



Neighborhood Ministries, Inc.
June 1, 2005

***“For 20 years...
Neighborhood
Ministries (has)
been working the
meanest streets
of this city, up to
their elbows in
what (they call)
‘the Phoenix
most people
don’t know.’ It’s
a Phoenix where
children grimly
anticipate their
own violent
deaths, where
poverty and
pathology are
pandemic, where
hopelessness
falls like dust on
barely paved
streets.***

***Truth be told, it’s
a Phoenix most
of us don’t want
to know.”***

*-Jon Talton, The
Arizona Republic,
5/2/01*



Contact Information:
Kit Danley, President
Richard Speck, Executive Director
1918 W. Van Buren St.
Phoenix, AZ 85009

602-252-5225
www.neighborhoodministries.org

History and Mission:

Our mission: *To be the presence of Jesus Christ, sharing his life-transforming hope, love, and power among distressed families of urban Phoenix, to ignite their passion for God and his kingdom.*

For 23 years, Neighborhood Ministries has been serving Phoenix's poorest, most vulnerable residents, caring for their physical, emotional, mental and spiritual needs. Hundreds of at-risk children and their families turn to Neighborhood Ministries for food, clothing, crisis assistance, academic tutoring, leadership training and parenting classes. For those trapped in the cycle of poverty, our goal is to see their lives transformed and empowered to make a difference in their families and community.

Neighborhood Ministries was named the non-profit organization of the year in February 2003 by the Arizona Alliance for Community and Faith-based Action and recently was featured in *Churches, Charity and Children*, a University of Pennsylvania study of faith-based organizations that have succeeded in reaching America's at-risk kids. Kit Danley, our founder, was awarded the 2002 Phoenix-area George Washington Honor Medal from the Freedom Foundation for promoting responsible citizenship. Ms. Danley and Neighborhood Ministries were featured first in a Christianity Today article entitled, "100 Things the Church is Doing Right" in 1997.

The Neighborhood Center is strategically located in the heart of the urban community at 19 Ave and Van Buren St in Phoenix, AZ. The Center houses a food and clothing bank, classrooms, a ball field and a playground filled with over 700 children and youth each week. The young people join hundreds of volunteers who offer academic help, encouragement and stability in a faith-based, safe and fun-filled environment. Many of those we serve are kids who have turned to drugs, gangs and crime to dull their pain and sense of despair. Our programs aim to assist with their basic needs, thwart the community's pandemic school dropout rate, encourage academic excellence, develop student leaders, and restore hope in young victims of neglect, abuse and poverty.

Besides these programs on our site, hundreds of our volunteers connect with children and families in their apartments, at their workplace, at school, or in small group meetings throughout the week. We value relationships much more than our successful programs. This means that we must initiate contact with those we

Neighborhood Ministries "is a refuge to hundreds of low-income kids from the barrios. Here they get hugs, hear God's Word, and have someone to talk to about their struggles – alcoholic parents, neglect, drug addiction, (and) siblings getting knifed in gang fights."

- Amy Sherman
Christianity Today,
11/97, article entitled,
"100 Things the Church
is Doing Right."

serve away from our center in the places where they live if we are to truly develop trust. Ultimately, we believe that this trust-building is the only way to transformation for our lives as well as those we serve.

Because poverty in Phoenix is transient, we must tenaciously track the children and families we serve throughout the city, pursuing them wherever their frequent and unexpected moves take them. Nothing short of a detective's skill is often required as we move through rundown neighborhoods and dilapidated apartment buildings to find those we serve. This also means that we must transport many of our participants to and from events. Every Monday, for instance, we dispatch our five buses, eight vans and more than a dozen volunteer vehicles to pick up children at more than 80 locations throughout metropolitan Phoenix. When we recently plotted the current addresses of our 400+ Kids Life participants on a map, we discovered that we were covering a 100 square mile area.

Organizational Description:

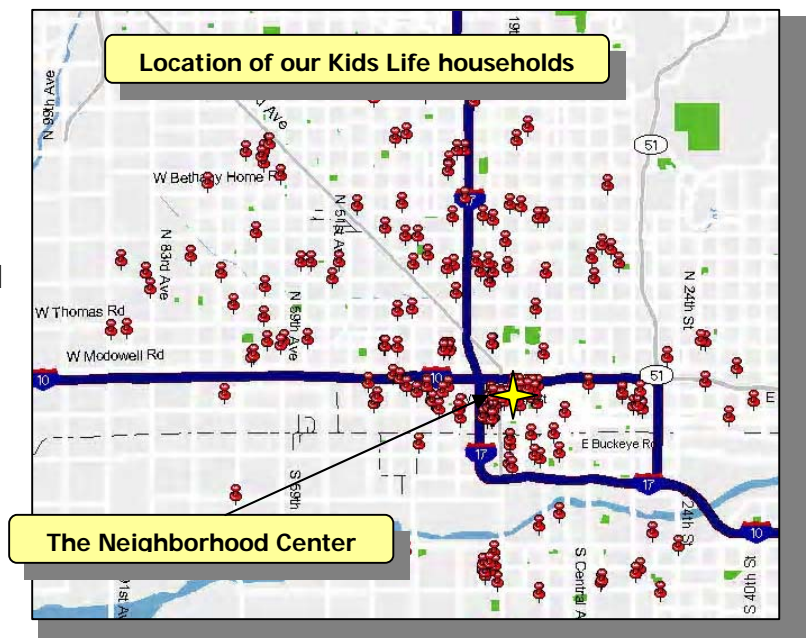
While Neighborhood Ministries, Inc. is faith-based, it is non-sectarian and welcomes all people. We do not require participants to adopt certain religious beliefs or join our organization to participate.

Neighborhood Ministries, Inc., is a non-profit corporation guided by an actively involved 11-member board of directors. Both the staff and board reflect the diversity of the community we serve. Hispanics, African-Americans, and other people of color participate as decision makers at both the staff and board level. The Board Chairman, President and the Executive Director of Neighborhood Ministries choose board members based on the following criteria:

- Their commitment to our mission
- Their knowledge of our ministry
- Their maturity and wisdom
- Their ability to fill a recognized need at the board.

Staff and Volunteers

There are 17 staffers (10 full-time, 2 part-time, and seven interns) and over 1,000 volunteers that operate Neighborhood Ministries. Included in our



volunteer totals are over 100 "Parent Volunteers", who are parents of children in our programs. We also have a growing number of volunteers who are participants in other programs. A number of participants in the High School program, for instance, volunteer in programs for younger students and children.

Executive Staff

Kit Danley, the founder and president of Neighborhood Ministries, Inc., has a BA in Sociology from Northern Arizona University and is pursuing a masters degree from Fuller Theological Seminary. She has been widely recognized for her work in Phoenix over the last 23 years. During that period, she guided the organization from the inception of the Food Bank inside a local church to a separate non-profit organization on an 8-acre parcel at 19th Ave. and Van Buren. The purchase and Phase I of the new site development beginning in 1999 was a \$2.2 million dollar project. Ms. Danley speaks widely to churches and community organizations throughout the nation. In Phoenix, family court judges have been known to solicit her opinion from the audience during family court proceedings and The Arizona Republic has referred to her as "Barrio Mom". In 2002, she was selected for the George Washington Honor Medal from the Freedom Foundation of Valley Forge, PA, for promoting responsible citizenship. In 2004, Phoenix Seminary selected her for their annual "Vision of Faith" award recognizing her for her faith in action in the city.

Richard Speck is the Executive Director of Neighborhood Ministries. He is responsible for all phases of the day to day operation and administrative support for Neighborhood Ministries. For over 13 years, he led and directed administration and physician support for large medical practice groups. During that period, he joined the board of Neighborhood Ministries and served as board chairman in 2001. When NMI moved onto our new site, the board asked Richard to become the Executive Director to strengthen the organizations internal capacity. With a BA in Biblical Studies (Dallas Theological Seminary, '85) and a Masters of Sciences in Public Health (University of Missouri, '87), Richard brings enormous competence and energy to the organization.

Overview of Programs:

The programs of Neighborhood Ministries directly benefit at-risk children and families and aim to meet people's basic needs, encourage academic success, build job skills and parenting skills, develop character in children, and create a supporting community for those who are vulnerable. Many of those we serve come to us as children who are abandoned, neglected, or abused by parents or other adults. In response to what they have experienced, many of them have turned to drugs, gangs, violence and crime to dull their pain and sense of despair.

The Neighborhood Center offers weekly bilingual programs for Elementary, Junior High, and Senior High students. We also offer teen parenting classes, summer camps, tutoring and mentoring programs, crisis assistance, leadership programs, and a myriad of other life-transforming activities. At The Neighborhood Center, people connect with volunteers and staff who offer encouragement and stability in a faith-based, safe and positive environment.

Also on our site are The Neighborhood Clinic and The Church at The Neighborhood Center. The Neighborhood Clinic grew out of our original work before we moved to our current site. They have become a separate non-profit organization with a separate board. They provide minimal-cost medical and dental care for patients who may not have medical insurance. Many are children and families served through NMI programs.

The Church at the Neighborhood Center is a growing group of children, young adults, and families that we have worked with for many years. Starting a worshiping community became obvious to us as we worked with people over a long period of time. Because we had been birthed in a church, we knew that a local church would be necessary for us to continue our work in the community. The Church at the Neighborhood Center provides worship services on Sunday mornings for over 250 people in Spanish and English.

At Neighborhood Ministries (both on and off The Neighborhood Center site), our programs include:

- Food and Clothing Bank: Our efforts to provide basic needs for the vulnerable were the beginnings of our service to the community 23 years ago. Volunteers now include people who have previously benefited from this service. They work with others from all over the city to coordinate the donations and help regulate what is given out each week. While we are not as large as other distribution centers, we are one of the oldest in continuous service and see this as a foundational aspect of all that we do.
- Mom's Place: Expectant teens and young unwed mothers have *Mom's Place* to learn parenting skills, experience community support, and to connect with mature women in mentoring relationships. This program now serves 22 young (ages 14-24) unwed mothers and their 30+ children. These moms are actively recruiting their friends into the program.
- Parent Volunteers and Parent's Store: Three years ago, we started asking parents we served to work for parent volunteer hours, which would earn them "parent bucks", to redeem at our Christmas Parent Store. They began to provide maintenance to our buildings, serving as receptionists, and other tasks that were needed in our office and around our property.

Besides earning credits for our special Parent's Store, they also began to learn basic job skills. Churches, businesses, and individuals from all over the city contributed gifts and financial donations towards the store. After our initial success, the parents asked when could we start again. We responded by adding two more seasonal "stores" during the year. In the spring participants can redeem their hours for household items like dishes and used furniture. We also sponsor a "Back to School" Store where the parents redeem their hours for backpacks and school uniforms. The Parent Volunteer Coordinator is a woman from the community whose children initially participated in one of our programs and brought their mother to see what they were learning.

- Other adult programs: We now host a variety of programs for adults on site. These programs develop organically from other relationships that we developed in the community. For instance, we have provided an AA meeting, a sewing workshop, and a literacy workshop. We also can now provide daily work opportunities that utilize and develop practical job skills.
- Educational Programs (mostly off site):
 - I CAN DO IT! is a comprehensive school success program for young people between 5th and 12th grades. For the 04-05 school year, we had 45 children in I CAN DO IT!, in 25 schools and 10 different school districts. Our goal is to match each student with a mentor who meets with them weekly and helps with school work or just 'hangs out' and acts as that child's cheerleader and encourager. The students earn incentives for grades; they do activities that broaden their world view, and they earn trips.
 - Partners In Learning serves children between kindergarten and 4th grade. We provide mentors for children in those grades. These mentors meet with the child once a week for lunch in the school cafeteria, meeting with the teachers and encouraging the child.
 - College Scholarships: We have a partnership with Arizona Quest For Kids. They have committed to providing full tuition scholarships for our students who graduate with a 'B' average.
- Educational Programs (on site):
 - Head Start and Head Start Wrap Around: We were selected in 2002 to fill a vacancy for Head Start here in Phoenix. This opportunity pioneered by Debbi Speck, our first Education Director, has produced a new model of partnership for the 35-year old federal program. Head Start provides the daily program for our 4-year olds and NMI provides services for the mothers and children before and after Head Start hours. Through Mom's Place, small group meetings for the parents, our church, and other services provided to the families, we are able to incorporate these children

- and their families into a nurturing community rather than just renting space to provide a program for toddlers.
- Programs for children ages 4-18 (on site):
 - Kids Life: On Monday nights during the school year, 400+ kindergarten-through-sixth graders join over 100 volunteers for 2+ hours of activities. Each child meets for an hour in a small group to discuss a Bible curriculum and then participates for another hour in a fun activity. Over 50% of these students are picked up and taken home in buses and vans by volunteers because they have no other available transportation. Many of these children meet during the week with their small group leader either through phone contact or a visit.
 - Junior and Senior High Programs: A total of 150+ junior and 120+ senior high students meet on Tuesday and Wednesday nights respectively during the school year in the same basic format as the Monday night program. Many of these students are transported to and from the meetings by volunteers.
 - Shoe Day: In August, Neighborhood Ministries distributes more than 400 pairs of new shoes to children who otherwise might not have shoes for school. Many students also are treated to free haircuts and school supplies. These new shoes are purchased at cost and gift wrapped with a hand written note for each child by caring supporters throughout Phoenix.

 - Summer Camps and Activities:
 - Kids Club: This 2 week summer camp is held on our campus as a day camp. Over 500 youngsters (grades K-6) are led by 80 staff in wonderful activities and enrichment adventures. Many of the urban volunteers participated as children themselves in Kids Club. The staff lives together for the two weeks and learns about community, justice, and reconciliation as they work together.
 - Junior High Kids Club: Like Kids Club, this summer program is held on campus in Phoenix. Over 150 Junior High students and 30 work crew participate in what many call one of the greatest weeks of their lives.
 - Kids Camp: Also in the summer, we take 65 students (grades 5-6) away for a week in the mountains of northern Arizona. Here, young people have an opportunity to get away from Phoenix and participate in activities that they would never have an opportunity to enjoy in the city.
 - Mexico Service Trip: Each summer, we take a group of 40 inner city high schoolers and a group of leaders to Mexico for a service trip. Many of the teenagers have family roots south of the border, but have little first hand knowledge of life in rural Mexico. This trip

allows them to serve a church group in Mexico and experience “giving back” in a meaningful way.

- Summer Interns-Work Crew: One of the most powerful aspects of our work is the opportunity for young people to do internships with Neighborhood Ministries. During the summer, approximately 30 young adults from all parts of Phoenix (18 and older) have an intense learning environment to participate in activities and programs with inner city children. Some of them participated in the programs in the past and want to come back and serve others like they were served. Others come from churches, colleges, and organizations outside urban Phoenix and want to learn about community development and transformation.

