

36TH ANNUAL NEIGHBORHOODS, USA CONFERENCE

Anchorage- Great Land and Great Neighborhoods!



Beautiful weather and awe inspiring vistas welcomed attendees to the 2011 Neighborhoods, USA Conference held May 25-28 in Anchorage, Alaska. However, the inspiration didn't stop there. Martin Buser, famed four-time Iditarod champion and the Opening Breakfast keynote speaker, kicked off the conference by arriving to the ballroom via dog sled. After being delivered safely to the podium, Buser then spoke on leadership and teamwork, stressing that teamwork is what leads to success, whether it be in a Iditarod race or in a neighborhood. Buser also emphasized the lessons that can be learned from losing. "I am a four-time winner of the Iditarod, but have lost the race 24 times. I learned from those losses, that giving up is not a good thing."

Anchorage neighborhood leaders continued Martin Buser's theme of "teamwork" by rolling out the welcome mats and showing off their neighborhoods during the Thursday evening Neighborhood Pride Tours. The tours gave conference attendees a first-hand glimpse of how neighborhood organizations are working together to improve the quality of life in Anchorage. Activities such as park improvement projects, the development of first class bicycle facilities and trails, community and problem oriented policing, neighborhood revitalization projects, collaborations with local businesses and projects that support healthy lifestyles all were highlighted during the tours exemplifying the power of "teamwork!"

In addition to the Neighborhood Pride Tours, conference attendees were provided with opportunities to share ideas, celebrate and recognize the outstanding achievements and successes of neighborhood groups from around the United States and attend events and activities to experience and celebrate cultural diversity: Over 40 educational workshops were offered on topics such as housing, green community initiatives, community building, grass roots organizing, community health and recreation and neighborhood safety. Awards were given out in the annual "Neighborhood of the Year," "Best Neighborhood Program" and "Who's Who in America's Neighborhoods" competitions. A first this year, awards were also given to acknowledge excellence in neighborhood newsletters - a vital communication tool that helps neighborhoods be successful. (Continued on page 6)

Better Balance for Long Beach Wins 2011 Grand Prize - Neighborhood of the Year Award!

Better Balance for Long Beach, a non profit formed by grass roots activists in 2005 to address concerns related to crime and grime found in their local 14th Street Park, took home Neighborhoods, USA's grand prize at its 2011 conference - "Neighborhood of the Year!"

Better Balance received its "Neighborhood of the Year" recognition based on one of the activities, distribution of Christmas gifts, which it undertook to build community spirit and bring about positive change to the 14th Street Park. The gift distribution brought long lines and challenges and Better Balance sought out a new way to meet those challenges and provide a way for those in need to "shop with dignity." The result - One Day Christmas Store - Shopping With Dignity.

The One Day Christmas Store, supported with donations and sponsorships, utilizes a professional buyer to purchase gifts for its "clients"- families with limited means. Family members, both adults and children, are provided the opportunity to shop, in a department store-like setting, for Christmas gifts - 2 gifts for each child and 2 gifts for each adult. There is no charge for the gifts and each item is gift wrapped. Free transportation is also provided to help families take their gifts home.

Each year the One Day Christmas Store is staffed with over 150 volunteers. In 2010, these volunteers and the program served more than 550 families (1,590 children and 865 adults).

For more information about the One Day Christmas Store please visit www.betterbalancelongbeach.org.

2011 NEIGHBORHOOD OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Social Revitalization/Neighborliness - Single Neighborhood



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

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, work has been done to revitalize the neighborhoods and advocacy for neighborhoods throughout Fort Worth. The creation of a Community Garden was another step in that process.

2nd Place Project: Connecting Oakhurst
Oakhurst Neighborhood Association - Fort Worth, Texas

The Oakhurst Neighborhood Association brought its residents together through a series of landscaping and conservation projects, 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.

3rd Place Project: Sherman Avenue Partnership
Sherman Avenue Neighborhood - Monrovia, California

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 sense of community in their lives.

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

The senior citizens in your community can be some of the most active and supportive participants in a neighborhood association. Utilizing low-cost activities, North Beverly Hills Neighborhood Association built stronger relationships with their residents and community.

Multi Neighborhood Partnerships



Tige Watts, Neighborhoods, USA President, presents Better Balance for Long Beach representatives with the 1st place award for Multi Neighborhood Partnerships

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

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

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 fourth year that the store has been held. This privately funded event invited 550 families with more than 150 volunteers participating.

2nd Place Project: Peace Garden at Martin Luther King Park
Central Neighborhood Advisory Committee & S. Wrigley Neighborhood Advisory Group - Long Beach, California

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, California. This project has instilled community pride and has become a cornerstone of the central area.

3rd Place Project: Resurgence of Historic Waverly
Waverly Neighborhood Association - Columbia, South Carolina

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

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

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 would be compatible with each neighborhood's character and contribute positively to the neighborhoods' livability.

2011 NEIGHBORHOOD OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Physical Revitalization/Beautification - Single Neighborhood



Tige Watts, Neighborhoods, USA President, presents Irvington Terrace Crime Watch representatives with the 1st place award for Physical Revitalization/Beautification.

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 non profits to transform the appearance of the area and enhance the resources within/available to the community.

2nd Place Project: Revitalizing Riverpark
Riverpark Neighborhood Association - Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Riverpark Neighborhood battled drugs, graffiti, gangs and crime until they said "ENOUGH!" Five years later they 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!

3rd Place Project: Green Thumb Community Garden
First Creek Neighbors - Tacoma, Washington

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

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

Hindman Park Clean-Up project, an ongoing, dual purpose initiative by the Meadowcliff Brookwood Neighborhood Association, was designed to rejuvenate from a devastating 50-year flood and to reclaim the park from criminal elements. The neighborhood association's efforts to eradicate grime and crime fostered a synergetic alliance with the City and other organizations and communities.

2011 BEST NEIGHBORHOOD PROGRAM AWARDS



Representatives from Birmingham, Alabama - 1st place award for Best Neighborhood Program.

1st Place Project: Party With A Purpose
City of Birmingham, Alabama

An old fashioned block party can yield unprecedented results. Party With A Purpose is a family-oriented event that promotes the homegrown values we all cherish - strong families, good health, traditional work ethics, non-violence, community service, good neighborhood practices and economic prosperity.

2nd Place Project: MAP Leadership Training and Development Academy
City of Monrovia, California

The Monrovia Area Partnership (MAP) - Leadership Training and Development (LTD) Academy provides residents with comprehensive training on government services, tools and resources to help develop neighborhood groups. LTD graduates have become neighborhood leaders who have established common goals and are solving a variety of community issues.

3rd Place Project: Love Where You Live
City of Plano, Texas

Love Where You Live is a neighborhood revitalization initiative that strives to empower and strengthen communities through acts of kindness, outreach and volunteerism by implementing a two-phase approach to address the physical and social concerns facing maturing neighborhoods in Plano.

Finalist Project: Broad River Road Corridor and Community Master Plan
Richland County, South Carolina

The Broad River Road Corridor and Community Study provides a framework for economic redevelopment that integrates land use and transportation policy, strengthens existing neighborhoods and businesses, and builds community consensus around a unified vision for sustainable growth and mixed-use, transit-oriented development.

2011 NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER AWARDS

Electronic Format

AWARD LEVEL	ORGANIZATION NAME	CITY	ST
Bronze	Town of Narrows	Narrows	VA
Bronze	Lake Port Meadows Homeowners Association	Arlington	TX
Silver	Parkview Addition Community	Arlington	TX
Gold	City of Arlington	Arlington	TX
Gold	City of Phoenix	Phoenix	AZ
Gold	Beaumont Wilshire Neighborhood Association	Portland	OR
Gold	Bungalow Heaven Neighborhood Association	Pasadena	CA
Gold	Dunns Marsh Neighborhood Association	Madison	WI
Gold	East Madison Community Center	Madison	WI

Print Format

AWARD LEVEL	ORGANIZATION NAME	CITY	ST
Bronze	City of Sandy	Sandy	UT
Bronze	Friendly Area Neighborhood	Eugene	OR
Bronze	Historic Belle Grove Square Neighborhood	Westminister	MD
Bronze	Southwest Little Rock United for Progress	Little Rock	AR
Bronze	St. Mary's of Michigan	Saginaw	MI
Silver	Capitol View-Stiff Station Neighborhood	Little Rock	AR
Silver	City of Monrovia	Monrovia	CA
Silver	Garden District Civic Association	Baton Rouge	LA
Silver	NE Hazel Dell Neighborhood Association	Vancouver	WA
Silver	North Long Beach Project Area Committee	Long Beach	CA
Silver	Northeast Heights Neighborhood Association	Wichita	KS
Silver	Commerce City Community Enterprise	Commerce City	CO
Silver	Oklahoma City Neighborhood Alliance	Oklahoma City	OK
Gold	Corcoran Neighborhood Organization	Minneapolis	MN
Gold	Eastern Hills Neighborhood Association	Fort Worth	TX
Gold	Eau Claire Community Council	Columbia	SC
Gold	Fairmount Neighborhood Association	Fort Worth	TX
Gold	Greater Raleigh Court Civic League	Roanoke	VA
Gold	Logan Neighborhood	Spokane	WA
Gold	Lyndale Neighborhood Association	Minneapolis	MN
Gold	Meadowcliff/Brookwood Neighborhood Association	Little Rock	AR
Gold	Old Southwest, Inc.	Roanoke	VA
Gold	Richmond Beach Community Association	Shoreline	WA
Gold	SE Seminole Heights Civic Association	Tampa	FL
Gold	Sherwood Forest Citizens Association	Baton Rouge	LA
Gold	Standish-Ericsson Neighborhood Association	Minneapolis	MN
Gold	Willmore City Heritage Association	Long Beach	CA