



The Neighborhood Table ■ P.O. Box 512 ■ Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495 ■ (715) 422-1980 ■ [www.theneighborhoodtable.org](http://www.theneighborhoodtable.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 22, 2011

### **The Neighborhood Table celebrates eighth anniversary and meal milestone**

**WISCONSIN RAPIDS, Wis.** – The local nonprofit meal/soup kitchen organization known as The Neighborhood Table (TNT) will celebrate its eighth year of operation when it serves dinner on December 29, 2011. In addition on this date, TNT will surpass serving 150,000 meals since the organization's inception in December of 2003.

TNT relies heavily upon the support it receives from local businesses and groups, and volunteers who coordinate the meal by performing various duties: planning what to cook, helping to prepare or serve the meal, preparing carryout meals for those unable to attend in person, and helping with cleanup after the meal is served.

According to Todd Peterson, president, TNT continues to strive to improve services to its clients. During the year, TNT partnered with the Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program, a federally funded program through the UW-Extension office. This service provides educational programs to increase the likelihood that food stamp recipients will choose healthy food and lifestyles.

During the year, TNT provided food assistance to other local nonprofit groups. A significant effort by TNT helped provide food assistance to the Boys & Girls Club of the Wisconsin Rapids Area with two grants. TNT helped raise \$5,000 through the generosity of civic-minded citizens in the community to fund the lunch program at the Boys & Girls Club. In addition, TNT applied for and received a \$10,000 grant

(more)

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known as Champions for Healthy Kids from the General Mills Foundation to help fund the club's summer snack program. The grant provided more than 80 school-aged children with a breakfast and/or snack, a garden and related tools to grow fresh vegetables, kitchen equipment, nutrition education and fitness activities. The program was designed so that TNT's assistance would no longer be needed and the Boys & Girls Club could sustain the effort in the future by utilizing USDA school nutrition funding, and a nutrition and fitness program called Fit-tastic developed by the Wood County Health Department.

TNT also provided food assistance to Destiny Point in Rudolph, the Family Center in Wisconsin Rapids, and the Vesper Community Academy by providing hot food on the day of a meal if there was any surplus.

Peterson commented, "It's that time of year when people consider their financial situation for the year and find it possible to make donations before the year ends. The Neighborhood Table welcomes any assistance from those interested in helping our cause." Donations can be made payable and sent to:

The Neighborhood Table, PO Box 512, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495-0512.

### **About The Neighborhood Table**

The Neighborhood Table is a nonprofit 501(c)3 charitable organization with the mission to reduce hunger, improve the quality of life and create an awareness of the needs that exist in the Wisconsin Rapids community and surrounding area. The organization was formed in 2003 with its first meal served December 31, 2003. Since the initial launch, the frequency of meals served has increased over time from one meal a month to a meal served every Thursday and the last Tuesday of each month. Currently, approximately 170 and 400 meals are served each Tuesday and Thursday, respectively, to local participants. Over 80 different groups, businesses and clubs in the area sponsor TNT meals.

The Neighborhood Table is staffed by a corps of volunteers who carry out the meal/soup kitchen program by offering a free meal to anyone who is in need. Meals are served every Thursday from 4:30 to 6 p.m., with carryouts available. Additionally, a meal is served on the last Tuesday of each month from 4:30 to 6 p.m. (no carryouts). The Neighborhood Table is governed by its Board of Directors.

The Neighborhood Table services the communities of Wisconsin Rapids, Nekoosa, Port Edwards and surrounding areas in central Wisconsin.

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