



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

For Immediate Release

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The Neighborhood Table to celebrate 10th anniversary

WISCONSIN RAPIDS, Wis. – The Neighborhood Table (TNT), a local nonprofit organization that provides free meals to anyone in need, will celebrate its 10th anniversary on December 31, 2013.

According to Dale Bikowski, president, “We take pride in incrementally growing our free meal program to keep pace with the needs of our community. TNT served its first meal on December 31, 2003, to about 55 people. Now we serve meals every Thursday and the last two Tuesdays of the month for about 375 meals on Thursdays and about 175 on Tuesdays. Recently the temporary increase in the Food Share program expired so many households have seen a reduction in the amount of food they can obtain. This makes our meal program even more important for the community. Please join us on December 31 if you need a home-cooked meal. Our meals are served in an atmosphere of hospitality and mutual respect.”

Since inception, TNT has served more than 186,000 individual meals. The meal team works together to design a varied menu while keeping healthy choices in mind for a balanced meal. Costs are kept to a minimum as the entire organization is run totally by volunteers. In addition, many of TNT’s food purchases are made through Feeding America, a nationwide food bank that services meal kitchens, pantries and other similar programs throughout the nation. TNT also frequently receives food donations from the community.

Meals at TNT are sponsored by more than 100 local groups and organizations in the community that often reserve the same date slot each year. Throughout the year about 1,500 volunteers help TNT prepare the meals, serve at tables, clean off dishes, wash dishes and clean up the parish hall at St. John’s Episcopal Church where the meals are served. Many volunteer opportunities are available at TNT. More information can be found at www.theneighborhoodtable.org.

Donations to help buy food and help with operating costs would be greatly appreciated. Please visit TNT’s Web site to learn of the various options to make a donation.

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

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 175 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.

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