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Dear Neighbor Ministries

eNews Update

April 2012

Dear Friends, Welcome to our April **eNews Update**. We appreciate your continued support and welcome your comments. [Click here](#) if you have suggestions or want information.

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Shaunna Hall and Sr. Marguerite O'Brien enjoy a visit at the Ladies Lunch.

Women Working for Women Lunch

Over 80 women gathered on April 19th for the 2nd Annual Luncheon Honoring the Power of Women Working for Women. This year the focus was on domestic violence in the community and the role StepStone plays to help survivors of abuse and neglect.

Those attending heard from a mother and her adult daughter about their individual struggles as a result of domestic violence. It was especially fortunate that the Congregation Leadership Team was in Wichita and able to attend the event.

Special thanks to Pamela Ammar, Sharon Bastian, Colleen Dondlinger, Patti Edison, Mary Moon, Nancy Oldfather and Mary Patton who planned and managed the event.

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Volunteering is a Great Way to Live the Mission

by Sr. Marilyn Stahl, CSJ

It has been my good experience to volunteer at the Dear Neighbor/StepStone reception desk in recent weeks. Though I've learned a great deal by serving on the board of directors and going to the office for



Sr. Marilyn Stahl, CSJ

committee meetings, this first-hand experience has been an eye-opener.

This is truly a pleasant, friendly place and though there is considerable activity in every nook and corner of the limited office space, the atmosphere is peaceful and reassuring. The caring, experienced staff and capable volunteers are ready and willing to help everyone who walks in the door or calls on the phone. I'm gradually learning how encompassing the programs are throughout the Hilltop community— and beyond, thanks to collaboration with other faith-based and civic agencies.

It has been a gratifying experience to witness those living the mission in this place and a ministry where lives are bound together by gestures of kindness.

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Carl Maniaci fills one of the new raised beds in the Community Garden.

How Does Your Garden Grow?

Things are looking up in the Community Garden. In fact, almost three feet higher Raised beds have grown in popularity especially with our senior gardeners. Treated wood lined with a weed barrier makes gardening easier for all but those who must fill them with top soil.

With the early spring this year the garden is looking lush and producing an early crop. As this is being written, I count 18 people working in their gardens. Sisters from India, a couple from the Hilltop neighborhood, a family and a group of mental health patients from the county Comcare program. *It's a great place to grow people!*

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Sr. Connie Beiriger Named CSJ Liaison

Sister Connie has been named the CSJ Liaison between the Dear Neighbor/StepStone board of directors and CSJ Ministries. In addition to regular board responsibilities, she assists and supports ongoing board development in relation to the CSJ Mission and Generous Promises.

Other duties include orientation of new board members regarding CSJ sponsorship, and the culture of the family of CSJ ministries.

She has a deep understanding of Dear Neighbor Ministries as she served on the first advisory board when the program started in 2001. She also serves as Pastoral Associate at Church of the Magdalen in Wichita.



Sr. Connie Beiriger, CSJ

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*Dear Neighbor Ministries
Mission Advancement Office
1329 S Bluffview
Wichita, Kansas 67218
316-201-6818*

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