



Minneapolis Connects

a bi-monthly newsletter brought to you by the
Neighborhood and Community Relations Department

July/August 2011

Youth soccer clinics and leadership training now underway



The Neighborhood and Community Relations Department is co-sponsoring a six week summer youth soccer and leadership training with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, the Minnesota Council of Churches, the Sanneh Foundation and CAPI. The summer soccer camp is an outcome of [Hello Neighbor](#) initiative. One of the biggest gaps that exist within the immigrant community is lack of recreational opportunities for youth during summer months when schools are closed. The camp provides kids an opportunity to remain engaged during the summer with a six week program that includes a classroom and an athletic component (soccer). The leadership component is designed to develop a number of life and thinking skills to make the class interesting and worthwhile.

In addition to financial support from the BUSH Foundation, the Neighborhood and Community Relations department helped put together the curriculum for the classroom component, invited guests for topics relevant to the Hello Neighbor initiative and helped with the registration. Staff and volunteers from the Sanneh Foundation run both the leadership and the soccer component of the program. Over forty kids, almost all from immigrant families have enrolled in the program.

Tornado response and recovery

Since the devastating tornado struck North Minneapolis on May 22, thousands of volunteers, nonprofits, church groups, businesses and government agencies have pitched in to help folks recover and rebuild. The Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR) Department has provided consistent communication and support to residents, neighborhood, and community organizations affected by the tornado.

The Neighborhood and Community Relations provided staff support at the Disaster Recovery Center located in Farview Park the week after the tornado. Immediately after the tornado, it was clear that the Hmong community was not accessing the support at the recovery center. Hmong Access and Outreach Specialist, Gao Vang quickly reached out to the Hmong community. As a result, there were over 400 Hmong individuals who received assistance.



On Friday July 1st the City Council approved \$600,000 for the Rebuilding our Communities fund, a program supporting the capacity for a North Minneapolis, community-led recovery and rebuilding effort. The Neighborhood and Community Relations department is working with the North Minneapolis neighborhoods to lead this effort. Funding for the Rebuilding Our Communities Fund comes from new revenues and will not impact existing neighborhood allocations.

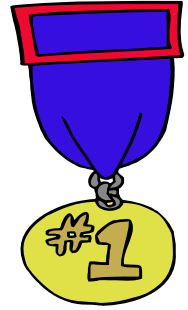
The Neighborhood and Community Relations staff also supported two neighborhood-led clean up efforts - coordinating volunteers for the tornado Clean Sweeps held on June 18th and 25th. These clean sweeps were organized by north Minneapolis neighborhoods with the support of the Pohlad Family Foundation, City Departments including Public Works Solid Waste & Recycling, Emergency Preparedness and the NCR Department. Nearly 400 volunteers removed 350 tons of construction debris and solid waste.

To stay up to date on tornado recovery efforts please go to: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/tornado/>

Three Neighborhoods Win Gold

Neighborhoods USA (NUSA) is a national non-profit organization committed to building and strengthening neighborhood organizations. At the 2011 NUSA conference held in Anchorage, Alaska, the Corcoran Neighborhood Organization, the Lyndale Neighborhood Association and the Standish-Ericsson Neighborhood Association were awarded Gold in NUSA's newsletter competition.

The Newsletter competition featured three categories — neighborhood organizations, government entity and nonprofit organization or agency — with gold, silver and bronze level awards. A resolution was presented to these 3 neighborhoods at the July 1st City Council meeting, acknowledging them on their good work and congratulating them on bringing home the Gold.



Hello Neighbor connects with 420 individuals



Neighborhood and Community Relations staff and volunteers have connected with over 120 households and more than 420 individuals since the inception of the Hello Neighbor initiative. The Hello Neighbor initiative emanated from the City's core values of engaged residents and broader participation, with the goal of extending these treasured values to our new arrivals.

In addition to working with the resettlement agencies Neighborhood and Community Relations staff have delivered welcome bags to families and individuals at Mary's Place and The Bryan Coyle Center.

Hello Neighbor has been expanded to include all immigrant families moving to the cities. Previously, the focus was towards newly arriving East African immigrants. To learn more about Hello Neighbor or get involved as a volunteer, please visit

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/ncr/hello-neighbor.asp>

The Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission welcomes new Commissioners

On June 25, a neighborhood meeting was held at the American Indian OIC to elect NCEC neighborhood representatives in Districts 1, 3, 5 and 7. Congratulations to the 4 NCEC neighborhood representative members who were selected. District 1 elected Latrell Beamon, District 3 elected Kenneth Brown, District 5 elected Christopher Hoffer and District 7 elected Carol Pass.

In addition, there are 3 additional commissioners joining the NCEC commission through the open appointments process. The candidates were announced at a public hearing held at the City Council's Committee of the Whole meeting on Thursday, June 30th. Matt Perry is being recommended for the Mayoral appointment; Maria Sarabia and Tessa Trepp-Wetjen are being recommended for the 2 City Council appointments.

These proposed appointments will be finalized at the City Council Meeting on Friday, July 22nd. For more information, please go to: www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/ncr/NCEC_election.asp

Wireless Community accounts to close the gap in the Digital Divide will soon be available

Free, 1 year Wireless Community accounts will soon be available for individuals participating in trainings or other programs offered by Minneapolis based non-profit organizations that provide technology literacy training and/or programs which aim to close the gap in the digital divide. More information will be available on our website: www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/ncr

Neighborhood and Community Relations Department

Director, David Rubedor

Tri Tech Center Suite 220
331 2nd Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Office: (612) 673-3737
ncr@ci.minneapolis.mn.us
www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/ncr