



The Neighborhood Table ■ P.O. Box 512 ■ Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495 ■ www.theneighborhoodtable.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 20, 2010

The Neighborhood Table celebrates new commercial stove

WISCONSIN RAPIDS, Wis. – The Neighborhood Table held a celebration on Sunday afternoon, April 18, to recognize the generosity of donors and volunteers who helped make the new Vulcan Commercial Stove a reality for its community meal/soup kitchen efforts.

Todd Peterson, vice president of The Neighborhood Table Board of Directors, emceed the ceremony and recognized the following major contributors to the stove project: Community Foundation of Greater South Wood County Donor Advised Fund (CFGSWCDAF) – First Congregational Church Community Outreach Fund; (CFGSWCDAF) – Engel Fellowship Lodge; Study and Recreation Club; Rainbow Casino and Ho Chunk North Casino; Streich Equipment Company; and Brody's Electric and Repair. Peterson also gave recognition and thanks to Ginny Steen as founder and leader of The Neighborhood Table for the past seven years, and Gloria Lipman, a core volunteer who was integral to the acquisition and installation of the new commercial range.

The Neighborhood Table began to experience problems with its former residential stoves in late 2009. The board of directors decided that a commercial-type stove would best suit the needs for cooking the weekly meals. Word spread throughout the community of the need to make the major purchase and donations began to flow in. The new commercial stove enables volunteers to more efficiently cook meals where the meals are served most often – at St. John's Episcopal Church. In addition to the stove, The Neighborhood Table was able to purchase some new pots and pans to accommodate the bigger burners as well as padded industrial mats to lessen the tiring of feet on the hard tile floors.

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“We are truly grateful for the support and enthusiasm provided by our donors and volunteers. Without them, this new stove would not have been possible,” commented Peterson.

Those in attendance at the ceremony included donors, volunteers, local officials and community-minded citizens. The ceremony concluded with a ribbon cutting in the kitchen followed by cake and refreshments.

About The Neighborhood Table

The Neighborhood Table is a nonprofit 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. Approximately 400 meals are served weekly to local participants.

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 6:00 p.m., with carry outs available. 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.



New commercial stove to help cook meals at The Neighborhood Table.

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We share not only a meal, but also an atmosphere of hospitality and mutual respect.