



A Publication of Neighborhoods, USA

Summer 2012

## Neighborhoods, USA 2012 Conference “Communities Building Community”



“Communities Building Community” was the theme for the 2012 Neighborhoods, USA Conference, held May 23 - 26 in Indianapolis, Indiana. Hosted by the Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Center, this year’s conference boasted the largest attendance since 2008 and saw a record number of youth attendees.

Community and state pride were celebrated at the beautiful Welcome Reception held at the Indianapolis Statehouse. The Reception featured a marching band, choir and a parade of flags representing the 38 states and Japan in attendance at the conference. The “Community” theme continued into Thursday and Friday’s activities, which included:

- Over 75 workshops that focused on community building, inclusive communities, developing future community leadership and involvement, community partnerships and collaborations, safe and healthy communities and effective communication.
- 10 neighborhood tours which showcased the community collaborations, projects and successes of several Indianapolis neighborhoods.
- A Friday night outing and community picnic at Victory Field for an Indianapolis Indians baseball game.

Inspiring key note speakers continued the theme of “Community” during the conference. Rev. Mel Jackson, President and CEO of Westside Community Ministries, Inc., spoke about faith-based community organizing. Deborah Hearn Smith, CEO of the Girl Scouts of Central Indiana spoke on youth leadership development, support services for our youth and the importance of instilling in our youth the idea of community involvement. Paul Schmitz, CEO of Public Allies, spoke about leadership, civic engagement and the power of community, inclusion and collaboration. Dennis R. Ryerson, Editor and Vice President of the Indianapolis Star, spoke on the importance of early childhood education, student mentoring and community involvement with its youth.

The conference concluded at noon on Saturday, which allowed attendees to attend the Indianapolis 500 Festival parade held in downtown Indianapolis.

## Grand Prize 2012 Neighborhood of the Year

California Heights Neighborhood Association was awarded top prize - Neighborhood of the Year - during Neighborhoods, USA’s 37th Annual Conference on Neighborhood Concerns. California Heights received the top designation based on the merits of their home and garden tour.

The California Heights Neighborhood Association, the largest historic district in Long Beach, California, began their home and garden tour in 1997 as a way to “demonstrate both the intrinsic and financial value of maintaining their historic character and unique sense of place.” The tour, organized and led by a large group of volunteers, showcases the 1920’s era homes and gardens within California Heights boundaries that have been lovingly maintained and/or restored by their owners.

Funding for the California Heights Home and Garden Tour comes from sponsorships, advertisements and ticket sales. Proceeds from the Tour fund local projects, programs and revitalization efforts such as:

- Lamppost restoration project
- Community partnership projects to plants trees in public easements
- Neighborhood newsletter
- Street cleanups
- Community mural

To date over \$100,000 has been raised by the Tour and reinvested into the community.

For more information about California Heights Neighborhood Association and its home and garden tour visit [www.calheights.org](http://www.calheights.org).

# 2012 NEIGHBORHOOD OF THE YEAR AWARDS

## Social Revitalization/Neighborliness - Single Neighborhood



*Tige Watts, Neighborhoods, USA President, presents Fairmount Neighborhood Association with the 1st place award for Social Revitalization/Neighborliness-Single Neighborhood.*

### 1st Place Project

Fairmount Neighborhood Association  
Fort Worth, Texas  
Project: Pancakes in the Park

Fairmount's Pancakes in the Park was born out of a request from the Cowtown Marathon. The Marathon organizers asked the Fairmount Neighborhood Association to organize an activity(ies) to help encourage runners along their route. Fairmount residents hosted Pancakes in the Park and cheered on runners as they went by. The event was a great way to get residents involved and helped bring in new members to the association.

### 2nd Place Project: Movies on the Boulevard

Wright Avenue Neighborhood Association - Little Rock, Arkansas

Movies on the Boulevard is a free, family-friendly event designed to build community spirit and unity. The event features a free outdoor movie night and also includes free concessions.

### 3rd Place Project: Shadow Wood Neighborhood Watch

Shadow Wood Neighborhood - Coral Springs, Florida

The Shadow Wood Neighborhood Watch was created in 2005 to serve as deterrent to crime by encouraging Coral Springs residents to get involved by reporting suspicious activity to the police department. Since the inception of the Neighborhood Watch, the neighborhood has only had three burglaries.

### Finalist Project: A World of Difference...International Parade & Taste the Difference

Lafayette Square Area Coalition - Indianapolis, Indiana

Local businesses and residents in Lafayette Square celebrate the diversity of their community and the international flavor of their local restaurants by hosting their annual International Parade and Taste the Difference. Both events are designed to attract economic growth and development in the Lafayette Square area.

## Physical Revitalization/Beautification - Single Neighborhood



*Tige Watts, Neighborhoods, USA President, presents California Heights Neighborhood Association representatives with the 1st place award for Physical Revitalization*

### 1st Place Project - (GRAND PRIZE - NEIGHBORHOOD OF THE YEAR)

California Heights Neighborhood Association  
Long Beach, California  
Project: California Heights Home & Garden Tour

The California Heights Home & Garden Tour funds ambitious community projects in the California Heights Historic District. The tour also demonstrates both the intrinsic and financial values of maintaining the neighborhood's historic character and unique sense of place.

### 2nd Place Project: Bungalowfest - A Children's Cancer Center Charity Event

Historic Kenwood Neighborhood Association - St. Petersburg, Florida

Bungalowfest features a annual tour of beautifully maintained and renovated historic homes within the community and displays of artists work in Seminole Park. The 2011 event raised more than \$4,700 for the Children's Cancer Center.

### 3rd Place Project: Densmore Pathway Project

Echo Lake Neighborhood Association - Shoreline, Washington

Overgrown and unmaintained, the right of way between Densmore and Ashworth was an eyesore to the community. Working with numerous volunteers, the association was able to secure a small grant from the City and transform the pathway into a community gathering place landscaped with low-maintenance native plants.

### Finalist Project: Shaw Clarke Underpass Project

Shaw Clarke Neighborhood Association- Fort Worth, Texas

In 1958 a railway underpass was constructed to serve as a passageway for pedestrians and bicyclists to get to the other side of the railroad tracks. Over time, the underpass became unsafe, dark and a haven for criminal activity. Neighborhood volunteers worked with the City of Fort Worth, Burlington Northern Santa Fe and the local elementary school to clean up the underpass and now maintain the area.

# 2012 NEIGHBORHOOD OF THE YEAR AWARDS

## Multi Neighborhood Partnerships



*Tige Watts, Neighborhoods, USA President, presents Wichita Independent Neighborhoods, Inc. representatives with the 1st place award for Multi Neighborhood*

**1st Place Project** - Neighborhood University  
Wichita Independent Neighborhoods, Inc.  
Wichita, KS

The Neighborhood University was implemented to provide educational opportunities for residents to learn about neighborhood capacity building, empowerment and the importance of neighborhood engagement and input on issues impacting their community.

**2nd Place Project:** Millersville Project Greenspace: Gateway & Village Transformation  
Millersville at Fall Creek Valley, Inc. - Indianapolis, Indiana

In response to disinvestment in local retail and blight, neighbors and community leaders developed a plan to address the issues in their community. As part of the plan, the neighborhood group work with Keep Indianapolis Beautiful to beautify their community through tree plantings along several area streets, green spaces and medians.

## 2012 BEST NEIGHBORHOOD PROGRAM AWARDS



*Tige Watts, Neighborhoods, USA President presents the City of Memphis, Tennessee Representative with the 1st place award for Best Neighborhood Program*

**1st Place Project:** Ready Shelby/Ready Shelby Neighbors  
City of Memphis, Tennessee

Ready Shelby, a grassroots initiative that started in 2008, was designed with the goal to encourage citizens to be the real first responders during emergencies. The project urges residents to implement five simple steps that will prepare them to be proactive in disasters.

**2nd Place Project:** Movies That Matter  
City of Fort Worth, Texas

Movies That Matter is a free, quarterly film series that highlights important human rights issues, promotes community involvement and civic engagement, celebrates diversity and works to address and find solutions to the human rights issues that communities are facing today such as: housing and employment discrimination, bullying and human trafficking.

**3rd Place Project:** Citrus Heights Community Campout  
City of Citrus Heights, California

Citrus Heights Community Campout is a partnership between the City, Parks District and the Neighborhood Associations to host an annual Community Campout. This 24-hour, family-oriented event provides a safe and fun-filled camping experience for all ages and abilities.

**Finalist Project:** Let's Pull Together  
City of Chandler, Arizona

Let's Pull Together is a volunteer fueled effort to clean up properties overgrown with weeds. Initiated in 2010, the project serves as an opportunity for volunteers to help those, such as senior citizens and disabled residents, clean up their yards.



Neighborhoods, USA (NUSA) Retiring Board Members being recognized for their years of service by Tige Watts, President of NUSA.

Left to right: Bob Clement (Roanoke, VA), Harry Giddens (Birmingham, AL) and Richard Whipple (Ft. Lauderdale, FL)

# 2012 NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER AWARDS

## Electronic Format

AWARD LEVEL	ORGANIZATION NAME	CITY	ST
SILVER	West End Neighborhood Association	Santa Rosa	CA
SILVER	Historic Kenwood Neighborhood Association	St. Petersburg	FL

## Print Format

AWARD LEVEL	ORGANIZATION NAME	CITY	ST
SILVER	City of Chandler	Chandler	AZ
SILVER	Community Enterprise	Commerce City	CO
SILVER	WIN - Wichita Independent Neighborhoods, Inc.	Wichita	KS
SILVER	Belknap Neighborhood Association	Louisville	KY
SILVER	Arlington Heights Neighborhood Association	Fort Worth	TX
GOLD	Yacht Club Estates Civic Association	St. Petersburg	FL
GOLD	Neighborhood Partners of Rock Island	Rock Island	IL
GOLD	Lyndale Neighborhood Association	Minneapolis	MN
GOLD	Standish Ericsson Neighborhood Association	Minneapolis	MN
GOLD	Fairmount Neighborhood Association	Fort Worth	TX
GOLD	Oakhurst Neighborhood Association	Fort Worth	TX
GOLD	Richmond Beach Community Association	Shoreline	WA

## 2012 Who's Who in America's Neighborhoods

The Who's Who in America's Neighborhoods award, first presented in 2010, was created to recognize those individuals whose work mirrors the mission of NUSA: to build and strengthen neighborhood associations, to promote communication and collaborations between neighborhood associations, local governments and the public/private sectors, and encourage neighborhood involvement in the decision-making process in local governments.

The 2012 Who's Who in America's Neighborhoods honorees are:

- Ronald O. Loveridge (Riverside, CA)
- James Roseboro (Wichita, KS)
- Tonya Wagner (Citrus Heights, CA)



Mr. Loveridge has been Mayor of Riverside, CA for some 17 years and served on the City Council for 15 years before that. He has taken a leadership role in influencing neighborhood policy at City Hall and has spear-headed many neighborhood initiatives over and above the establishment of the Riverside Neighborhood Partnership and Mayor's Night Out. Since 1979, Mayor Loveridge has emphasized that neighborhoods are the building blocks of a good city and has sought their improvement, primarily through neighborhood engagement.



Mr. Roseboro was one of the founding members of Wichita Independent Neighborhood Associations, Inc. and has served his own neighborhood association of Northeast Heights for over 12 years. Mr. Roseboro is a firm believer in grassroots organizing and has shown this by personally organizing more than 35 neighborhood, homeowner and business associations in the City of Wichita and Sedgwick County. As a proven leader in Wichita, Mr. Roseboro has served on numerous committees, task forces and boards to better the Wichita community for its residents.



Ms. Wagner is a founding force of neighborhood leadership, integrity and commitment within the City of Citrus Heights and the Sacramento region. Serving as a founding member of Northwest Neighborhood Association, Ms. Wagner has also dedicated more than a decade of her time and ability bringing together diverse neighborhood leaders, planting and nourishing the seeds of leadership within the neighborhoods. Exemplifying servant leadership, Ms. Wagner volunteers in numerous community events and activities and is an active member of Gold Star Wives of America, a national military widows' service organization.