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Dear Neighbor Ministries

eNews Update

February 2012

Dear Friends, February went by so fast this year the monthly eNews is almost late. Don't forget you can forward this eNews others or post on your Facebook or LinkedIn page.

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Free Tax Return Preparation

So far this month our 12 volunteer tax preparers have electronically filed 276 returns. This is a free service which is intended to save people money and to avoid instant refund schemes that take a huge bite out of their refund. The only qualification is for income to be under \$50,000. The returns filed to date account for more than \$150,000 in refunds.

Appointments have been made well into April. Many people are asking to be put on a list for any cancellations that might occur. The IRS provides training and software and the United

Way helps coordinate VITA sites around the area. To make an appointment contact us at 684-5120.

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Hilltop Journal by Sr. Ann Catherine Burger

One family I visit in Hilltop has five little stair-steps, ages some months to 5 years. One little boy is full of questions which I love to answer. The father thinks the child is bothering me. I assure him that I delight in seeing the child so observant and anxious to learn. For instance, I sometimes wear a blue belt that has no way of



staying in the position in which I place it unless I use a blue paper clip to hold it there. So guess what the boy wants to know? Pointing to the clip, he asks, "What is that thing?"

Many other children in the past have asked, "What is that?" (Pointing to my veil) Of course, another question to follow is, "Why do you wear that?" That is not too easy to explain. Children are naturally curious so these questions are not unusual.

Maybe I can answer that last question for you, the reader, because maybe you would like to know too, but don't ask. I am a religious Sister and like to identify myself as such for the greater honor and glory of God which I hope my life is.

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Monthly Donations Made Easy

Friends Our secure website allows monthly giving by automatic withdrawal from checking, savings or credit card. Now that a first class stamp costs 45 cents its a good way to save money. As a monthly donor you control the amount, the date for the transfer and when to stop. If you would rather sign up on paper please contact Pat O'Donnell, podonnell@csjoseph.org or call 316-201-6818 and

StepStone Facebook Page Gaining Followers

Thanks to Megan Sullenger our StepStone Facebook page is kept up to date and contains useful links to information about domestic violence. Megan is one of our many volunteers who are not thanked enough for what they do. As a mother of two little ones, she can "work" from home for StepStone.



Click Image to Visit the StepStone Facebook page.

Do you have special skills or interests you would share? Photography? Writing? Teaching? Contact Kathy Gilmartin, our volunteer coordinator, at 684-5120 and let her know how you might help.

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Typical StepStone home

Annual StepStone Sponsor Campaign Underway

Since 2006 area companies and organizations have helped us serve survivors of domestic violence by sponsoring a home for the year. This years confirmed sponsors include: **Wilson Building Maintenance, Metro Courier, EMC Insurance, Blessed Sacrament Men's Club, Cessna Aircraft and Emprise Bank.**

We expect to announce more sponsors soon. If you would like to know more contact Pat O'Donnell at 316-201-6818.

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