



Waunakee Neighborhood Connection

NOVEMBER 2009

THE CONNECTION

A Publication of the Waunakee Neighborhood Connection

IMPORTANT DATES

Saturday Volunteer/Donations

Saturday, November 7th
9:00 - Noon

Culver's Night of Scoopies

Wednesday, November 11th
4:30 - 8:30pm

Night Volunteer/Donations

Monday, November 16th
5:00pm - 7:00pm

Cocoa Mocha Monday

First National Bank
1330 Montondon Ave.
Monday, November 23rd
7:15 - 9:15am

Have You Seen the Store?

The store received a make-over in early November by store volunteers (thanks)! It's been redesigned (thanks Colleen), and even has some paint on the walls (thanks Angela). Come take a look!

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS MONTH...

- Adopt-a-Family.....Page 2
- Diaper Drive Thanks.....Page 3
- Help with Rotary Lights.....Page 3
- Lots of Partners & Thanks.....Page 4
- Featured Volunteer.....Page 5
- Colleen's Contemplations.....Page 6
- Needs List & Nov Calendar.....Page 7

2ND ANNUAL

Cocoa Mocha Monday



Please join Ms. Armstrong's 4th grade class from Arboretum Elementary, MNM Coffee House and First National Bank in a service project for Waunakee Neighborhood Connection. **From 7:15-9:15am on Monday, November 23rd**, drive thru First National Bank (located at 1330 Montondon Ave—on the corner of Arboretum Dr. and Hwy 113) and pickup a cup of hot cocoa, mocha or coffee to go!

The first 100 customers will receive a refillable mug. All proceeds will go to Waunakee Neighborhood Connection, **so plan to stop by the bank on Monday, November 23rd, and drink up!**



Culver's Scoopie Night for WNC

Culver's in Waunakee, is once again partnering with WNC and **donating 10% of their sales on Wednesday, November 11th, 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. **Our goal for this event is to raise enough money to purchase 1-2 new beds & bedding for our clients.** Please stop by Culver's on Wednesday, November 11th for a meal or a treat, and help support the WNC Build-a-Bed program. **You won't want to miss "Scoopie" Culver's special guest! See you there!**



WNC'S ANNUAL FREE SHARE CHRISTMAS DINNER

Our Christmas Meal distribution day is just around the corner. Please save Saturday, December 19th, from Noon-1:30pm to come help with meal packing and delivery at the Village Center. Also, please see page 8 for our meal donation flyer. Please consider donating meals for families & seniors in need this year.

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

Adopt A WNC Family This Holiday

Many of you have supported our free Christmas Meal (see pg 1), but you may not be aware of another important way you can make a difference to our clients during the holidays, our **Adopt-a-Family program**. Get your business, church, organization, classroom, family or friends together and support a family's needs this Christmas. We provide you specific needs from a family, you do the shopping & wrapping, and return the gifts to us **by Dec. 14th** to distribute. Last year 14 families were adopted. This year we would like to exceed that number as our families and their needs have increased. **To participate, contact us by Nov. 20th**, at (608) 849-5740 or info@waunakeenc.com. Read below to find what a difference you can make.

Miranda Moe and I were new to Waunakee when we first decided to Adopt a Family with our kindergarten and second grade classes. Each of us had done a similar service-learning project at our previous positions in different districts. It was a way to teach sharing and caring, to give meaning to the spirit of the season. As well as a way to give back to the community we worked in. We were not disappointed with the results.

The response from our class families was overwhelming. Each student bought specific gifts for two families. They also purchased household necessities like laundry soap and other cleaning supplies. Each child brought in a dollar, many of them a dollar not from a parent but their very own, so the families could have a special holiday meal. The most powerful part of the experience takes place on the final day when 40 kids work together to wrap all the gifts, with lots of tape and bows! We use a lot of paper but the kids work together and it all gets wrapped. Then the gifts are piled high in the center of the room. We all gather around in a circle to admire our handy work and to reflect on the real gift that we were giving these families, the magic of a Christmas morning with gifts bought with love, just for them by people who don't know them but do care about them. This lesson is one Miranda and I know is so precious and we hope unforgettable to our students. We know it is unforgettable to us.

Peggy Jacobson, Arboretum Teacher

Our company's experience with the Adopt A Family program offered through the Waunakee Neighborhood Connection brought a whole new perspective to the holidays for our entire staff. We were paired with a woman who was a shut-in because of health concerns. Genna provided us with her wish-list which included basic need items like sheets, robe, winter coat, etc.. We were able to find most of her requests in our budget and also included some seasonal extras & treats to make her holidays happier. We decided to personally deliver the gifts to her and spent a lovely couple of hours visiting with and learning more about her life, family and interests. She was so thrilled and excited that she said it would be the best Christmas that she'd had in a long time. We left feeling very good about our efforts and planned on meeting with her again in the future. Unfortunately, she passed away about a month after our visit. We are very happy that we were able to make her last Christmas more joyful! **Chery Theis, Anchor Bank**

We adopted a family for Christmas last year and we also ended up on the receiving end. Our 3 kids were involved in every part of the process including the shopping and wrapping. It was a real eye opener for our kids that a family was actually asking for boots and winter coats instead of X-Boxes and snow boards. Thanks for setting it all up for us and letting us give back in this simple way. - **Family who adopted a client**

"I recently read, that although children love getting gifts for Christmas, what truly makes the season special for them is the sense of goodwill the engulfs them. How true this is! This goodwill happens in all corners of the world, but none more spectacular than when it is happening underneath your own Christmas tree. Christmas 2008, our family adopted a WNC Angel Family. What a moving experience that turned out to be. Of all the gifts that our family bought and were given in 2008, none were more special to us than those that we bought for our Angel Family, for each time we looked at them we thought about how much they were needed and how much they would be loved. A year later, I know its true that no one in our family could identify even one gift that we bought for another family member this past season, but we remember EVERYTHING that we bought for our Angel Family. Why? Those gifts swelled our hearts with pride and with love. Those gifts were goodwill in action. Those gifts made OUR Christmas. Christmas 2009, here we come..." - **Family who adopted a client**

THANKS DIAPER DRIVE PARTNERS

As promised last month, we have our diaper drive thanks - Part 2 this month. Thanks to all of our donors and partners, as **we collected 371 packages of diapers, and 273 containers of laundry soap.** Thank you all for your help!



Nicole, Xan & Zoe Mihalas along with Wendy & Myles Harrison spent a Saturday morning collecting diapers and laundry soap at Piggly Wiggly.



Intermediate students collected a bin full at their school

Arboretum Elementary Students Collected two display cases full at their school.



Collection bin at Ace Hardware, a diaper drive collection partner for many years.



HELP NEEDED FOR ROTARY LIGHTS



This year, WNC is partnering with Rotary in support of their annual "Rotary Lights", their holiday light display in Village park that runs from November 29th thru January 1st. For our

volunteering, WNC will receive money from Rotary, and has been a frequent recipient of funds from Rotary in years past. We are in need of volunteers to help with setup the display, man the main entrance & help with donation collection and tear down of the display once done. **Please sign-up via our WNC Rotary Lights Volunteer form on our website, or call us at (608) 849-5740 to let us know which of the following shifts you would be able to volunteer to help.**

- **Setup - Saturday, November 21st**
Need 5 people each shift
Shifts are: 8:00-11:00a; 11:00a-2:00p
- **Setup - Saturday., November 28th**
Need 5 people each shift
Shifts are: 8:00-11:00a; 11:00a-2:00p
- **Main Entrance - 7 Separate Nights**
Dates TBD yet, will post on website soon
Need 2 people per shift each night
Shifts are: 4:30-7:00p, 7:00-9:00p
- **Tear Down - Saturday, January 2nd**
Need 5 people each shift
Shifts are: 8:00-11:00a; 11:00a-2:00p

Let us remember that, as much has been given us, much will be expected from us, and that true homage comes from the heart as well as from the lips, and shows itself in deeds. ~Theodore Roosevelt





Makes "Clean Scents"
Walk For Your Health &
Your Community

We had a great time on the "Clean Scents" walk during **Fitness For Success's** grand opening of their new facility. We collected 11 containers of laundry soap, 15 packages of diapers, and one very nice breastfeeding bag for our clients. What a great time and a healthy walk! Thank you to Fitness for Success for partnering with us, and for all you participated. We truly appreciate it!

St. John Students Collect Coats

The 2nd & 6th grade classes of St. John's School collected winter coat for WNC in October. St. John's teacher, Mary Krysinski had Nicole Mihalas, a WNC volunteer and Board Member, visit their classroom to talk about WNC and how their collection makes a big difference to our clients, especially this time of year! Thanks students!



Halloween Costume Drive

Intermediate students donated 52 Halloween Costumes for children of WNC clients this year. This has become an annual partnership between WNC and the Intermediate School, and this year was again coordinated by **6th grade teacher, Staci Starin**. Thanks students, what a great way to help other children this time of year.



Support WNC with Printer Cartridges



WNC is now a collection site for empty or used printer cartridges. WNC takes the cartridges to a recycling company, and gets money back for each cartridge. Money received from this

program will be used to purchase filled recycled cartridges for us to print our client newsletter, and program reminders for our clients. So help save the planet through recycling and support WNC at the same time! **Cartridges can be dropped off at the WNC Store during store hours (see calendar on pg 7) or can be dropped off with other donations at the Waunakee Police Department (Monday-Friday, 7a-5p).**

New

Our monthly newsletter will now include a regular article featuring one of our volunteers. Our hope is to share the stories of our volunteers, help you get to know them like we do, and to possibly share some ideas to inspire you to join our family of regular volunteers. This month we share the story of a volunteer turned Board Member, **Angela Docherty**, who some of you may remember as the coordinator of the Mother's Day Gift program earlier this year. Enjoy reading more!

VOLUNTEERology

It's hard to find a way to be thankful for your challenges in life, but those challenges usually become your blessings to grow.

Living with Multiple Sclerosis (MS) since 2002, has helped me appreciate the struggles and challenges that are put on families, everyday activities, and us. By recognizing our weaknesses, rediscovering our inner strengths and believing in ourselves, can help us overcome any obstacles in our lives, whether temporary or permanent.

Waukegan Neighborhood Connection allows me to connect with others who are challenged with everyday life –financially, physically, mentally. Our community's dynamic volunteers, who are sincerely gracious through their dedication, helping hands and talents, truly help make the difference.

Most of all, I'm inspired by the determination, dedication and perseverance of our clients. I know how thankful they are because many volunteer and give back to the very organization that has helped them. I'm proud to be a part of such a great Circle of Volunteerism. This is what it's all about!

I'm continuing to find more and more dynamic ways to help at WNC. Just by being a listening ear, I was able to supply a client with business cards and distributed flyers to help promote her struggling cleaning business. I'm always delighted and honored to use my marketing skills and supply resources that can help people move forward.

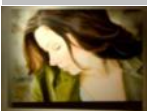
Just by applying a new coat of paint, I helped turn a stark white room into a warm, inviting space – a simple project with great impact. The WNC Store has a fresh new look with just two cans of paint from Ace Hardware.

I invite you to come and check out WNC Store's freshly painted and reorganized space! Our clients and volunteers can smile and feel good when shopping and helping.

Thank you for letting me give back!

Wishes,
Angela Docherty
WNC Volunteer & Board Member





Colleen's Contemplations

Thankfulness...

Ah November, a time for thankfulness. So far, I must say I am thankful that my family has not contracted any flus of any variety. The weather has not been terrible, it seems to be slowly cooling us down, so we get used to it. And my store has a fresh new look. This year I've been blessed and am truly thankful for my volunteers.

Every time the store is open someone comes in to help. It's always the right person too. Not that there is a wrong kind of person, I just mean that the person who is needed here most that day comes in. It could be someone who just happens to have big storage tubs at home, and realizes they would work perfectly to hold gloves and mittens here. It could be a person who loves books, and really enjoys thinning and sorting our new and improved reading corner. As soon as anything heavy arrives that we need to deal with, one of my strong volunteers stops in. When we were rearranging, a friend stopped in to pick up his wife and ended up straightening and aligning the drawers and counters I was struggling with. Every time I sit here studying the shelves, wondering how best to arrange our small space, someone walks in to inspire me. Is it arrogance or faith that has me expecting the solution to all my problems to walk through the door? Just today I had someone sheepishly ask if they could put a washer and dryer on the needs list. I said of course, because you never know. But actually I do know. Because as is quite common here, a half hour later a man with a dryer in the back of his truck stopped to ask if he could give it to someone.

It's not just the material needs that I trust Him for. Everyone who walks into my store; volunteer, client, or donor; have something they need, whether they know it or not. I've seen a young mom who I knew was wishing her mom lived closer, be helped and loved by two grandmotherly volunteers. I've seen donors struggle to part with something that they felt they should appreciate more than they do, then watch as someone gets big eyed and excited to take that treasure home. I've seen volunteers of all ages get their baby fix by helping someone out with their little ones. I've had clients volunteer during their own hard times and get a lot of pleasure helping others and giving back. When I have a client who seems sad or prone to depression I encourage them to come volunteer, because it's a happy place. I don't just watch it happen to others either. I had a day that I came in still frustrated from the previous night's battle over homework; the volunteer who arrived to help me over that was a teacher who knew my child and had advice for me. I'm sure I'm not the only one who has benefitted from working alongside just the right person at just the right time.

So during this month of thankfulness, look around you where ever you are and ask yourself why you might be there. I believe that the help we pray for is right there, or about to walk in the door and you might be it for someone else.

Colleen Woerner, WNC Vice President & Store Manager

FROM ALL OF US AT WNC TO ALL OF YOU, OUR BLESSED SUPPORTERS, WE GIVE THANKS FOR YOU EVERY DAY. HAPPY THANKSGIVING!



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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.

Appliances

Dehumidifier
Refrigerator
Washer (3) & Dryer (2)
Vacuum (4)

Clothing

Men's Footwear 10 1/2 & 11 (8)
Men's Hooded Sweatshirts (4)
Men's Jeans 34x34 or 32x32
WM's Medium "Scrub" Tops
Boy's Footwear Sizes 7 1/2 - 9
Boy's Pants Size 10 or 18
Boy's Underwear Size 10-12
Girls' Pajamas Size 16-18
Girls' Training Bras

Winter Clothing (all sizes)

Electronics

DVD Player
Stereo
TV

Furniture

Beds - All Sizes (27)
Full Sized Futon Mattress
Bookcases (3)
Chairs/Recliner (2)
Couch (5)
Desk (5)
Desk Chair (2)
Dining Set (3)
Dresser (11) (all sizes)
Sofa/End Tables (4)

Infant Supplies

High Chair (booster)
Potty Chair

Kitchenware

Fry Pan (2)
Pots & Pans Set (5)
Tupperware Set

Linens

Bathroom Set (Pink)
Bath Towels (4)

Blankets - King (2)

Comforter - Queen (2)

Mattress Pad - Queen

Pillows (Bed) (3)

Sheets - All Sizes (13)

Small Appliances

Blender
Fans (2)
Mixer/Stand Mixer (2)

Sports Equipment

Small Hand Weights

Misc. Items

Computers (3)
Lamps (2 floor; 3 other)
Rugs
Shelving
Snow blower
Vehicles (6)
Window Shrink Film 5.5x3ft

November 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Volunteer 8-Noon CLIENT Shopping 5-7pm	3	4	5	6 Volunteer & Donations 8-Noon	7 Volunteer & Donations 9a-Noon
8	9 Volunteer & Donations 8-Noon	10	11 Culver's Scoopies for WNC 4:30-8:30p	12	13 Volunteer & Donations 8-Noon	14
15	16 Volunteer & Donations 8-Noon 5-7pm	17	18 CLIENT Shopping 10am-1pm	19	20 Volunteer & Donations 8-Noon	21
22	23 Cocoa Mocha Monday 7:15-9:15a Volunteer/ Donations 8-Noon	24	25	26 Thanks -giving	27 CLOSED	28
29	30 CLIENT Shopping 8-Noon					



Give a Christmas Dinner to a Waunakee Family in Need!

Waunakee Neighborhood Connection (WNC) is partnering with our local SHARE organization, the Waunakee Village & Senior Center, and the Waunakee School District to provide a free Christmas dinner to families and seniors in the greater Waunakee area who are in need of help this holiday season. With each donation of \$25.00, you can provide a family with the fixings for a wonderful Christmas meal which includes:

- 6 lb. Boneless Honey Ham ♦ Canned Pineapple ♦ Fruit Gelatin Ring
- Fresh Fruits & Vegetables including potatoes, apples, carrots, broccoli, oranges
- Seasonal Fresh Fruits & Vegetables ♦ Chocolate Cake with Dark Sweet Cherries



Deadline for Donating is December 24th



You can donate a Christmas dinner online or via check. To make an online donation via a major credit card, bank account or PayPal account, visit our website (listed below). Click "Donate" at the top of our home page to be directed to the online donation information. To donate via check detach and fill out the form below, enclose your check for _____ (\$25.00 per meal) made payable to Waunakee Neighborhood Connection, and send both to the address listed below. For more information about WNC, or the Christmas Dinner program, please call us at (608) 849-5740, email us at info@WaunakeeNC.com or visit our website at:

WWW.WAUNAKEE NEIGHBORHOOD CONNECTION.COM

Yes, I would love to donate _____ Christmas dinner(s) and help out my Waunakee area neighbors. I have enclosed my check for _____ (\$25.00 per meal) payable to: Waunakee Neighborhood Connection.

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Please add my email address to your mailing list to receive your monthly newsletter.

Mail to: Waunakee Neighborhood Connection,
215 S. Century Avenue, #316 Waunakee, Wisconsin 53597

