



Work in Progress Newsletter

November, 2004

Dear Friends:

“How do you make all this happen that we call Neighborhood Ministries?”, we often ask God.

One of the answers that God has given to us: almost 1,000 individual volunteers contribute to make Neighborhood Ministries possible over the course of a year. This is a huge contribution of time and treasure that touches many children, their families, and each other.

Thank you to all our volunteers! In general, our volunteers come from two main groups:

- From the beginning over 23 years ago, friends and families from supporting church communities contributed their time and resources sacrificially to assist us. This group includes work groups from churches across the country to faithful volunteers from churches all over Phoenix coming weekly to lead a small group Bible study. Hearing God’s call to “spend yourselves on behalf of the hungry...” (Is 58: 10), these volunteers have been the hands and feet of Jesus.

Upcoming Dates to Save:

- ♦ **November 14: The Church at The Neighborhood Center 12 noon luncheon – NM Strategic Plan report**
- ♦ **November 27: Decorate The Neighborhood Center for Christmas – 9AM until done**
- ♦ **December 4: Christmas Parents’ Store 9AM – 4PM**
- ♦ **December 11: Christmas Party at The Neighborhood Center 4PM – 10PM**
- ♦ **March 21, 2005: The NM Golf Tournament: The Classic at FireRock**

For information on these or any other events, call the office or visit us at www.nmaz.net

And what is the result?

- Their effort raised up a whole new community of volunteers: The children and parents that they were serving! That’s one of the miracles God has shown us: Teenagers and young adults who have grown up in various Neighborhood Ministry programs and their parents and families are now serving as well. Some of them are being served in one program (Mom’s Place, for instance) and serving in another (Jr. High Kid’s Life, for example). Some of the mothers from the community who now serve were initially invited to help out in Kid’s Life by their children and decided to give their lives to Jesus. So the children, acting as volunteers, have even led their parents!

The testimony from all of our volunteers is that they experienced Jesus in serving others:

- Illa A. had this to say on mentoring a teenage mother: “I was a content housewife here in Phoenix. Content with my family, my church, and my life. When I decided to come down here to Neighborhood Ministries and mentor a teenage mother, I had no idea of the change that it would bring...in me. Jesus met me as I learned to love this young woman and teach her a little about what I knew about being a mother.



I can't go back to being contented with my old life-style. I have to say, every time I leave N.M., it's getting more difficult to drive back to my gated community in Paradise Valley. What am I gating myself in from? I am learning that I need their community as much as they may need mine. I may be a support system for these friends, but they have expanded my vision to better understand that we are all part of God's Kingdom and He loves the poor! So do I! If the work of Kit Danley through Neighborhood Ministries is changing the lives of their neighborhood, it is certainly changing the lives of the mine also!"

- Irene T., who came through Jr. High Kid's Life herself, on now volunteering with Jr. High girls: "I understand them and can see what route they are going. I try and stop them by telling them what happened to me when I went that route. I can tell the ones that don't listen because when I was small (that age), I used to just say, "whatever" and turn my head away just like they do now. I couldn't let my friends know I was listening. But, I think I was listening in my heart because I would hear in my head what my leader had said to me even while I was making bad decisions.

And some do listen. It makes me feel good that I get to talk to them. I see the look in some of their eyes that I used to have and I say to myself, "she's thinking, she's listening". You have to know how to tell them. God is the only one that can use me that way to say it right to them. God is using me and it feels so good! When people use you, it doesn't feel good. I hope he uses me some more to help these girls. They tell me things they wouldn't tell anyone else, even their sisters or mother.

I get respect from them. I can get their attention when others can't. It makes me feel good and it reminds me that I have a responsibility. I thank God that he's made me ready for this responsibility."



Thank you to all our volunteers – you make Jesus real to all of us in our city.

With love,


Kit Danley
President


Richard Speck
Executive Director