



Waunakee Neighborhood Connection

JANUARY 2010

THE CONNECTION

A Publication of the Waunakee Neighborhood Connection

IMPORTANT DATES

Saturday Volunteer/Donations

Saturday, January 9th
9:00am—Noon

Night Volunteer/Donations

Monday, January 11th
5:00pm - 7:00pm

Scoopie Night for WNC

Wednesday, January 27th
4:30pm - 8:30pm at Culver's

Super Bowl Buffet & Raffle

Sunday, February 7th
Rex's Innkeeper
Starting at 5:00pm

BECOME A WNC "FAN"

ARE YOU ON FACEBOOK?

Now, WNC is too! Become a "FAN" on [WNC's Facebook page](#) to get updates, event reminders, pictures, and join discussions about WNC. Go to our page (via icon right) and click "Become a Fan"



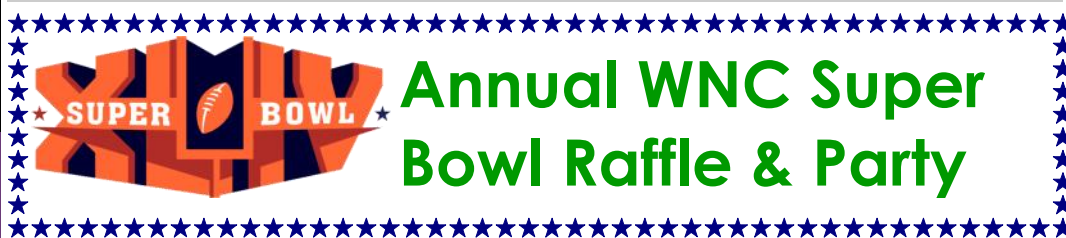
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Culver's Scoopie Night for WNC



Culver's in Waunakee, is once again partnering with WNC and **donating 10% of their sales on Wednesday, January 27th, from 4:30-8:30pm to WNC's Build-a-Bed program.** WNC's Build-a-Bed program is to purchase new mattresses, bedsprings and bedding for clients needing a place to sleep. At November's Scoopie Night we were able to provide one bed to a client with cancer. **This month, let's try to raise enough funds for two beds!** Please stop by Culver's on Wednesday, January 27th for a meal, purchase a salad for Thursday's lunch, or stop and have a treat, and help support the WNC Build-a-Bed program. **Don't forget to say hello to "Scoopie"! See you there!**



Annual WNC Super Bowl Raffle & Party

Rex's Innkeeper and Best Buy are once again partnering with WNC for their annual Super Bowl party, buffet and raffle. Purchase a \$10 raffle ticket to win either a **52" Sony Bravia LCD 1080 dpi HDMI TV** (Retail Value \$1499) OR a **40" Samsung LCD 1080 dpi HDMI TV** (Retail Value \$699). Or purchase a \$10 ticket for the all you can eat buffet and all you can drink beer or soda at Rex's during the game (\$20 for both buffet and raffle) The raffle will be held during half-time of the game. You need not be present to win! **All proceeds go to WNC!** Come to Rex's Innkeeper on Super Bowl Sunday, February 7th, starting at 5:00pm to watch the Super Bowl in style. Game starts at 5:30pm.



Tickets can be purchased starting January 13th at Rex's Innkeeper, Neil's Liquor, Village Mobil, Chamber of Commerce, the WNC Store or NEW THIS YEAR, you can purchase tickets by mailing WNC a check (mailing address below), or [purchase online via credit card](#). Tickets will be mailed to you. Be sure to mention how many raffle and buffet tickets you want. **If you could help sell raffle tickets for us, please call soon!**

Store Address: 1001 Arboretum Dr., Suite 120 Waunakee, WI - **Phone:** (608) 849-5740 - **Email:** info@WaunakeeNC.com
Mailing Address: 215 S. Century Ave., #316, Waunakee, WI 53597 - www.WaunakeeNeighborhoodConnection.com

New Year Challenge

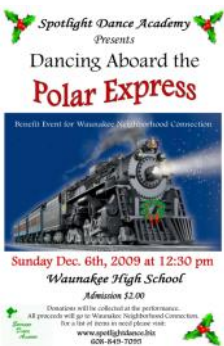
WNC would like to challenge all of you to start thinking already this month, on how you can partner with us for the **WHOLE YEAR!** **Make service and/or giving to WNC part of your new year resolution.** See the article below from **The Murphy Insurance Group**, on how they implemented a "jeans day" and collected donations all year for WNC. Need other ideas? See our [donation drive ideas page](#) on our website, or read about [current volunteer opportunities](#).

JEAN DAY (submitted by The Murphy Insurance Group)

The Service Staff at The Murphy Insurance Group love the opportunity to wear jeans to work. Coupled with the agency being very supportive of community projects, we got the bright idea, and management support, to pay a dollar to wear jeans on predetermined days. The plan was to donate the "Jean Day" money to Waunakee Neighborhood Connection to use for needy families Christmas Meals. Starting in the last few months before Christmas in 2008, we collected \$275, eleven families benefited.



For 2009, we offered "Jean Days" throughout the year, thinking we could be even more help to our Waunakee neighbors. Our 2009 total collected was \$475 toward Christmas Meals. Nineteen families enjoyed a Christmas Dinner from our jean days collection. The Murphy Insurance Group extended a helping hand to our Waunakee neighbors, the Service Staff got to have special "jean days" at work and needy Waunakee families received a bountiful meal for Christmas. What a great WIN, WIN, and WIN situation!



Spotlight Dance Benefit & Raffle a HUGE Blessing

WNC would like to thank **Spotlight Dance Academy owners Erin Cotter and Tiffany Igielski**, along with **SPA's staff, dancers, their families**, friends and community supporters for the amazing outpouring of generosity you provided to WNC from your Polar Express Christmas benefit show. You provided WNC with an amazingly generous amount of money from the proceeds of the ticket and t-shirt sales, but also donated four large bins of new toys, games, socks, clothes, and toiletries for WNC to give to our clients throughout the year.

As if that wasn't enough of an outpouring of support and caring, the last minute addition of doing a raffle on WNC's behalf for the TV, provided money to purchase numerous beds for our clients. **Congratulations to Al Acker, winner of the raffle.**

We thank you all for your time, talent and giving spirits this Christmas to help your neighbors in need. We know you all sacrificed a lot, to provide a role model to our community on how to give back to others. Your gifts have already helped so many, and will continue to bless many more of our clients throughout the year.



Christmas Meal Thank Yous



We want to thank the literally hundreds of people who helped with our Annual Christmas Meal distribution on December 19, 2009. We are deeply grateful for all of the tremendous support of your time and donations to support the community in this way.

Thank you to the **Village & Senior Center** for allowing us to utilize your facilities. Thanks to **Cindy Mosiman, Diane Goldensoh & Jean Lynch & the senior center staff** for handling our needs, and helping register seniors for the meal. Thank you **Mary Unger**, for your coordination help with us and the **SHARE** organization. To **Jeff Templin of EC Moving and Storage** for storing all of our items. To **Brandon Volley of UPS** for

continually supporting us with our printing needs. Thank you to **Roberta Baumann & Roger Hamilton of the Waunakee Tribune** for working with us on our donation flyer, feature articles, & photo coverage of our meal. Thank you to **local churches** for putting donation and volunteer information in their newsletters and bulletins. To **Randy Guttenberg & the entire staff** of the **Waunakee School District** for allowing us to provide our donation flyers to families and for doing collections with their classrooms to raise funds for purchasing meals. To **Gina Pagel and Teo & Lidia Montilla** for translating all our documents to Spanish..

Thank you to **all of our individual and business donors** for your generous contributions to help cover the costs of our 190 meals this year. Thank you to our **donors who provided adult gifts** for children to do shopping for their parents/guardians. A special thank you goes to: **Rich Wipperfurth, owner of Piggly Wiggly**, who donated 200 cloth grocery bags. **Al Ripp of TDS Telecomm** who donated phone cards. A **special anonymous donor** who provided beef for our meals. **Michelle Carter** for providing hot dogs for our meals. To **Sheila Weihert and Students from Arboretum Elementary** for making 190 Christmas cards. To **Colleen Woerner**, for donating Christmas ornaments annually. To **Michelle Bunge and Girl Scout Troops 2050 and 2631** for preparing the ornaments. To **Carrie Duck and family** for making and donating stockings for young children. To **Hy Miller** for the donation of beanie babies that went to all children in 2nd grade.



Thank you to the **hundreds of people** who came on Saturday to help with the assembly and delivery of meals as well as with kids' shopping. A great big thank you to the **Waunakee Football and Basketball Players along with Coach Pat Rice and Coach Dana Mackenzie** who came to help give our client's children an extra special gift of a personal shopping experience and helped in many ways including the delivery of meals. Thanks to **Judy Acker Maly** for coordinating with the players and coaches for this event. Last, but definitely not least thank you to **Dan & Rita Endres, Annie & Samantha Oliver, Christa Adler, Amy Scheel, Kathy**

Moore, Terri Witak, Cheryl Booth, Colleen Woerner, Sarah Lee & Family, Tara Meffert & Family, Cyndy Caldwell, Beth Johnson, Doyle & Sydney Erickson who helped with preparations by doing anything we asked and for leading our efforts on Saturday. Thank you so much for your time and talents! **Without all of you, including so many we were unable to list by name, we wouldn't be able to provide those in need in our community with the support and love they desperately need.**

Many Christmas Programs Means Many Thanks

We seem to have this “problem” every month, but not as big as for December. The problem? So many people to thank, so little space! To start we want to **thank ALL of you, our donors, volunteers, community support, business, church, organization and school partners.** You have not only made Christmas 2009 are largest donation month in our history, but have also made 2009 our biggest year yet. We could not do any of the programs we do without you all. No matter how big or small you feel your contribution was this year, YOU made a BIG difference to WNC and to the growing number of neighbors we serve in the Waunakee community. Now, to the specific people who we want to thank that we haven't already mentioned in other articles in this newsletter. **Thanks continues on the next page as well.**

To all of our individuals, families, classrooms, businesses and organizations, (87 total) that helped adopt 47 client families this Christmas. We thank you for your generosity to ensure all our client families who were adopted had a blessed Christmas filled with many joyful tears.



To Ruth Lohr and her 1st Grade Class at Heritage Elementary, who challenged all teachers at Heritage to adopt-a-family this Christmas, and Ruth even adopted a senior herself! Pictures of the students wrapping paper shown left.

Many classrooms at Arboretum Elementary who adopted families.

The **Friday Morning Ladies Bible Study Group** who, in lieu of adopting just one family, purchased numerous items on the client needs list to give to many clients during the holidays.

Turning Heads Salon who collected gifts and cash from their customers during the holidays.

To **Papa Murphy's** (pictured right) for holding their \$1.00 customer “helping hands” donation drive for WNC during December, and raising funds for our Christmas meals.



An anonymous **service organization** who purchased a new washer and dryer set for a special client needing help this winter.

Prairie Elementary Students who raised over \$1,100 for Christmas meals by doing chores for their parents. **Kris Ehle's** class (pictured left with **principal Dean Kaminski**) was the class to raise the most funds in the school.

Many classrooms at the Intermediate School who raised money for meals—lots of hard work!

Waunakee Furniture who donated a full bedroom set for a client's child.

Many More Christmas Programs Thanks



To **Walgreen's** who promoted toilet paper donations and had a special on Walgreen's brand toilet paper to help WNC collect our number one requested toiletry.

Ms. Wells, 5th grade teacher, organized a toilet paper drive at the Intermediate School. She told all the of teachers at a staff meeting and toilet paper just kept coming in. What an easy way to make a huge difference for WNC. Ms. Wells' students display a small portion of the collection in picture on left.

Tammy Greiber's fitness class for

collecting toilet paper for WNC during the holidays.

Girl Scout Troop who made cute bags and filled them with toiletries for new clients (**Julia Zabel & Lillian Thompson** pictured right)

Olivia Helmke, 4th grade student at Arboretum Elementary, read the newsletter last month and answered the need. She made a box full of wonderful thank you cards/envelopes AND put stamps on them!! And you should see them, they are so nice! Thank you Olivia!



To **Cristie Hansen from First National Bank** for assembling welcome kits for new clients and helping with mounds of data entry.



Village Mobile for choosing WNC as their charitable organization to partner with for their Customer Appreciation Days this fall. (pictured left)

Madison Country Day 3rd grader students, and teacher Carol VanDeelen, created birthday bags and then stocked them with cake mix, frosting, toothbrush and toothpaste for client birthdays.

To the **Rivest & Anhalt Families** for assembling marker & crayon kits for mid-year school supplies.

To our volunteers, too numerous to mention, who answered our call for help to fill our shifts for the Rotary Lights display. You spent precious holiday hours with their families setting up lights, handing out brochures, information and candy, and then helped tear down the display in the bitter outside air. Thank you, your contribution helped WNC receive a donation from Rotary for our help, as well as helping get the word out on the WNC Christmas meals. **Angela, Ava, & Andrew Docherty and Cheryl Booth** pictured right.



To the businesses & organizations that provided financial support for continued WNC operations.

DID YOU KNOW?



This summer, we started an amazing partnership with the **Waunakee Police Department** who offered to be a WNC donation drop-off location.

When you have items to donate, and cannot drop them off at the WNC store during our day, evening or weekend hours during the month, **you can drop off your donations at the Waunakee Police Station, from 7am-5pm Monday - Friday**. The police station is located at , 205 Klien Dr. (near the Post Office).



Colleen's Contemplations

Why is it so hard to give a crap in January?

If I had any guts at all I'd leave that as my complete article, but alas, I know it will fester in my brain until I get the whole idea thought through. There's something about January that has me crawling under the covers. I'm tired, but not more tired than other months. It's cold outside, but that is true of far too many months. Is it a New Year thing? Do I look back on the past year and think of all the things I've left undone? Do I look at the rapidly filling calendar and wonder how I'll get it all done this year?

Given my history of excessive introspection, I'm guessing that I'm just sad. December was a lot of fun. I saw all my nieces and nephews and both my sisters at the same time. It was so happy and exciting. I spent time with all the little ones who are doing so many wonderful new things. They are all growing up so fast. I don't get to spend nearly enough time with them all.

Christmas, was really very good. So many families had their lives blessed by people in the community. There are still tears flowing around the store when they talk about things strangers bought for them. I had two little angels spinning around in their pretty new winter coats with matching boots, but it was the smiles that captured me. There are a lot of kids here who received wonderful gifts from strangers. I wonder what they think about that. Do they know how much they are loved? What about the adults? That's where most of the tears came from. They are so used to looking after themselves and going without so their kids can have more. One family was most excited about the big package of toilet paper they received, all wrapped up under the tree. So much thankfulness. Seems like an odd thing to feel burnt out on. In January I'm emotionally spent. I've cried so many happy tears with people and given and gotten so much love, that I'm exhausted. Or am I?

Maybe I have the January blahs because now it all goes back to normal. I'll see fewer family members, I'll get fewer volunteers, and the happy stories of giving will be greatly reduced. Sort of cynical, I know. But if I want that to change, I need to crawl out from under the covers. ("Be the change you want to see in the world."-Ghandi) Maybe we can keep the Merry Christmas going for a while, will you help me?

Colleen Woerner, WNC Vice President & Store Manager

Volunteerology by Featured Volunteer Rita Endres

Three and a half years ago I retired from a job at CUNA Mutual which spanned 40 years. I was somewhat hesitant not knowing for sure what I was going to do with my life. Little did I know that Genna Eaton, who had once been my neighbor, would come back into my life.

I've always been an active person, filling my life with volunteer opportunities from various means at work, community and church. I've always considered myself very fortunate in what I have been blessed with and liked the idea of giving back and being involved in any way I could provide a helping hand.

I knew, once retired, I would become active in my new role as grandmother...helping out with my 5 grandchildren (soon to be 7 with 2 more on the way). In addition to my little ones, my elderly parents (Dad - 92 and Mom - 86) were at a time in their life where day time help was needed. After awhile I started to understand what the Sandwich Generation meant, but loved every moment.

After about 6 months, I was introduced to the outreach work done by the Waunakee Neighborhood Connection in helping a gentleman getting his feet on the ground after some bad luck. I started volunteering at the store and immediately found it very satisfying and became a regular volunteer. The atmosphere is one of everyone working hard with a smile on their face trying to make a difference in someone's life.

Initially I found myself spending time at the store sorting and hanging up donations that came into the store. I've since found I love helping clients find whatever it is they're looking for or maybe providing something they really didn't come in for, but knew they could use. The thankful look on their faces has and always will be very "special" to me.

We have so much and some people have so little. Thanksgiving was just celebrated and I know how thankful I am for all my blessings. It gives me much joy to brighten some ones day by some little thing that needs to be done. Last month we celebrated Christmas and the birth of our Maker. We all need to remember how He treated his fellow man with compassion and love. With His lead we can, little by little, make this world a better place.

Happy New Year!!

WNC Volunteer, **Rita Endres**



WNC NEEDS SOME YARN

WNC has been the lucky recipient of many wonderful hand-made items from United Way's partner organization RSVP Dane County, an organization dedicated to working with volunteers 55 years or older. Although we have received numerous items already, we would like to continue to partner with this organization so we are able to get enough to give to all our clients. To do this we would like help the organization by collecting donated skeins (or partial skeins) of yarn. Please consider donating new or used yarn for this project. Thank you for your help.

Store Address: 1001 Arboretum Dr., Suite 120 Waunakee, WI - **Phone:** (608) 849-5740 - **Email:** info@WaunakeeNC.com

Mailing Address: 215 S. Century Ave., #316, Waunakee, WI 53597 - www.WaunakeeNeighborhoodConnection.com

NEEDS LIST

If you have any of these items, please drop them off at our store **when we are open**, or **at the Police Station**, Mon-Fri from 7am—5pm. All donations are tax-deductible.

We are in the process of verifying our clients' needs after Christmas. Thus, this month's needs list is "generic" listing items we use all the time.

Appliances

Humidifiers
Refrigerators
Washers & Dryers
Vacuums

Clothing

Footwear (esp. adult & teen)
Jeans (esp. men's & youth)

Pajamas (all sizes)
Socks (esp. adult & teen)
Underwear (all sizes)
Winter Clothing (all sizes)

Electronics

DVD Players
Phones
TVs

Furniture

Beds - All Sizes
Couches
Desks
Dining Sets

Dressers (all sizes)
Sofa/End Tables

Kitchenware

Dishes
Glassware
Pots & Pans Sets
Tupperware

Linens

Bath Towels
Bedding (all sizes)
Kitchen Towels
Pillows (Bed)

Small Appliances

Blenders
Fans
Mixer/Stand Mixer

Misc. Items

Computers
Lamps
Snow blower
Vehicles
Toiletries
Deodorant
Shampoo/Conditioner
Toilet Paper

January 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
New Year Reminder: Volunteer Days (Blue) are for volunteering or donation drop-offs ONLY. (No client shopping). Client Days (Yellow) are for client shopping ONLY (No donations please).					1 HAPPY NEW YEAR	2
3	4 Volunteer 8-Noon CLIENT Shopping 5-7pm	5	6	7	8 Volunteer & Donations 8-Noon	9 Volunteer & Donations 9-Noon
10	11 Volunteer & Donations 8-Noon 5-7pm	12	13	14	15 Volunteer & Donations 8-Noon	16
17	18 CLOSED No School	19	20 CLIENT Shopping 10am-1pm JFF & Translator	21	22 Volunteer & Donations 8-Noon	23
24/31	25 CLOSED No School	26	27 Scoobie Night at Culver's 4:30-8:30p	28	29 Volunteer & Donations 8-Noon	30