



YOU WILL BE CALLED...REPAIRERS OF BROKEN WALLS AND RESTORERS OF STREETS WHERE PEOPLE LIVE. ISAIAH 58:12



NEIGHBORHOOD
MINISTRIES

MISSION

Since the early 1980's, Neighborhood Ministries, Inc. (NMI) has been meeting the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual needs of children and families in urban Phoenix, Arizona – living out its mission “To be the presence of Jesus Christ, sharing his life-transforming hope, love, and power among vulnerable families of urban Phoenix.”



HISTORY

Kit Danley founded NMI in 1982 and remains the President of the organization today. Kit's passion to bring authentic change and renewal to the urban community led her and her husband, Wayne, to live in the city and raise their two children there. She has become a champion of the people NMI serves. Because of this commitment by the Danleys and others to live in and serve the urban community, NMI has built a culture of trust in the city – laying the foundation for the positive, enduring work that has now spanned over two decades.

Beginning as a small, church-based neighborhood food and clothing bank, NMI was established as a 501 (c) 3 non-profit corporation in 1997. While NMI is faith-based, it is non-sectarian and welcomes all people in the community whatever their religious beliefs may be. Staff and board reflect the diversity of the surrounding community. Latinos, African-Americans, and other people of color participate as decision makers at staff and board level.

In 2001, NMI moved into The Neighborhood Center, the newly developed back 4 acres of an 8 acre site at 19th Ave and Van Buren in downtown Phoenix. After years of rented and borrowed facilities, the organization began to grow dramatically. The Neighborhood Center is now the hub where relationships with children, their families, and city-wide partners join together to make a difference for hundreds throughout the community.

November, 2006 is the beginning of a new campaign to finish the front 4 acres at The Neighborhood Center. A major strategic plan has been finished and plans are in place for a youth center, extended offices and a Welcome Center.



TARGET GROUP

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NMI serves vulnerable, at-risk children, youth and families who easily fall prey to drugs, gangs and crime to dull their pain and sense of despair. Most of the children have experienced poverty, neglect from their parents, and are at risk for physical and sexual abuse. Arizona is ranked 45 out of 50 states in child well-being, and many of the families whose children



wear the faces of these grim statistics live right in the heart of the community that surrounds NMI. This area of Phoenix has a staggering 42% poverty rate compared to 14.1% in the state and a national average of 11.1% and many families desperately struggle just to meet their basic daily requirements for food, clothing and housing. Opportunities for employment here are much lower than average. More than 20% of people within a 5-mile radius remain unemployed, as contrasted against the state statistic of 4.3 percent, and 4.8 percent nationally. Those who are employed earned an average of a mere \$8,444. Educationally, 42.8% have less than a 9th grade education, and 38% of teens – now ages 16 to 19 – dropped out of school before earning their high school diploma. Deficits in language skills are also a challenge – 69% of people in NMI's neighborhood do not speak English.

These statistics paint a vivid picture of the vulnerable, fragile population that NMI serves on a day-to-day basis.

Services and Activities

(at The Neighborhood Center)

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In 2002, NMI was able to acquire eight acres of prime property located at 19th Avenue and Van Buren Street. The Neighborhood Center (TNC) is now a bustling hub of activity - 8 classrooms, a food and clothing bank, a 12,000 square foot office building, a ball field, 2 large multipurpose rooms, and a huge

industrial kitchen now exist on the site. Functioning as a supportive hub for people within their own neighborhood, TNC offers men, women and children a full-menu of integrated, "wrap-around" services and resources. Within this caring environment, the seasoned 17-member staff and cadre of 1,000 volunteers annually work hard to build trusting, long-term relationships with people so that they can discover their own God-given dignity, creativity and even the capacity to improve the quality of their lives.

At NMI, we describe our services and programs in two interwoven tracks. Around these programmatic tracks, NMI also provides 1&2 year internships, volunteer opportunities, and summer camps for all ages.

Track I – Outreach

We began in 1982 with programs designed to provide assistance to children and families and build relationships in the community. Through these activities, we "reach out" in Christ's love into the community to meet the most basic needs and establish trust with children and families. This reaching out includes emergency / crisis services, community services, and youth programs:

- Basic food and clothing assistance
- Youth Programs: We offer year-round outreach activities for children and youth – Kids Life for children K-6, Junior High Kids Life for youth in grades 7-8, a High School Group, and five different age-appropriate summer camp programs. These programs now reach over 700 children and youth each week during the school year.
- Crisis housing (Informal)
- Jail visitation
- Medical and dental services (through a separate on-site non-profit agency).
- Weekly bi-lingual community worship services (The Church at The Neighborhood Center)
- Community gatherings and events (Christmas Celebration, Shoe Day, Parents Stores, Quincineras, weddings, funerals, birthdays, etc.)



Track II – Empowerment

Empowerment activities grew out of our long-term relationships with children and families and our goal of indigenous leadership development. As the children we knew and loved began to grow up, we realized that they needed educational support, preparation for the world of work, and service learning opportunities. Many of them began to volunteer in the programs of their younger brothers, sisters, nieces, and nephews.

The educational programs (Partners in Learning and I CAN DO IT!, the Headstart partnership) and the Parent Volunteers helped us learn that the children and families we serve need additional support if they are to break out of the generational cycle of poverty. The empowerment activities are designed to help men, women and children to build a cycle of hope and become Jesus-following leaders in their own families and communities. These programs take place both on and off The Neighborhood Center site – in local schools, in homes and apartments, across the table at restaurants, in community activities, and on job sites.

These activities include (specific programs following each empowerment area):



Programatic Description of Neighborhood Ministries 2006

(not including onsite partnerships with: The Neighborhood Christian Clinic and Headstart)

Outreach Programming (all onsite except for some summer camps)	Empowerment Programming (on and off site)
Kids Life (children in grades K-6)	Moms Place (teenage mothers)
Jr. High Kids Life (youth in grades 7-8)	Partners in Learning (mentoring and incentive based educational support for children in grades 1-3)
Sr. High Kids Life (high school aged young adults)	Parent Volunteers (work preparation program for community adults which includes Parents Stores 3 times a year)
Youth Summer Camps (5 age appropriate camps – some are day camps on site and several are off site)	CAN DO IT! (mentoring and incentive based educational support for children in grades 4-6)
Food and Clothing Bank	Jeremiah Project (case managed support and programming primarily for adjudicated youth aged 14-21 to complete high school graduation requirements and get a job)
The Church at the Neighborhood Center <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jail visitation • Weekly bi-lingual worship services • Weekly women s Bible study 	The Church at the Neighborhood Center <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young Adults Group • Weekly bi-lingual worship services • Classes for children
Events and Celebrations	Hope House (transitional housing for teenage girls who are highly at risk in their community)





NEIGHBORHOOD
M I N I S T R I E S

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