Friends of Neighbors Link
Plan May 7th Anniversary Gala

Writing and Art Contest Focuses on Contributions of Immigrants

Congratulations to all the participants in the Neighbors Link 10th Anniversary Writing and Art Competition. The contest’s theme was “How Immigrants Strengthen a Community.”

FIRST PLACE WINNERS (Tie) – $50 each
High School Students
Alison Quinn and Marilyn Shapiro (both of Pound Ridge)

SECOND PLACE WINNERS (Tie) – $25 each
High School Students
Christine Kelly (White Plains), Karl Stieglitz (Pelham)

THIRD PLACE WINNERS – $10 each
Middle School Students
Ava Chorosch and Camille Rosenthal (both of Katonah)

FIRST PLACE WINNERS – $100 each
Elementary School Students
Samantha Corado (Mount Kisco), Kiera Allen (White Plains), Matt Mitamura (White Plains), Johanna Costigan (Dobbs Ferry)

Our special thanks to the 2011 Writing and Art Contest Judges: Neighbors Link Board Members and Pound Ridge Artist Wilmer Orellana.

Thank You for Making the Neighbors Link Dream a Reality

To make a donation, please go to: www.neighborslink.org

To order your gala ticket, please use the following:
Tickets: www.neighborslink.org or 914-666-3410 ext. 14

Friends of Neighbors Link

Neighbors Link Honors its Founding Benefactors

Janet Benton Judy and Jim Davis Carol and Jim Fallon Agnes and Gerald Hassell Susan and Paul Hirschbiel Nancy and Jerry Kohlberg Mary and Edward Monley Jackie and Jim Mann Debra and Jim Trejo

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The Founding of a Dream: Neighbors Link Celebrates its 10th Anniversary

Neighbors Link began as a dream. Part of that dream was that new immigrants in Mount Kisco would have a place to call home, to bond and develop—individually and collectively—towards their human potential. The rest of the dream was that long-established residents would get involved as partners, volunteering to build a better world together.

We believed then and now that our common humanity transcends all the imposed boundaries that divide us, and that a community thrives and succeeds only when its people develop and grow together through social and economic diversity.

The road ahead was stalemated with typical controversy about immigration. Our simple goal throughout was to make the founding of Neighbors Link was to accept economic reality and build an infrastructure of inclusiveness.

A small group of volunteers had faith in what was then a nameless, placeless dream. It was their deep commitment to turning an ideal into reality and build an infrastructure of inclusiveness that defined the Neighbors Link’s purpose:

To strengthen the whole community by actively enhancing the healthy integration of recent immigrants.

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Realizing Neighbors Link’s mission was a challenge and a joy.清晰地表达自己的想法。
Neighbors Link Celebrates the 10th Anniversary of a Dream

Sue Bickler Taub, Audrey Kolloff, and Agnet Hassell. Without their help, Neighbor Link could not have evaluated and approved resources or reminded us where we would have had so much fun doing the work.

English classes were offered three nights weekly by volunteer tutors, while BOCES conducted an ESL program every morning at the Bridge. In time our class negotiated 6,000 jobs annually through Neighbor Link, and our ESL program now provides 27 clients in appropriate classes weekly. All this, with the help of our own tutors and the professional direction of Ramapo Community College.

We (the first year we say) got us a café and social room so that newcomers would have a place to be and belong. Besides around six hours of house cleaning and help, and networking for new jobs, it was critical to tblinking in the early years of immigration. One of our first clients was the woman Colita Garcia, an electrician and tailor from Guatemala. Seeing a way to give back to Neighbor Link, Colita volunteered to teach a professional sewing class for immigrant women residing in our world, mindsets like these still happen—and dreams like Neighbor Link still come true.

Jack Miller
President, Neighbor Link

Community Quilt Project is a Labor of Love

Quiltmaking has long been a cooperative craft, with many hands making light work. Recently the women of the Neighbor Link Latin Sol sewing class undertook the making of a community quilt, to be auctioned off at the May 7th Festival de Primavera. Created from over fifty squares decorated by students from the Learning Links after-school program, the spring-themed quilt is bordered by cheerful green, yellow and blue fabric, with red hearts in each corner. Latin Sol class members met weekly on Thursday evenings to complete the project in stages. The work was not difficult for these capable sewers, but it did require focus—as well as many long hours of cutting, pinning and machine sewing. Bach Tatara of the Northern Star Quilters Guild provided guidance, sharing methods that varied from the group’s usual techniques for making clothes and home goods. Ana Morales and Claudia Gomez from AC Designs completed the final quilting.

“Neighbors Link provides an invaluable service to our community. While the successes of Newz & Arts have recognizable Neighbor Link as the living proof of this, local residents are working together in the educational and training opportunities offered to the facility and guide the greatest success. Thank you for your caring and compassionate assistance to the opportunity of a community quilt.”

J. Michael Cindrich, Mayor of Mount Kisco

If you’re interested in the arts, you know that the arts are a powerful tool for community building. Neighbor Link has been a part of our community, and the bridge between us has been the arts. In the past 10 years, Neighbor Link has provided a variety of opportunities for individuals and groups to explore their creative talents and express themselves through the arts, including pottery, painting, photography, and music. These activities have not only brought together people from all walks of life but have also helped to foster a sense of community and belonging. In the future, Neighbor Link plans to continue to offer a wide range of arts programs, including theater, dance, and film workshops, in order to provide even more opportunities for creative expression.

Tenth Anniversary Marks a Decade of Partnership and Progress

“Neighbors Link is a fortunate to have the support and partnership of our enlightened community. Together we are leading the way as a model of how communities can cooperate to improve the lives of its members.”

Jules Mastrandrea, Director of Neighbor Link

Link, and our community’s model for healthy integration of recent immigrants. Neighbor Link is so fortunate to have the support and partner-ship of this enlightened community. Together we are leading the way as a model of how communities can cooperate to improve the lives of its members.”

Jules Mastrandrea, Director of Neighbor Link

Interfaith Choirs Celebrate Neighbors Link Through Song

In an inspirational gathering that raised the roof at Fox Lane High School’s Mary Lou Moore Theatre, an choir swung out in celebration of the tenth anniversary of Neighbor Link.

On the afternoon of April 3rd, the Interfaith Choral Celebration drew hundreds of listeners who appreciate music, as well as Neighbor Link’s message of inclusion and community. Set against a photo montage of Neighbor Link clients engaged in learning and integration, choirs from eight different houses of worship performed, together with a group of singer-musicians from Neighbor Link. Jason Nevarez, Associate Rabbi at Temple Shmauy Torah of Northern Westchester and President of the Northern Westchester Interfaith Council emceed the event.

Participants and sponsors included: The Amish Baptist Church (Bedford Hills), Bedford Central School District, Belford Presbyterian Church, Chappaqua Singers, Kantor and the Circuit, Lutheran Church, Community Church of the Resurrection (Mount Kisco), Neighbor Link, Mount Kisco, Pound Ridge Community Church, St. Mark’s Episcopal Church (Mount Kisco), Temple Beth El of Northern Westchester (Chappaqua), Temple Shmauy Torah of Northern Westchester (Bedford Center) and United Methodist Church of Mount Kisco. Special thanks to Rabbi David Grunberg, Rabbi Jason Newman, Executive Director Barbara Merson and Alli Steinberg of Neighbor Link, Ted Orsini, and the assembled squares, prior to the process of packing and quilting.

The answers from the great quilt, then add our names to them that adorn to low corners.

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