



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

**For Immediate Release**

October 4, 2013

### **Ginny Steen receives Jefferson Award**

WISCONSIN RAPIDS, Wis. – Ginny Steen, founder of The Neighborhood Table (TNT), was announced as winner of the local Jefferson Award for the month of October. Announcement of the award occurred just prior to The Neighborhood Table's meal on Thursday, October 3, by WAOW TV 9 in partnership with the Marshfield Clinic.

According to Dale Bikowski, president of TNT, "Ginny is truly deserving of the Jefferson Award. She was the catalyst and the driving force that got our free meal program off the ground and running. Ginny guided us as we evolved and expanded over the years, and now we are a pretty well-oiled machine totally run by volunteers who care about those in need in our community. Ginny continues to be actively involved, and we appreciate her as a great resource."

The Jefferson Awards were established in 1972 by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, U.S. Senator Robert Taft, Jr. and Sam Beard. The purpose of the awards is to honor individuals for their achievements and contributions through public and community service in order to inspire and encourage others to get involved. The Jefferson Awards are presented on two levels: national and local. National award recipients represent a "Who's Who" of outstanding Americans. On the local level, Jefferson Awards recipients are ordinary people who do extraordinary things without expectation of recognition or reward. The Jefferson Awards is the nation's largest media partnership highlighting service to America.

#### **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 late 2003 and grew the frequency of meals served since that time to every Thursday and the last two Tuesdays of each month. Currently, approximately 170 and 375 meals are served each Tuesday and Thursday, respectively, to local participants. Over 100 different groups, businesses and clubs in the area sponsor TNT meals.

The Neighborhood Table is staffed by volunteers who carry out the meal/soup kitchen program by offering a free meal to anyone who is in need. Meals are served 4:30 to 6 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church, with carry-outs available Thursdays only. The Neighborhood Table is governed by its Board of Directors. The program services the communities of Wisconsin Rapids, Nekoosa, Port Edwards and surrounding areas in central Wisconsin. To learn more about TNT and available volunteer opportunities, please visit [www.theneighborhoodtable.org](http://www.theneighborhoodtable.org).

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