



## HISTORY

Neighborhoods, USA (NUSA) is a national, non-profit organization committed to building and strengthening neighborhood organizations. Created in 1975 to share information and experiences used to build stronger communities, NUSA continues to encourage networking and information-sharing to facilitate the development of partnerships among neighborhood organizations, government, and the private sector for the ultimate goal of strengthening every neighborhood.

NUSA's organizational mission is to build and strengthen neighborhood associations and to promote productive communications and collaborations among those associations with both the public and private sectors. For the past forty-five years, the organization has served these broad principles through its annual conference by providing an opportunity for people from all locations, sectors, and levels of society to discuss pressing issues of the times, share experiences, and offer assistance, motivation, and encouragement.

Each year, NUSA solicits nominations to recognize the commitment of neighborhood endeavors, actions, and neighborhood-friendly individuals or enterprises by awarding its Neighborhood of the Year, Best Neighborhood Program, Neighborhood Newsletter and Who's Who in America's Neighborhood awards.

NUSA's Neighborhood of the Year awards has been presented since 1984 as a collective "thank you" for the hard work of nominated neighborhoods and are the only national awards given on an ongoing basis to neighborhood organizations for their self-help initiatives. The Best Neighborhood Program awards are a way for NUSA to recognize outstanding government entities and businesses for their work in improving the quality of life in their communities.

The Neighborhood Newsletter Competition awards excellence in community print and electronic newsletters. The Who's Who in America's Neighborhoods award recognizes individuals whose work mirrors the mission of Neighborhoods, USA: to build and strengthen neighborhoods associations; to encourage neighborhood involvement in the decision-making process in local governments; and to promote productive communications and collaborations between neighborhood associations, local governments, and the public/private sector.

Award recipients are announced during special recognition breakfasts and luncheons at the annual conference.

NUSA is governed by a 21-member Board of Directors. Members are elected annually to staggered three-year terms to serve voluntarily and at their own expense. The board directs the ongoing business and policy of the organization, provides oversight for the implementation of each year's conference, and plays a leadership role by promoting the organization and the work of neighborhood-based activism and self-help initiatives.

NUSA maintains a stable membership base, comprised primarily of annual conference attendees from across the nation and around the world.