



2009 ANNUAL REPORT
NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE OF MILWAUKEE



Neighborhood House
OF MILWAUKEE
NH-MILW.ORG

For 65 years, Neighborhood House of Milwaukee has been a

tree of life

**for our city's urban core,
strengthening the lives of
nearly one million children
and adults.**

A Chance to Grow

**That's what
Neighborhood House
gives at-risk children
and families in Milwaukee's
poorest neighborhoods. Since 1945,
Neighborhood House has provided
generations a chance to grow strong,
a place to grow healthy, and the
support to grow self-reliant.**





Welcome to Neighborhood House of Milwaukee

Join Us in Celebrating 65 Years of Strengthening Milwaukee's Central City Children & Families.

We thought the “Tree of Life” theme was appropriate for this annual report, which celebrates 65 years of strengthening Milwaukee’s at-risk children and families. After all, the Tree of Life provides shelter and sustenance and strength and hope to those who gather ‘round it. Since 1945, Neighborhood House has done that for countless generations in Milwaukee’s most challenged neighborhoods.

Like a life-giving tree, NH has sown many seeds of potential throughout the years and given them solid ground and fertile opportunity to grow. And those seeds have sprouted and flourished and born fruit. That “fruit” has come in the form of generations of families who found a way *out of* poverty, who found the road to self-reliance with a little help from Neighborhood House.

Like a tree, Neighborhood House has had to bend with the winds of change and hardship and has had to survive drought. This last year has been a

tough one for nonprofits like Neighborhood House, and especially for the children and families we serve in Milwaukee’s urban core. But what has been heartening is that not only have so many of our long faithful donors stepped forward to help our children and families during this challenging time, but hundreds of *new* donors as well.

You—our supporters—are our sustenance, our sunshine. You enable the children and families we serve to grow strong and to build stronger generations after them. This annual report is a celebration of not only what the children and families we serve have accomplished, but what you have accomplished through your support and belief in our mission. We are not through this drought yet. But—together—we will get through it.

With sincere thanks,



Solid Ground

Neighborhood House provides central-city children and families solid ground to grow strong, offering physical and mental health services and education, as well as healthful activities.



Health & Nutrition Programs

SERVES THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN & ADULTS YEARLY

For 65 years, Neighborhood House has been on the front line battling urban challenges, especially healthcare issues. NH has forged partnerships with powerful health agencies, including the **Medical College of Wisconsin, National Institutes of Health, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, United Way, Jewish Family Services, Greater Milwaukee Foundation, Fighting Back and Safe & Sound**. NH's new HUGS Program—**HELP US GROW STRONG**—is a “wrap-around” approach to improve the physical and mental health and health literacy of Milwaukee’s inner-city children and families. The anchors of HUGS are **Community Health Improvement for Milwaukee’s Children (CHIMC)**, a 8-year, multi-million-dollar partnership with the Medical College of Wisconsin funded through the **NIH** and **National Center for Minority Health & Health Disparities**; and **Milwaukee Childhood Obesity Prevention Project**

(MCOPP), a new three-year partnership funded by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. In addition, our **Wellness Wednesdays** provide nutritious meals, health education programming, screenings, and activities for children and families. NH’s unique **Outdoor & Environmental Education** curricula “**Nature Time**,” stresses the health aspects of outside activity, sustainable gardening, and healthy eating. Several NH programs teach children and families how to grow healthy produce and prepare healthy meals in our teaching kitchens! Of course, NH offers healthy recreational activities such as hiking, bird-watching, camping, yoga, roller skating, baseball, basketball, relaxation and anger management, boxing, and others. Our new HUGS programs “embrace” thousands of children and adults annually, helping them learn healthy living habits and grow strong.



Why it matters:

Neighborhood House centers are at the heart of Milwaukee’s poorest, most under-served neighborhoods. Residents suffer some of the highest national rates of poor health, teen pregnancy, infant mortality, domestic abuse, diabetes, heart disease, and obesity.



Seeds of Hope

Like oaks sprouting from tiny acorns in the roughest ground, progress rises from poverty. Neighborhood House has given thousands of at-risk babies and toddlers healthy starts in life.



Early Childhood Services

SERVES BABIES & CHILDREN AGED 6-WEEKS TO 6-YEARS

Our Early Childhood Services (ECS) program, founded in 1945, is one of the best in the city and has one of the longest legacies of excellence. We were the first community-based program in Milwaukee to be accredited by **NAEYC, the National Association for the Education of Young Children**. Today, our ECS is one of only 16 programs of more than 1,500 state-licensed child care centers in the city to have NAEYC accreditation. (Only one percent!) Our six large classrooms include a Head Start program and an **award-winning, quarter-acre Garden and Play Habitat**. But our most shining assets are our dedicated licensed teachers; nearly all have been at NH for six years, and many more than ten. In fact, one of our most loved teachers has been at NH for 20 years and was awarded the prestigious **Betty Brinn Teacher Award** for excellence in teaching. Our ECS program is a learning center for children aged six-weeks to six-

years-old. Each day, our teachers help children in their personal development through insightful, positive interactions, and constant involvement of parents to reinforce learning at home. Our teachers use the highly regarded *Creative Curriculum*, aligned with NAEYC goals & based on current brain development designed to meet the needs of the *whole* child. NH's unique **Outdoor & Environmental Education** curriculum "**Nature Time**," is infused throughout their learning. Such is the excellence of our programs that ECS was awarded as a pilot site for the **Ready Set Grow Project** with the **Wisconsin Council of Children and Families**. Because NH teaching staff understand the importance of communication between teachers and parents, and the importance of continuing positive teaching and care at home, NH has an active **Parents Advisory Committee** in which all parents are welcome to participate.



Why it matters:

Studies show overwhelmingly that children who attend quality preschool programs are less likely to have low test scores, less likely to drop out, less likely to be poor in adulthood, and less likely to require costly welfare or imprisonment later in life.



Healthy “Sprouts”

Neighborhood House nurtures urban youth and teens at their most formative stages to grow strong, upright and self-reliant, even in the city’s most distressed neighborhoods.



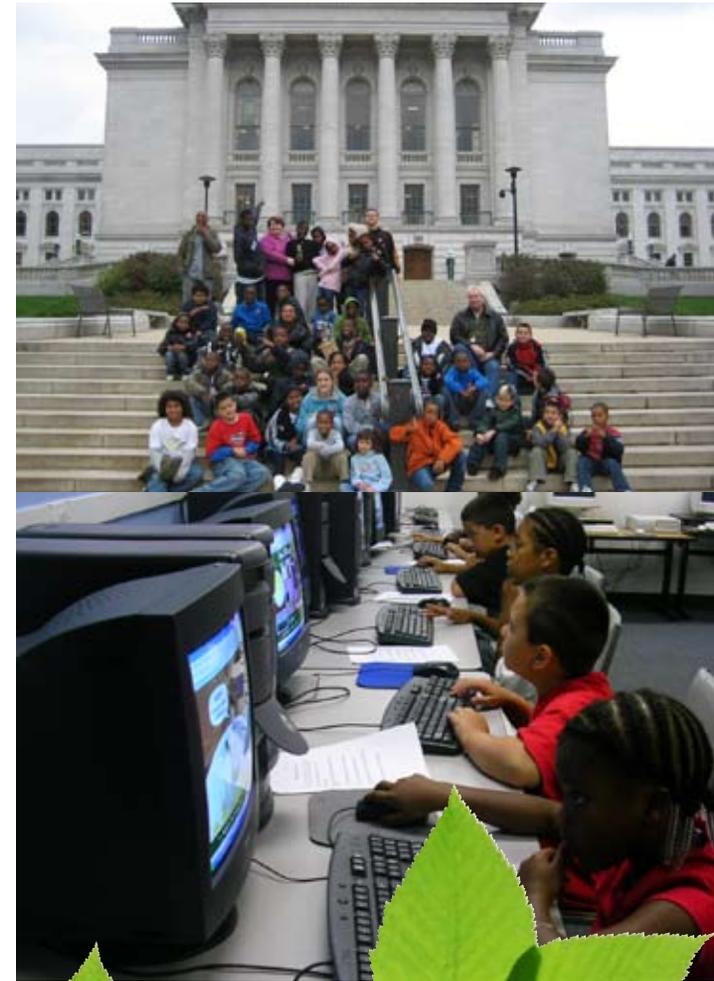
Youth & Teen Programs

SERVES SCHOOL-AGE YOUTH & TEENS

Our in-house youth programs— **Kids Club** (ages 7-12), **Bridge** (13- and 14-year-olds), **Teen** (14-19-year-olds), and **Summer Camp**—are among the longest-established youth programs in the city and serve 500 youth annually. Our **Empowering Youth for Success** curricula addresses academic skills and school retention head-on. But our programs dig deeper to develop self-esteem and build character, healthy decision-making and conflict resolution skills. Our proven programs include after-school homework help, computer instruction, leadership development, sports, recreation and art, driver's education, and on-the-job training. Our one-on-one mentoring with partners like the **Wisconsin Department of Justice, Milwaukee Police Department, Marquette University, and Safe & Sound Crime Strategy Initiative** have been immensely successful. And the **Cal Ripken Sr. Foundation** recently cited NH's "Badges for Baseball" program as one of the best in the country, awarding NH "Best

Practices" and affiliate status among its 100 programs nationwide. All our youth programs are infused with our robust **Outdoor & Environmental Education** curricula, which has been part of NH since the 1960s and is also taught in MPS classrooms by our staff. Our **Summer Day Camp** includes ten weeks of intense academic, artistic and athletic programming. Our many partnerships with corporations, nonprofits and educational institutions such as **Marquette, UWM, MATC, MIAD, Mount Mary, Alverno, Cardinal Stritch, and MPS** provide in-kind support and service workers.

Another NH youth program, the **Community Learning Center (CLC)**, is housed at the Milwaukee High School for the Arts four blocks from NH's main facility. The CLC provides academic support and recreational activities for about 800 students annually and has proven to be extremely effective in improving student achievement and graduation and continuing education rates.



Why it matters:

The on-time graduation rate for MPS students is about 48% versus 70% nationally, according to *USA Today*. Drop-out rates are strong indicators of poverty, crime and unemployment in adulthood.





Surviving Hardship

Our International Learning Center is Milwaukee's leading center for refugees and helps hundreds from all over the world who have experienced war, atrocities, genocide and famine. We help them take root, branch out and flourish in their new culture by becoming literate and getting their citizenship.



The International Learning Center

SERVES HUNDREDS OF REFUGEE FAMILIES YEARLY

Our International Learning Center (ILC) is the **leading** center for refugee families in our city. The ILC directly serves 600 refugees from Africa, Asia and the Middle East a year, and indirectly helps another 2,500 of their family members, mostly children. The ILC has seen increases especially in refugees from **Somalia, Burma, the Congo and Iraq** who are **often the victims of war, atrocities, genocide or famine**. Many are not only illiterate in English but their own tongue as well. They come from the far corners of the earth—**25 different countries**—but are bound by a common drive: they are grateful to be in America and they work hard to become American citizens and find work. The ILC guides them in these goals, offering **literacy and math education, pre-GED and citizenship programs,**

computer skills, employment training, job placement, and parenting classes. The ILC also has a licensed preschool so adult participants can attend classes conveniently and know their children are near and safe. Referral services are offered for trauma counseling and medical needs as well. ILC's excellence is nationally recognized; recently it won Site Recognition and Accreditation by the **U.S. Board of Immigration Appeals**, one of only three area citizenship programs to be so honored. And it was one of only seven recipients nationwide to receive the **2008 Ray Solem Award** for excellence in immigration services. In 2010 the ILC was awarded the **First Lady Jessica Doyle Award for Excellence in Family Literacy**, among other honors.



Why it matters:

Milwaukee's immigrant population has jumped more than 25% in the new millennium, largely due to genocide and war in Somalia, Burma and Iraq. They are among Milwaukee's poorest and most at-need.



Embracing Nature

Neighborhood House has one of the oldest, most comprehensive nature and environmental programs in the city. Our famous Summer Camp was founded in 1945, and since the 1960s, our innovative Outdoor & Environmental Education curricula has been infused through all our programs for all ages. In fact, we created and published our own book, “Nature Time,” a curriculum we use to instruct teachers and thousands of MPS and NH students annually!



Outdoor & Environmental Education Program

SERVES THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN, PARENTS AND MPS TEACHERS & STUDENTS YEARLY

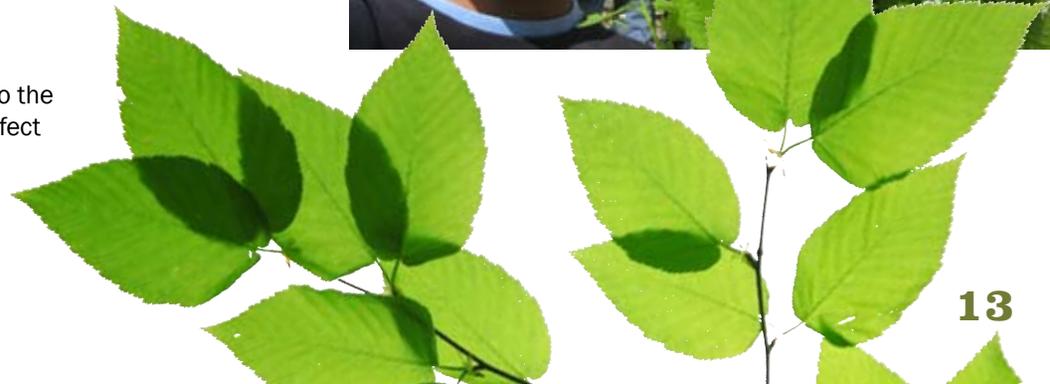
Neighborhood House's **Outdoor & Environmental Education (OEE)** program is the oldest community-based green program in the city—founded in the 1960s. Our OEE is central to our agency mission and is infused throughout all our programming. In fact, our NH staff created their own nature curricula and published an award-winning book called, "**Nature Time**," offered in book stores and taught by our NH staff in **MPS schools!** Our OEE boasts extraordinary facilities: a wonderful in-house **Science Lab** with aquaponic system, worm house, fish tank, and many types of live flora and fauna; an award-winning, quarter-acre **Garden & Play Habitat** with play equipment, gardens, composting, arbors, berry bushes, sunflower maze, and nature study areas; **Lynden Hill Urban Treehouse**; and interns from **America's Outdoors**. Our OEE and

youth programs not only teach children and families how to grow healthy vegetables and fruits, but offer classes in our **Teaching Kitchens** so they can learn how to prepare their produce! The crown jewel of our OEE program is our 92-acre **Nature Center** in Dodge County that includes a huge teaching lodge with fireplace and classrooms, plus many miles of groomed trails, gardens, outdoor classrooms, and a maple sugaring "shack." The OEE program is further enhanced by fertile partnerships with many organizations like the **U.S. Bureau of Land Management**, the **U.S. Forest Service**, **America's Outdoors**, **Crane Foundation**, **Schlitz Audubon**, the **Urban Ecology Center**, and many others. Our "Nature Time" curricula illuminate the cycle of life and our human role in it, and how to be a conscientious local and global citizen.



Why it matters:

Recent research strongly affirms that exposure to the outdoors and nature activities have a positive effect on human health, especially among children exposed daily to urban blight.



A Core of Strength

For 65 years, Neighborhood House has been a safe haven and a pillar of stability for children and families in Milwaukee's toughest neighborhoods.



FINANCIALS

FOR 2009 FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2008 – JUNE 30, 2009

ASSETS

Current Assets

Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$63,461
Grant & Pledge Receivables	\$215,838
Account Receivables	\$37,230
Temporary Investment	\$2,564
Prepaid Expenses	\$0

Total Current Assets \$319,093

Long Term Assets

Long-Term investments	\$34,536
Land	\$192,736
Buildings, Equipment & Fixtures (less accumulated depreciation)	\$1,608,663
Neighborhood House Endowment Fund	\$769,322

Total Long Term Assets \$2,605,257

Total Assets \$2,924,350

LIABILITIES

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$106,760
Accrued Payroll	\$82,599
Line of Credit	\$180,601
Total Current Liabilities	\$369,960

Long Term Liabilities

Deferred Revenue	\$16,883
Notes Payable	\$167,968
Total Long-Term Liabilities	\$184,851

Fund Balance

Unrestricted	\$2,369,539
Total Fund Balance	\$2,369,539

Total Liabilities & Fund Balance \$2,924,350

REVENUES & EXPENSES

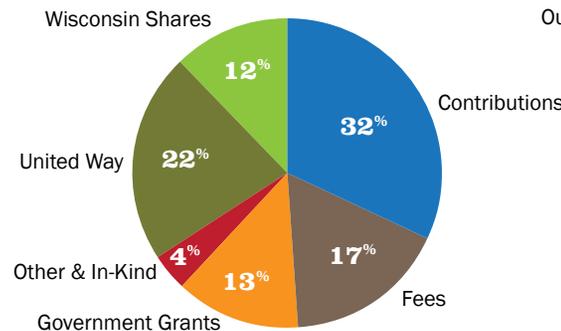
July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009

Contributions	\$781,076
Fees	\$407,493
Government Grants	\$313,798
Other & In-Kind	\$103,374
United Way	\$524,274
Wisconsin Shares	\$289,452
Total Revenue	\$2,419,467

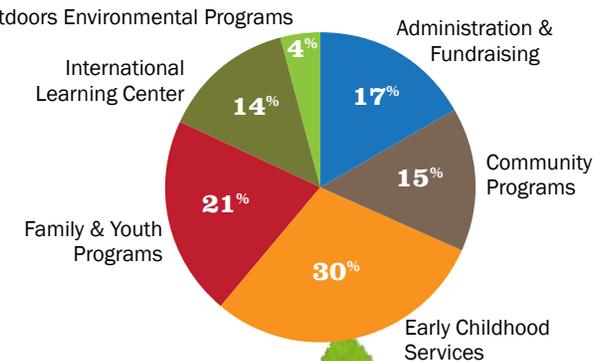
Administration & Fundraising	\$446,765
Community Programs	\$396,453
Early Childhood Services	\$787,842
Family & Youth Programs	\$554,811
International Learning Center	\$378,175
Outdoor Environmental Programs	\$103,363
Total Expenditure	\$2,667,409

Depreciation \$112,974

REVENUE



EXPENDITURE





Deep Roots

Neighborhood House supporters are our strength, our sustenance, our stability—our sunshine. You help us grow roots for thousands of children and families, so they can grow strong and upright.





Neighborhood House
OF MILWAUKEE

5 Reasons Your Support Matters:

- #1** Neighborhood House (NH) has touched the lives of nearly a million at-risk Milwaukeeans since 1945. For 65 years, NH has been a safe haven and stabilizing institution at the heart of Milwaukee's poorest, most under-served neighborhoods. Its main facility has as much square footage as the White House!
- #2** NH's award-winning Early Childhood program was Milwaukee's first community-based childcare with national NAEYC accreditation. Only the top 1% of state licensed Milwaukee child cares are NAEYC accredited.
- #3** Neighborhood House's International Learning Center (ILC) is Milwaukee's leading center for refugees & one of only several national recipients of the Ray Solem Award for Excellence. The ILC recently won the First Lady Jessica Doyle Award for Family Literacy.
- #4** Neighborhood House is Milwaukee's only community center to have its own published book of nature & environmental curricula, "Nature Time," and teaches its program to teachers and thousands of students in MPS classrooms.
- #5** Neighborhood House has one of the inner city's most comprehensive nutrition & healthy living programs, that include partnerships with the Medical College of Wisconsin, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, United Way & other organizations. Together we combat low vaccination rates, poor nutrition, obesity, teen pregnancy, STDs & other pressing health issues.

READ MORE ABOUT OUR LOCATIONS & PROGRAMS AT WWW.NH-MILW.ORG

- NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE (MAIN FACILITY)
2819 WEST RICHARDSON PLACE / 414.933.6161
- INTERNATIONAL LEARNING CENTER
639 NORTH 25TH STREET / 414.344.4777
- COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER
MILWAUKEE HIGH SCHOOL OF THE ARTS
2300 HIGHLAND AVENUE / 414.934.7059
- NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE NATURE CENTER
92-ACRE CENTER IN DODGE COUNTY / 414.933.6161

