



# The Neighbors' Place

"People helping people"

Newsletter for everyone in our neighborhood

Spring 2009



## A MESSAGE FROM TOM RAU, TNP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

At a recent meeting I attended, the discussion turned to the power of what we identified as "collective involvement". It is an interesting term – one that came back to me today as I sat down to write this column.

Through the first four months of 2009 our Food Pantry has seen a dramatic increase in use; looking back illustrates the point:

Families served (Individuals) at TNP Food Pantry

	2008	2009
<b>January</b>	1,124 families (3,100 people)	1,279 families (4,013 people)
<b>February</b>	884 families (2,394 people)	999 families (2,914 people)
<b>March</b>	877 families (2,499 people)	1,197 families (3,471 people)
<b>April</b>	1,086 families (3,042 people)	1,165 families (3,374 people)

During this 4-month period, we saw roughly a 17% increase - 3,971 families in 2008 compared to 4,640 families in 2009. It is a big job no matter how you look at it - but do you want to know the truly amazing thing? In spite of the need, in spite of the economy, right now The Neighbors' Place Food Pantry is able to give each family more food than we were able to last year. This is not to say that we are able to give each family *enough* to last the three weeks they must wait before coming back, but we are doing better than we were a year ago.

How is this possible? Not through some magical Neighbors' Place formula. It is through the power of collective involvement, *your* collective involvement. Thank you.



## INNOVIA NT GOLF TOURNAMENT OPEN TO ALL

*Please join us for all the fun!*

The Neighbors' Place and Innoviant are once again working together to present The Neighbors' Place 7th Annual Golf Benefit on **Monday, August 17, 2009** at the Wausau Country Club. The event begins at 10am, with a shotgun start at 11:30am for 18 holes of golf. Lunch is provided, and the event concludes with happy hour and an awards presentation.

Everyone is invited to participate! It's a great opportunity to golf on one of the area's finest courses, and enjoy the camaraderie of wonderful people in our community. All proceeds directly benefit The Neighbors' Place – last year, this special event raised \$30,000 for our programs with outstanding sponsorship support and golfer participation. For additional details or to register, please visit [tnpgolfbenefit.com](http://tnpgolfbenefit.com) or email [INN-Golf@innoviant.com](mailto:INN-Golf@innoviant.com).

With the continued strong support from area businesses and golfers, this year's event is sure to be another success.



## SPECIAL CHALLENGES BRING OUT THE BEST IN OUR NEIGHBORS

*This spring, during a season when the shelves are often empty, TNP Food Pantry was well-stocked thanks to strong support for three special drives.*

In April, we participated in a challenge through a national foundation, resulting in a huge influx of donations. The Feinstein Foundation, based in Cranston, Rhode Island, offered to divide \$1 million among anti-hunger programs across the country in an effort to inspire support from local contributors. Locally, we received more than \$22,000 in cash, and more than 18,500 food items.

Area Boy Scouts and their leaders held a collection on April 25, gathering donations for local Pantries. Through their efforts, TNP received over 8,800 items for our Pantry.

On May 9, the *Stamp Out Hunger* annual national letter carrier food drive stocked TNP shelves with more than 30,000 pounds of food collected by Wausau area postal workers.

It is good to see those who have enough sharing with the increasing number of families who are facing especially difficult times.



## ON FACEBOOK? *Become a Fan of TNP!*

*You can keep an eye on all the great things happening in the neighborhood!*



## HUNGER CONTINUES...EVEN IN THE SUMMER

*As summer activities begin to consume our time, we urge you not to forget our neighbors who continue to need assistance with putting meals on the table throughout the year.*

As gardens begin to yield bountiful harvests, please consider giving a portion to The Neighbors' Place for distribution through the Food Pantry – every bit helps. In addition, keep in mind we are unable to distribute foods that are past their expiration date – so as you cull through your cupboards, please check those dates before passing items along to the food pantry. Expired items actually *cost* The Neighbors' Place, as we must pay for the dumpster space for their disposal.

Donations to the Food Pantry can be made during business hours, 9-5 Monday – Friday and on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of every month, 9 a.m. - Noon.

Individuals who need Food Pantry assistance can visit The Neighbors' Place during the following hours:

- 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday
- 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Wednesday

Families are eligible to visit the Food Pantry once every three weeks.



## FILL AN EMPTY BOWL WITH A FULL HEART

*Wausau Area Empty Bowls, a project to fight hunger in Wausau and greater Marathon County, will benefit The Neighbors' Place Food Pantry again this year.*

This important event, which uses hand-made and uniquely-decorated bowls by area artists to raise awareness of hunger, will take place **Saturday, October 24** 11am-2pm at The Rose Garden.

With a \$10 donation, each guest will select a bowl and enjoy a meal of delicious soup. The bowl is kept as a reminder that hunger is everywhere. In addition to the soup line, there will be a silent auction featuring celebrity-signed bowls, special pieces of art and more. For more information, please contact Karla Westcott at 842-0309 or The Neighbors' Place at 845-1966.



## ICE TEE CLASSIC BRINGS FUN TO THE 400 BLOCK

*The 2010 Ice Tee Classic will be held on Saturday, February 20 on the 400 Block in downtown Wausau – mark your calendar, gather your family and friends and plan to participate! Who couldn't use some fresh air and laughs?*

Our 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Ice Tee Classic was held on Saturday, February 21, 2009. For the second time, the event was held on the 400 Block in downtown Wausau, making the event accessible to more families in the area. Sponsoring businesses and organizations created a fun-filled miniature golf course in the snow and ice. Golfers swatted tennis balls through a 7-hole course where themed holes included Harry Potter and Dora the Explorer among others.

Money raised from the event benefited The Neighbors' Place and its programs in the community. Attendance for the event exceeded 150 golfers, including many family golfing teams.



## THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS

You've heard the saying, "It takes a village" – it is so true. The Neighbors' Place is for everyone in our community, and is only made possible with the support of our many volunteers and donors. Without your support, we would not be able to provide the services we do – Adult Education, Youth Programs, Community Outreach, Community Garden, Food Pantry, Latino Outreach, Provider Storyteller Network and Support through our Donation Program (Household items and Clothing). Please know you are appreciated each and every day, for everything you do to help our neighbors in need. Not sure how you can best support these important services? Please contact Tom Rau, Executive Director, at 715-845-1966.

 <p><b>The Neighbors' Place</b> "People helping people"</p> <p>745 Scott Street Wausau, WI 54403 715-845-1966 <a href="http://www.neighborsplace.org">www.neighborsplace.org</a></p>  <p><b>United Way</b> A Member Agency of the United Way</p>	<p><b>The Neighbors' Place Staff:</b></p> <p><i>Executive Director:</i> Tom Rau  <i>Director Multicultural Outreach/ Adult Education:</i> Jennifer Lund  <i>Director Community Outreach/ Youth Programs:</i> Naomi Peters  <i>Adult Education/ Provider Storyteller Network:</i> Marcy Rau  <i>Provider Storyteller Network:</i> Maichao Lor  <i>Latino Outreach:</i> Carolina Rodriguez-Ornelas  <i>Garden Coordinator:</i> Gene Jacobson  <i>Donations:</i> Kurt Scheidemann  <i>Senior Aides:</i> John Baltus, Terry Olson, Anna Tanck, Lou Ann Wood, Va Thao Xiong</p>	<p><b>Board of Directors:</b></p> <p>Jim Force, Co-President  Linda Lawrence, Co-President  Walter John Chilsen, Vice President  Sean Valiska, Treasurer  Rhonda Grabow, Secretary  Mark Baldwin, Joan Bouldin,  Missy Campbell, Calvin Dexter,  Jane Dolan, Ann Herda-Rapp,  Carol Lamansky, Tom Neal,  Bethany O'Day, Kathryn Rubino,  Liz Sheahan, Dr. Gary Zimbric</p>
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