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The Mission

The NorthWest Initiative is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization working to strengthen and sustain healthy communities in Lansing's 'grand neighborhoods' - the City area bounded by the Grand River on the north, east, and south. The Ingham County Health Department and the City of Lansing sponsors the Initiative. Program partners include residents, neighborhood organizations, local nonprofit organizations, human service agencies, and units of Michigan State University.

Walnut Neighborhood Org. Holding "Neighborhood Picnic"

Mark your calendar and plan to attend a **Neighborhood Picnic** in celebration of all the wonderful families and businesses in the area. In collaboration with the NorthWest Initiative, WNO will hold its picnic on **Wednesday, September 2nd from 5:00 - 7:00pm** in the field behind the old Walnut School. There will be many community organizations in attendance with helpful information for you and your family! Be sure to join us for free hot dogs, chips, and beverages and remember to bring a blanket or chairs! For more information, call Maria at (517) 999-2895.



New ARRO Workshops & Ex-Offender Support Group

NWI and ARRO are hosting four different workshops over the next four months. The workshops will provide learning opportunities that will teach individuals how to become productive citizens in their respective neighborhoods. These workshops will teach valuable skills and point to quality resources that will empower ex-offenders to improve their lives. The workshops are as follows: **Leadership Development - September 25th**; **Establishing and Maintaining a Healthy Relationship - October 23rd**; **Life Skills 101 - November 20th**; and **Advocate for Your Cause - December 11th**.

We will also host a six (6) week **Ex-Offender Support Group** starting in October. The sessions will be held on **Thursday, October 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th** as well as **November 5th and 12th**. The support groups goal is to provide a setting in which ex-offenders can share with each other the struggles they have with re-adjusting. We will also teach ex-offenders skills that they need to successfully transition back into the community.

The support group and the workshops will run from **11:30am - 1:00pm** in **Room 203 at 1012 N. Walnut St., in Lansing.** Lunch will be provided. Reservations highly encouraged. For reservations and questions, please contact Maria at (517) 999-2895.

Food Systems Project Update



The Food Systems Project School Garden Based Nutrition Education program will be adding a fourth school to our programs this school year. Over 800 students at Willow, Cavanaugh, Riddle Elementary and Mid-Michigan Leadership Academy will be visited monthly and will learn about nutrition through the use of school gardens. Students prepare healthy food samples on every visit, and also participate in lots of fun educational activities using fruits and vegetables.

Due to the increase in programming, **FSP is desperately in need of volunteers to work in the classrooms this school year.** If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Joy Baldwin at (517) 999-2894 or e-mail her at joy@nwlansing.org.

We also wanted to inform you that our Summer Garden Camp program was also a big success this year. Nearly 80 students participated across three elementary schools. Over a hundred fun tasks were completed and students prepared and sampled over thirty different recipes. If your little ones missed out on the fun, be sure to enroll them next summer!