESTONE

Special Neighbors could not have asked for a better day to celebrate our 35th Anniversary at the Burrus Old Mill Park in Blue Springs on Saturday, June 1st. We had a tremendous turnout for our celebration, with over 175 people attending the picnic. It was so good to see individuals from our past and present come together to celebrate 35 years of supporting individuals with developmental disabilities. We had food, face painting, games and time to visit with family members, staff, individuals we support and board members. We would like to say thank you to our volunteers from the National Benefits Center, the EEOC-Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the CMS Kansas City Regional Office. This was an amazing group of men and women that volunteered their time and money to make our event successful. We were also thankful to have Roma Bakery donate hot dog buns and Price Chopper donate cookies for the picnic. HyVee donated a gift card that we used to purchase needed items for our celebration. We also would like to thank Betty Hartwig, Valerie Fortel, Becky Barbieri and Amy Berry for bringing food for our picnic. Thank you to everyone that attended our 35th Anniversary picnic. We can't wait to celebrate another milestone with you in the future!
ENJOYING SOME TIME AWAY

Several destination vacation spots were enjoyed by program participants this past summer. Gene and Duane enjoyed a bus trip to Mackinac Island. Sandy, Leslie F., Amy and Pam S. enjoyed several days in Branson. They enjoyed a scenic train ride and a visit to the Dixie Stampede. Also, several of our individuals enjoyed going to Camp MOJA and the Parsons Rodeo. Vacations are important to many of the individuals we support but others prefer staying at home for rest and relaxation.

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AND YEARS OF SERVICE AWARDED

Special Neighbors recognized its direct support employee of the year at our fire safety training on Thursday, October 3rd. Pat Mayfield, shift supervisor, was named employee of the year. Pat supports the individuals at White Oaks. She was nominated by three of her peers for her hard work, years of service, and her caring attitude towards the individuals she works with and her co-workers. Pat has worked at Special Neighbors since 1995. The other nominations for employee of the year were: Cheryl Martin, Bobbie Meyer, Tim Wand, Azmieh Hassen, Pat Foster, Casey Allen and Laron Brown.

Several employees reached milestones this year for their years of service. The following individuals received recognition for their longevity and dedication to Special Neighbors:

5 years
Loreta Sweatman and Sharon Grobmyer

10 years
Cherrie Martin, Nola Rogers and Ellie Burgess

15 years
Mary Tentori

25 years
Amy Berry

SPECIAL NEIGHBORS is a 501(c)3 organization established in 1978 to provide residential services to persons with developmental disabilities living in eastern Jackson County.

OUR MISSION
The mission of Special Neighbors is to empower and assist persons with developmental disabilities to live and participate in the community with dignity.

OUR VISION
Our vision is that all people are accepted as they are and have the opportunity to lead a life that is meaningful to them.

BOARD MEMBERS
Rick Norton, President
Betty Hartwig, VP
Valerie Fortel, Secretary
Bob Reams, Treasurer
Becky Barbieri
Mary Siegfried
Chuck Dale
Sandi Wilhelmsen
Nancy Martin

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF
John Davis, Executive Dir.
Amy Berry, Program Dir.
Jennifer Seidel, Dev. Dir.
Melissa Acton, PR Director
Darlene Polina, HR Manager
Tina Young, Accountant
Robin Cayton, Adm. Assist.
News Around the Neighborhood

Congratulations to Karen C. on her new job at HyVee busing tables, John W. on his new job at Zios.

Becca graduated from Lakeview Woods State School and started at ICAN for her day program services.

Congratulations to Jenna on graduating from Trails West School.

Gene celebrated his 60th birthday while traveling back from a vacation trip to Michigan.

Mary S. was voted in as a SNI board member in July to represent the program participants. She is a welcome addition to the board and is the liason to the SNI Human Rights Committee.

Edward recently celebrated his birthday with his sister, niece and friends at Manor House. His sister and his niece brought tacos for dinner and birthday cake.

We would like to welcome Judy B. to Special Neighbors. She will be supported in our CI program.

Congratulations to our medal winners at Parson’s Rodeo: Becca Middleton, Tobie Renfro, Suzie James, Kevin Beel, Robert Gutierrez, Cindy Snapp, Gene Slinger, Edward Sewell, Duane Romine, Teresa Carr and Leslie Winkler.

Julie started attending Harmony House day program on July 1st and really likes it.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Yale Acton                Khalifah Graff
Doug Adkins               Faith Groff
Lori Adkins               Hope Groff
Larry Allen               Gladys Hamilton
Chris Allen               Matt Hamilton
Becky Barbieri            Christine Harris
Mark Bostwick             Jan Harris
Trenton Burgess           Betty Hartwig
Ashly Burgess             Terry Hartwig
Carl Crockett             Shannon Jenkins
Chuck Dale                Kenzie Jenkins
Matthew Danner            Maddie Jenkins
Joyce Danner              Brian Jones
Day of Caring Volunteers  Howard Martin
Valerie Fortel            Nancy Martin
Cyrus Frost               Eric Meehan
Ron Gordenair             Jon Montgomery
Carolyn Gordenair         Rick Norton
Claire Parlecich
Jim Porter
Bob Reams
Darrel Roberson
Dallas Sander
Hannah Seidel
Rachel Seidel
Kyle Seidel
Grace Shaver
Mary Siegfried
Betty Snow
David Valkus
Frank Ventura
Karen Ventura
Erin Ventura
Dave Ward
Sandi Wilhelmsen
QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION

Did you know that if you are 70 ½ that you have until January 1, 2014 to take advantage of making a “qualified charitable distribution” from IRAs directly to Special Neighbors? A qualified charitable distribution is money that may be directed from your traditional IRA to eligible charitable organizations. There is a $100,000 cap on distributions. In addition, the gift may be excluded from your gross income.

So if you have found yourself in the position of being required to take a distribution from your IRA, but you don’t really need the funds, this special rule will allow you to accomplish your current or long-term charitable giving from your IRA funds without the negative tax impact.

In July 2013, People First of Missouri presented Special Neighbors with the award “Agency of the Year”. People First of Missouri is a self-advocacy organization that was formed by, is run by, and exists for people with developmental disabilities in the state of Missouri. Special Neighbors has been involved with People First for many years and has even hosted meetings at our facility. We are honored to be given this award and feel very fortunate to be a part of People First of Missouri.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Strategic planning must build upon a legacy of achievement and combine with a commitment of excellence, innovation, and service. It is a vital, continuous process that contributes to the future success of Special Neighbors. The SNI board members met in April to look at our strengths, weaknesses, and challenges. During this process several goals were identified and long range, strategic goals will be developed in the following areas:

- Strengthen the financial condition of Special Neighbors
- Maintain trained and stable staffing
- Expand, change or add new programs
- Increase Special Neighbors presence in the community
- Address aging in place
- Board Development
- Fundraising
- New accessible home for Manor House.
NEIGHBORS 4 NEIGHBORS A SUCCESS

Special Neighbors raised more than $11,000 during its 6th annual fall fundraiser at the Armacost Museum, now known as “Neighbors 4 Neighbors”. Everyone enjoyed an evening of listening to the SKU’s band that played vintage rock and roll from the 60’s, 70’s and 80’s. Guests also enjoyed dinner, a silent auction and something new this year was our piccadilly auction. We had three great prizes for the piccadilly auction that individuals purchased tokens throughout the evening for a chance to win. Paul Engen from Jefferson Service Center was the big winner of the evening. He won the trip to Branson and a Visa card that was donated by Terry and Betty Hartwig. We had a record number of sponsors for our event this year totalling $3,100.

Special Neighbors sponsors for “Neighbors 4 Neighbors”.

Gold Sponsors
Hawthorn Bank
O’Halloran Sherman Associates, LLC
Peterson Manufacturing

Silver Sponsors
Genoa Healthcare
Christopher & Ann Spohn
Greg Schneider Enterprises, Inc.
Roscoe Righter & Valerie Fortel
William & Kathleen Glasco
Harriet Fortel

Bronze Sponsors
Delta Dental
Linda & Carl Fenn
Red Carpet Service, Inc.
Dr. Anne Arey
Cascade Health Services
Milton Brod

As always our event would not be possible without the generous donation of the Armacost Museum by Peterson Manufacturing. We are so thankful to have their support with our annual fall event!

Nancy Martin, Amy Berry & Betty Hartwig

The “guys” enjoying the fundraiser

Kristie Meyer and Tyler Kelley

Debby Parsons & Jean Walker
DONATIONS
May 1, 2013 - August 31, 2013

Exceptional Neighbor - $1,000 - $4,999
DDSJC - eitas
Independence Young Matrons
United Way of Greater Kansas City

Benevolent Neighbor - $500 - $999
Hawthorn Bank
Heartland Combined Federal Campaign
O’Halloran Sherman Associates, LLC
United Way of MA Bay & Merrimack Valley
United Way of Wyandotte County

Good Neighbor - $100 - $499
Dr. Anne Arey
Linda & Carl Fenn
Robert Fordemwalt
Deborah Fortel & David Sawyer
Harriet Fortel
Mildred Gramlich
Hays Companies Employees
Genoa Healthcare
Honeywell Hometown Solutions/Gary Beel
Nancy Martin
Carl & Pat Misner
Red Carpet Service, Inc.
YourCause, LLC Trustee for HP/Jerome Bartels
Kathy Williams

Friendly Neighbor - $1 - $99
AT&T United Way/Cindy Keeney
Allan & Jeanne Bagshaw
Fran Baker
Carol Bowers
Brand & Teresa Eskew
Sally Holm
Larry & Sandy Kauffman
Christine Lehl
Bob & Adella Lunsford
Bruce Lyon
Bill & Dorothy McDonald
Nancy Polomsky
Bob & Jana Schmitt
Kathy Sheehy
State Farm Insurance
Brett & Jessica Stewart

CARRIAGE HOUSE

Meat Slicer
Pots and Pans
Gas Grill
Cake Pans
Bakeware
Cooking Utensils
Serving Dishes

WHITE OAKS

Small Bistro
Table/Chairs
Concrete Outdoor
Fountain
Concrete Bird Bath
GPS with lifetime maps
Rock for House #
Perennial Flowers
Tulips, Daffodils, Hostas
Pedestal Flower Pots
6 foot outdoor blowup
Thanksgiving Turkey

SNA

Floor/Table Lamps
Digital Camera
Pots/Pans/Dishes
Picture Frames
Microwave for Recreation Room

MAIN STREET HOUSE

Tool Box & Tools
TV Stand
Throws for Sofa

In-Kind Donations
Ameristar Casino
Backyard Burger
Beauty Brands
Centerpoint Community Ice
Christian Brothers Automotive
Cool Crest
Corner Cafe
Dairy Queen
Chuck Dale
Joyce Danner
Terry & Betty Hartwig
Hilton Garden Inn
HyVee
Jaegers Paintball
Lunar Bowl
Musical Theater Heritage
Negro League Baseball Museum
Price Chopper
Quality Hill Playhouse
Roma Bakery
Salty Iguana
Salvatore’s
Shop Beautiful
Smokehouse Bar-B-Que
Cheryl Snyder
Sutherlands
Tree of Life
Unilever
V’s Italiano Ristorante
David Valkus & Susan Dunlap-Valkus
Curt & Sandi Wilhelmsen

In Memory of Darryl Bagshaw
Allan & Jeanne Bagshaw

In Memory of Leta Reid
Avis Compton

In Memory of Vic Royal
Barb Rhodes
Steven & Laura Stoecker
THANK YOU TO OUR NEIGHBORS 4 NEIGHBORS VOLUNTEERS!

Our “Neighbors 4 Neighbors” event was a huge success due to the efforts of our Marketing and Development Committee. Our committee works countless hours planning for the event by; organizing the entertainment and food for the evening, soliciting donations for our silent auction, making baskets and bid sheets for the silent auction, creating centerpieces and volunteering at the event to plan a successful fundraiser.

We would like to acknowledge and thank the many volunteers who contributed to our fundraiser.

The Marketing & Development Committee: Betty Hartwig, Nancy Martin, Chuck Dale, Rick Norton, Valerie Fortel, Sandi Wilhelmsen, Grace Shaver and Mary Tentori.

We also had several other individuals volunteer the night of the event: Tina Young, Mandilu Tramonte, Kristie Meyer, Cherrie Martin and Lisa Patrick.

Thank you to all the individuals who made our “Neighbors 4 Neighbors” event possible. We look forward to continuing to work with you in the future!

CFC~Combined Federal Campaign

The Combined Federal Campaign is the most philanthropic workplace giving campaign in the entire nation. Locally, they have raised millions of dollars each year to support thousands of charities across the globe. Whether you’re a postal worker, a member of the military, a bargaining unit employee or an agency manager, we are asking for your support. Special Neighbors CFC number is 76317. Thank you for supporting Special Neighbors through the Heartland Combined Federal Campaign.

Thank you to our Heartland Combined Federal Campaign Donors for the past year: Sandra Jones, Tia Gillen and Rochelle Payne.

2013 Campaign Kicks Off

Special Neighbors receives contributions through the Donor Choice Program. Donor Choice allows you to designate your United Way contribution to an agency of your choice. If you work for a business in the Kansas City area that holds a campaign, we encourage you to designate your pledge to Special Neighbors. Ask your United Way representative how you can make your contribution to Special Neighbors or call Jennifer or Melissa at 836-3462 for more information on the program.

Thank you to our United Way Donors for the past year: Vicki Beard-Compton, Lisa Beel, Christy Blandy, Christine Falk, Terri Holstrom, April Lombardo, Renee Marshall, Marlene Norton, Vita Osborn, Barbara Winkler, Target, Becky Barbieri, William Arnold Jr., Valerie Fortel and DeAun Young.
Our Mission: To empower and assist persons with developmental disabilities to live and participate in the community with dignity.

The Independence Chamber of Commerce holds an annual Halloween Parade on the Historic Independence Square. The Halloween Parade consist of local businesses, organizations, and community leaders that come together to celebrate Halloween as a community. Special Neighbors is taking part in this great community event on Saturday, October 26th at 3:00 pm. We hope to see you and your family at the parade!