



Neighbor to Neighbor

A center for women

We're a center for women and women with children in downtown Concordia, Kan. Our services and programs are all offered without charge to the women taking part, thanks to continuing support from the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia, our growing cadre of volunteers and generous donations from people who care about making our community a better place, today and into the future.

FALL/WINTER 2012



Sparky the Fire Pup entertains a younger sibling with a game of peeks-a-boo after the second "Reading with Leaders" session Oct. 5.



Ready for Reading!

Who knew that a storytime for preschoolers would be wildly popular?

Apparently both the sisters at Neighbor to Neighbor and the staff at Neighborhood Initiatives.

Together they created a series of 12 storytimes, called "Reading with Leaders." With a grant from the Kansas Health Foundation, they began lining up

"guest readers" and then announced the program to begin in early September. And frankly, we were worried that a goal of 30 children for each session was unrealistic in a small city like Concordia.

Silly us for ever doubting!

By the third session, the staff at Neighborhood Initiatives — an office of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia — had found another small grant

and recruited more community readers so up to 50 children can now take part each time.

With parents, grandparents, caregivers and siblings also attending, Neighbor to Neighbor is filled to the brim with joyous storytelling!

And the 3-, 4- and 5-year-olds each get a copy of the book that was read so the storytelling can continue at home.

'Reading with Leaders' series

Here's the rest of the schedule for the storytelling series for children ages 3, 4 and 5. Registration is required; call 785/262-4215.

- NOV. 16 — "Harold and The Purple Crayon"
- NOV. 30 — "Guess How Much I Love You"
- DEC. 14 — "Santa's Little Helper"
- JAN. 11, 2013 — "Dancing Feet"
- FEB. 15 — "Hot Rod Hamster"
- MARCH 8 — "Alexander and the Terrible Horrible No Good Very Bad Day"
- MARCH 22 — "The Giving Tree"
- APRIL 12 — "If You Give a Mouse a Cookie"
- MAY 3 — "Green Eggs & Ham"

What's coming up

Events at Neighbor to Neighbor, 103 E. Sixth St., Concordia.

- SATURDAY, NOV. 24 — "Christmas Craft Sale & Art Show!" from 9 am to 1 pm. Art created by women at the center will be on display, and lots of handmade crafts (and baked goodies!) will be on sale.
- WEDNESDAY, DEC. 19 — Christmas Party with Santa and a gift for every child; from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Registration is required; call 785/262-4215.
- BEGINNING THURSDAY, FEB. 14 — KOHP (Kansas Optimizing Health Program), a six-week program for people coping with chronic health issues. Call Sister Jean Befort to register: 785/262-4215.



Sister Jean Rosemarynoski has a dozen samples to try at the annual Chili for Charity fundraiser.

Keep track of our people and projects at www.csjkansas.org/neighbors



How You Can Help

Be a good neighbor

Special Needs:

With Christmas coming, many of our guests are trying their hands at arts and crafts — and so our need for art supplies is even greater than usual!

- Oil paints/brushes/canvas
- Jewelry-making supplies (beads, wires, pliers, etc.)
- Yarn (any type, all colors)
- Needlework kits and projects (embroidery, cross stitch, etc.)
- Christmas kits and projects
- Prizes for bingo and other games (for women & children up to age 5)

Call for Volunteers:

- If you have a skill you'd like to teach or a special talent to share, please stop by and chat with us about it. We're always looking for more ways women can learn from each other.

Neighbor to Neighbor

103 E. Sixth St.
Concordia KS 66901

785/262-4215

neighbortoneighbor@
csjkansas.org

Hours

9 am-4 pm M, T, W & F
1 pm-6 pm Th

Center Staff

Sister Jean Befort
Sister Ramona Medina
Sister Pat McLennon

A MINISTRY OF THE
Sisters of St. Joseph
of Concordia, Kansas
... loving God and neighbor without distinction ...



Bishop Edward Weisenburger and volunteer Ann Barnett enjoy their conversation during his visit Aug. 20. Looking on are Sister Pat McLennon, left, volunteer Alice Nondorf, center, and guest Sarah Schleicher.

Volunteers welcome new bishop

When the new Bishop of Salina made his first visit to the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia in August, it included a stop at Neighbor to Neighbor — plus introductions to sisters, volunteers and guests at the downtown center.

As Sister Marcia Allen gave

Bishop Edward Weisenburger the tour, she explained the history of the two-story building and purpose of the 2½-year-old center for women and women with children.

And like virtually every visitor, the bishop got cookies and conversation to make him feel at home.

He also received a special gift from volunteer Ann Barnett — a “Prayer Cloth,” which she knits and gives away as a reminder of “the comfort and faith in prayer.”

Bishop Weisenburger picked a dark blue cloth and said he would keep it in his pocket. “We can all use prayer,” he told Ann.

SPOTLIGHT ON GENEROSITY

Verna Hamel



Verna has been volunteering almost all of her adult life for various charities and organizations as a way of giving service to others. It was a trait she says she learned from her mother.

She got to know Neighbor to Neighbor when she was invited to

the Valentine Tea Party last February.

Jean Wilcox, a volunteer who teaches sewing once a week, had cut out fabric for the “Little Dresses for Africa” project — and that fit Verna to a T! She loves to sew, and has made more than 30 little dresses so far, while also offering help to women who are just learning to sew.

Why does she volunteer? She says that it helps her to think about something or someone other than herself. She gets a feeling of self worth by being able to give something tangible to another person.



Verna Hamel is always available to offer help to women learning to sew at Neighbor to Neighbor.