

NON-PROFIT ORG U.S. POSTAGE **PAID** WICHITA, KS PERMIT #84



CHECK OUT THIS UNIQUE COOKBOOK ON SALE NOW.

If you will be cooking for the holidays or want to give a gift to someone special this Holiday Season this cookbook is perfect. Many of the recipes are accompanied with video interaction, so you can cook right along with Chef H. Better yet, for every cookbook you purchase at \$25 online, Dear Neighbor Ministries will receive \$5. Go to www.ChefH.net, click on the yellow cookbook and then designate Dear Neighbor Ministries as the charity of your choice. For every cookbook you purchase, \$5 will be donated back to Dear Neighbor Ministries.

Please contact Brenda Wasinger if you have any questions at 316-684-5120 or bwasinger@dearneighbor.org. This is a great way to support our neighbors in Hilltop.



www.dearneighbor.org ISSUE 5, DEC 2016



The Miracle of the Christmas Season

The Legend of the Poinsettia reminds us that even the smallest gift given by someone who cares can make a difference. The poinsettia is a gesture of kindness during the Christmas Season. Poinsettias have become known for their symbolism as well as their beauty. The shape of the plant's flower and leaves resemble the star of Bethlehem. The red color reminds us of Christ's Blood, shed for our salvation. Some poinsettias have white leaves, which remind us of Christ's purity. Green symbolizes life and hope.

Sister Rosina Van Leeuwen who has shared her poinsettia artwork with us has taught many students the value of symbolism and beauty. She believes in using imagination and has worked with many forms of visual art media such as watercolors, acrylics, pen and ink, clay and photographs.

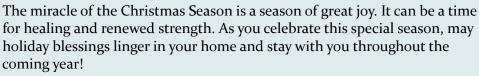
As Sister Rosina creates, she frequently talks to herself and even has a habit of talking to God. She never knows what the finished product will look like, but by talking through it the final piece ends up as something beautiful and one of a kind.



Remember the story of the little girl who picked a handful of weeds from the roadside and made them into a small

bouquet of bright red flowers

bouquet of bright red flowers.





MERRY CHRISTMAS!

FOOD PANTRY WISH LIST

- Peanut Butter
- Jelly
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Meat
- Shelf Stable Milk
- Breakfast Cereal
- Hamburger Helper
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Pasta and/or Rice
- Mac and Cheese
- Canned Vegetables



Become A Volunteer

If you are searching for volunteer opportunities, consider joining Dear Neighbor Ministries. The following opportunities are available:

- Representative Payee work one to four hours a week on an ongoing basis.
 Volunteers assist Social Security recipients with budgeting, bill-paying and managing disability income for those who are unable to do so.
- Receptionist work a minimum four hour shift during the week.
 Reponsibilities include: greeting clients, answering phones, and some light clerical duties.

Must be 18 years of age or older. Training and support provided. For additional information contact Jenny Cott at 316.684.5120, jploussard@dearneighbor.org, or visit our website at www.dearneighbor.org.

We are also seeking VITA volunteers. Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) is a service that asists many individuals, including seniors, in our community every year. The VITA program is sponsored by the IRS and organized locally at United Way of the Plains. Dear Neighbor Ministries has been a VITA site since 2003. You don't have to be an accountant to be a VITA tax preparer. If you enjoy assisting individuals, have a patient personality, and can problem solve, this may be the perfect volunteer opportunity for you.

Sign up today by calling 684-5120 to begin training in January.

A NOTE FROM Sister Ann Catherine

This morning I read this on a small flip chart, which I read every morning for inspiration: "The unity of Christians is an important thing because Christians are a light for others. If we are Christians, we must look like Christ - this is my deep conviction."

Here is a perfect example of this conviction, which by the way is my conviction also: There is a woman who cares for five small children in the Hilltop neighborhood that we deliver meals to Monday through Friday. When the food is delivered to the door, a three year old boy gives a hug to the person delivering the meals and then runs to the golf cart where I sit and gives me a hug. He will only give a hug to those he recognizes. Yesterday, however, the little boy stopped a few feet from the golf cart and just stared at me. I was puzzled and finally beckoned him to come closer and when he did I received a hug for which I reciprocated. Then he ran back to the house.

It was only as I drove away that I figured out why he stopped and stared. When the temperature gets colder, I wear a scarf tied around my head and the little boy just did not recognize me.

So, think about the inspiration I shared earlier. We need to be recognized for who we are as Christians. During this Holiday Season, may we each look familiar to others as a Christ bearer, gift giver and receiver.



Building Community

Are you involved in your neighborhood association? If you are, you know how important building community can be.

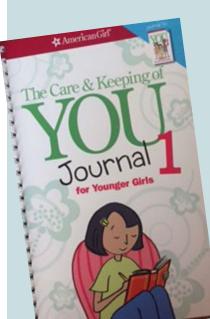
Accomplishing anything is easier and more successful when we partner with others. Nestled in the Hilltop Neighborhood, Dear Neighbor Ministires works alongside the neighborhood association, HAND, to enhance life in the neighborhood. The sense of community among residents has improved by planning activities for the neighborhood, sharing resource information and introducing other partnerships that benefit Hilltop families.

Recently, Dear Neighbor Ministries invited a representative from Interfaith Housing Services, Inc. to attend the Hilltop neighborhood association meeting. The Kansas IDA Program empowers low to moderate income Kansas households to achieve financial self-sufficiency by teaching new habits of financial responsibility through education and asset building.

Partnerships with area law enforcement and the City of Wichtia have brought new programs and services to the Hilltop Neighborhood in order to increase safety.



Growing Up Isn't Easy



Can you imagine how difficult it must be to take care of personal hygiene if you live in a home that doesn't have water or a source of heat. The reality is that sometimes that can happen for families in the Hilltop neighborhood. Children often times go to school without bathing or washing their hair and can be sent home due to body odor.

Dear Neighbor Ministries wanted to help, so the most recent activity for the 4-H SPIN Club involved a day spa for girls. Five-12 year old girls spent the day pampering themselves while learning about health, beauty and relaxation. The day was filled with yoga, manicures, personal hygiene tips and keeping a journal.

The journal was a great tool to use to address self-esteem issues and share the importance of taking care of your mind, body and spirit. Time was spent in group settings, as well as one-on-one conversations with a peer.

All the girls had a great time and suggested that they meet at least once a month. All the participants live in the Hilltop neighborhood and had not met each other before participating in this SPIN Club activity. At the end of the day the girls exchanged phone numbers and wanted to hangout in the near future.

