

Safe Neighborhoods Iowa City Coalition (SNICC)

The Safe Neighborhoods Iowa City Coalition -- a grass roots coalition of residents, agencies, and other southeast side share holders -- came together in response to some recent criminal and violent incidents in the southeast quadrant of Iowa City.

At an emotional City Council meeting in October, Henri Harper, the City High Juvenile Court Liaison, stepped up to the microphone and proposed the formation of a grass roots coalition whose purpose would be to ensure that all residents in the targeted area be given the opportunity to have a voice in decisions that would affect their daily lives. This plea came out of the concern that the youth in the South East area of Iowa City would be unfairly targeted for enforcement of the curfew and that, because of the feeling of disenfranchisement of some of the residents, the curfew would be cause for even greater tensions within the community. (continued on page two)



BROADWAY NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH COUNCIL



The first meeting of the Broadway Neighborhood Youth Advisory Council convened in October. Over 20 teens from the neighborhood attended the meeting to talk about issues facing youth in Iowa City today.

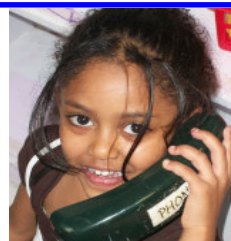
(continued on page two)

In This Issue

- SNICC
- Broadway Youth Council
- Harvest Party
- Lunch Box Lessons
- Candidate Forum



Neighborhood Centers
of Johnson County
P.O. Box 2491
Iowa City IA 52244



Contact Us:
Telephone: 319.358.0438
Fax: 319.358.0484
Website: www.ncjc.org

BROADWAY NEIGHBORHOOD HARVEST PARTY

On Friday, October 30th, the Broadway Neighborhood Center teamed up with the Broadway Neighborhood Association, Parkview Evangelical Church, and the Gospel Explosion Ministry to host our annual Halloween Parade and Harvest Party. The traditional Halloween Parade began the festivities with children from the neighborhood and childcare classrooms, employees, volunteers, and community members alike donning costumes and face paint to parade around the neighborhood beginning at the Broadway Center and ending at The Spot, a youth center sponsored by Parkview Church. The Harvest Party itself took place at The Spot and



emphasized family fun with activities such

as cookie decorating, face painting, relay races, and many other games. Participants enjoyed apple cider, lemonade, and other treats, with a lucky few ending the evening with raffle winnings such as gift cards, clothing, and even bicycles. By 7pm the family fun night wound down and teens were invited to stay for popcorn and the screening of a scary movie. In all, over 70 families attended the event and enjoyed a fun filled night. Many thanks to those who donated food and prizes and to those whose work made the night a success!



SNICC - Continued from page one

SNICC's first action has been to wage a canvassing campaign that stretches from Keokuk St, to Highway 6, to Miami Dr, to Lakeside Dr and parts beyond. Members are knocking on doors with surveys in hand, asking residents how safe they feel in their neighborhood, how connected they feel to their neighbors, and what they think the solutions to the problems in their neighborhoods would be. The results of this survey and the recommendations of SNICC will be presented at a City Council meeting in December when the fate of the curfew will be decided.

Members of SNICC assert that their work is less about whether the curfew will pass, and more about making sure that everyone is allowed to come to the table and have a voice in a decision that may heavily impact their lives.

Youth Council - Continued from page one

The teens discussed the stigma they had faced because of their age, race, where they go to school and where they live. Many voiced frustration with being perceived as troublemakers and gangsters and felt that Iowa City as a whole had dismissed the Broadway Neighborhood as a breeding ground for criminals.

The youth also challenged each other to be role models and actively engage in positive behavior. The Council will meet regularly to further discuss actions they can take to improve the image of youth living in South East Iowa City.

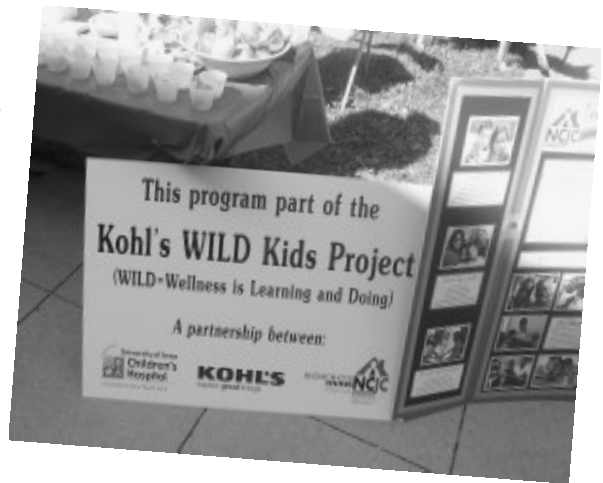
Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County Board Members

Dawn Barker-Anderson
Bryan Coy
Mary Kate Pilcher-Hayek
Sandy Lawrence
Roger Reilly
John Roffman
Caroline Sheerin
Jeff Triplett

Executive Director
Brian Loring

LUNCH BOX LESSONS

Neighborhood Centers and Kohl's teamed up at the Iowa City Farmer's Market back in late August to offer demonstrations and samples of nutritious and delicious lunches to pack for school-aged children. We used fresh foods of the season available at the Farmer's Market to make Rainbow Fritters, Lemon-Yogurt Fruit Dipping Sauce, Black Bean Hummus with fresh vegetables for dipping, and Thai Peanut-Veggie Wraps for all who wished to try them. There were prizes, such as lunch boxes and water bottles, plenty of lunch box ideas, and sponsor information from the Kohl's Care for Kids Foundation.



This event was part of our Kohl's Obesity Prevention programming, sponsored by the Kohl's Cares for Kids "WILD Kids" Project. The WILD Kids is a project funded through the Kohl's Cares for Kids program in partnership between UI Children's Hospital and Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County to fight childhood obesity. Since fall 2006, the WILD Kids Project has worked with thousands of children, youth, and families throughout Johnson County by bringing health and wellness programs to neighborhoods, schools, childcare centers, libraries, and greater community gathering places, like the Farmer's Market.

NCJC SPONSORS CANDIDATE FORUM



Bre Windmon, a member of Broadway Youth Council asks a question at Candidate Forum

On Tuesday, October 27, Neighborhood Centers and the Press Citizen co-sponsored the final City Council Candidate Forum at Grant Wood Elementary. All six candidates were present and approximately 35 neighborhood residents attended the forum. The questions were drafted and posed by the Broadway Neighborhood Center, southeast side Neighborhood Associations, and the Broadway Neighborhood Youth Council. Many of the questions were particular to the issues of the South East neighborhoods of Iowa City and pressed the candidates on their stances on the youth curfew, police and community relations, public housing, and the city's use, or disuse of Grant Wood Elementary gym.



Susan Mims responds as Dan Tallon listens

CONGRATULATIONS!

We would like to send our Congratulations to Connie Champion, Susan Mims and Terry Dickens on their City Council elections. We look forward to working with you.



Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County
P.O. Box 2491
Iowa City IA 52244

Finding Work In Tough Times

For many of us, looking for a job is a necessary headache that we have waded through many times since our teenage years. But for others, looking for a job, filling out applications, writing resumes, and going through an interview may seem like an insurmountable task. This fall, we have AmeriCorps volunteers at both the Pheasant Ridge and Broadway Neighborhood Centers working as on-site job specialists every weekday from 10-5 to help members of the community be successful in their job searches.

Kristin Allen and Laura Kacere are available at Broadway and Melanie Wright is available at Pheasant Ridge to help community members search for jobs, complete applications, write resumes, and prepare for interviews. In the month of October our team worked with almost 50 people. They also hosted classes teaching basic word processing and computer skills which are such an asset in the job market today. In October the volunteers helped plan and host the Building Blocks to Employment Job Fair which focused on entry level job seekers and reached many people in the community.

