



2011 Neighborhood of the Year Award Recipients

Each year the Neighborhoods, USA Board of Directors recognizes the commitment and work of neighborhoods in awarding the "Neighborhood of the Year" recipients. The "Neighborhood of the Year" award has been presented since 1984 as a collective "thank you" for the hard work undertaken by neighborhoods to improve their communities.

The 2011 winners for these awards are as follows:

The 2011 Neighborhood of the Year Grand Prize Award Recipient

Better Balance for Long Beach
Long Beach, California
Project: The One Day Christmas Store Shopping with Dignity

Better Balance for Long Beach's project is a one day Christmas store that provides a free, department store style shopping experience for families who need help with their Christmas gifts. In 2010 the privately funded event invited 550 families to shop in the store and had more than 150 volunteers participating.

The One Day Christmas Store provides a free, department store style shopping experience for families who need help with their Christmas gifts. 2010 was the 4th annual store. This privately funded event invited 550 families with more than 150 volunteers participating.

Contact: Jack S Smith
Email: jackc.smith@verizon.net

**Social Revitalization/Neighborliness Single Neighborhood Category
2011 Award Recipients**

1st Place Project

Fairmount Neighborhood Association
Fort Worth, Texas
Project: Fairmount Community Garden

Fairmount has championed neighborhood renewal since the 1970s. From the creation of Code Blue to the development of an annual Home Tour, we've worked to revitalize our neighborhood and advocate for neighborhoods throughout Fort Worth. The creation of a Community Garden is another step in that process.

Contact: Susan Harper
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2nd Place Project:

Oakhurst Neighborhood Association
Fort Worth, Texas
Project: Connecting Oakhurst

The Oakhurst Neighborhood Association brought its residents together through a series on landscaping and conservation, developed an accompanying newsletter landscaping column, continued its Yard of the Month award and newsletter column and revived social activities such as the Easter Egg Hunt in the Park.

Contact: Ginger Bason
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3rd Place Project:

Sherman Avenue Neighborhood
Monrovia, California
Project: Sherman Avenue Partnership

Sherman Leaders developed a partnership to overcome crime and blight adversely affecting their neighborhood. One of the Sherman Leaders successful projects was a neighborhood potluck/movie night. The event was a celebration of the restoration of neighborliness and a sense of community in their lives.

Contact: Daniel McConnell
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Finalist:

North Beverly Hills Neighborhood Association
Fort Worth, Texas
Project: Senior Awareness & Vitality

The senior citizens of your community can be some of the most active and supportive participants in a neighborhood association. By following our example, of low-cost activities, you can build strong relationships with your residents and community.

Contact: Mary Lou Martinez
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Multi Neighborhood - Partnerships Category 2011 Award Recipients

1st Place Project:

Better Balance for Long Beach
Long Beach, California
Project: The One Day Christmas Store Shopping with Dignity

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Contact: Jack S Smith
Email: jackc.smith@verizon.net

2nd Place Project:

Central Neighborhood Advisory Committee & S. Wrigley Neighborhood Advisory Group
Long Beach, California
Project: Peace Garden at Martin Luther King Park
Two grass-roots neighborhood groups, Central Neighborhood Advisory Committee and South Wrigley Neighborhood Advisory Group together created the PEACE GARDEN at MLK located in the Central area of Long Beach, CA. This project has instilled community pride and has become a cornerstone of the Central area.

Contact: Annie Greenfield
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3rd Place Project:

Waverly Neighborhood Association
Columbia, South Carolina
Project: Resurgence of Historic Waverly

This project exemplifies how community organizations and law enforcement working together can reduce crime and revitalize a neighborhood. Waverly, the oldest African-American community in Columbia, SC, once a prosperous area with thriving businesses and community pride had become full of abandoned housing, drugs, and prostitution, and a gathering place for crime.

Contact: Bessie Watson
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Finalist:

Jefferson Westside Neighbors
Eugene, Oregon
Project: Heritage Crescent Livability Project

Three older, threatened neighborhoods in Eugene, Oregon joined forces in a successful three-year effort to have development standards adopted into City Code to ensure future infill and redevelopment will be compatible with each neighborhood's character and will contribute positively to the neighborhoods' livability.

Contact: Paul Conte
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**Physical Revitalization Beautification-Single Neighborhood Category
2011 Award Recipients**

1st Place Project:

Irvington Terrace Crime Watch
Indianapolis, Indiana
Project: Irvington Terrace Improvement

Irvington Terrace has moved from a declining urban haven for drug dealers and prostitutes to a cohesive action-oriented community that partners with local businesses and nonprofits to transform the appearance of the area and enhance the resources within/available to the community.

Contact: Cathie Carrigan
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2nd Place Project:

Riverpark Neighborhood Association
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Project: Revitalizing Riverpark

Riverpark Neighborhood battled drugs, graffiti, gangs and crime until we said "ENOUGH!" 5 years later we have dramatically reduced crime, eradicated graffiti, rehabbed over 90 homes, and created a beautiful City park in the middle of what was once a blighted neighborhood. Hope was restored!

Contact: Jeanna Daniel
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3rd Place Project:

First Creek Neighbors
Tacoma, Washington
Project: Green Thumb Community Garden

The purpose of the green Thumb Community Garden is to create beauty in a depressed business district while growing fresh produce and community in a low income and culturally diverse neighborhood

Contact: Edwina Magrum
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Finalist:

Meadowcliff Brookwood Neighborhood Association
Little Rock, Arkansas
Project: Hindman Park Clean-Up

Hindman Park Clean-up Project--an on-going, dual-purpose initiative by Meadowcliff Brookwood Neighborhood Association (MNBA) to rejuvenate from a devastating 50-year flood and to reclaim the park from criminal elements. MNBA's efforts to eradicate grime and crime fostered a synergetic alliance with the City and other organizations and communities

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