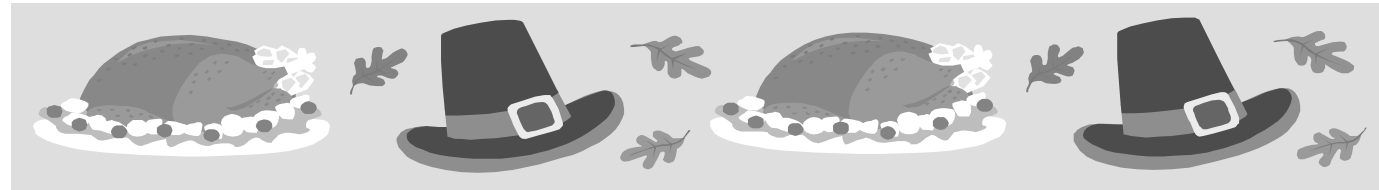




NorthWest Initiative  
530 W. Ionia St., Suite D  
Lansing, MI 48933

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November/  
December 2010  
NorthWest Initiative  
Newsletter!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



November/December Calendar 2010 (November/December Events see P3)

Title	Day	Time	Location	Title	Day	Time	Location
<b>Programs</b>				<b>Meetings</b>			
				ARRO Meeting Linda Archer	Nov. 19/ Dec. 17	5:30 pm	NWI
Youth Engagement Program	Saturdays	9:00 am- 12:00 pm	NWI	Hull Ct. Park Neighborhood	Nov. 3/ Dec. 1	For info call 267-9848	
Celebrate Your Health Club	3rd Satur- day of the month	9:30 am – 11:00 am	TLC	Genesee Neighborhood Assoc.	Nov. 4/ Dec. 2	7:00 pm	Grace Lutheran Church
Photography Class for Children	2nd Satur- day of the month	11:00 am - 1:00 pm	NWI	Food Systems Project	Nov. 1/ Dec. 6	4:00 pm	LC
National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI) Support Group Sessions	Thursdays	7:00 pm- 8:30 pm	NWI	NWI Board Meeting Rudy Wilson	Nov. 11/ Dec. 9	5:45 pm	NWI
				Cherry Hill Neighborhood	Nov. 18/ Dec. 16	For info call 351-1389	
<b>Location Addresses and Phone Numbers</b>				Old Forest Neighborhood Kevin Webb	Nov. 18/ Dec. 16	For info call 372-8649	
<b>BCFI</b> = Black Child and Family Institute, 835 W. Genesee, 487-3775	<b>MMLA</b> = Mid-Michigan Leadership Academy, 730 W. Maple, 485-5379			Westside Neighborhood Don Clearwater	Nov. 17/ Dec. 15	7:00 pm	LC
<b>CADL</b> = Capitol Area District Library, 401 S. Capitol, 367-6300	<b>NWI</b> = North West Initiative, 530 W. Ionia St., Suite D, 999-2894			Knollwood/ Willow N'hood Walter Brown	Nov. 18/ Dec. 16	5:30 pm	WE gym
<b>LC</b> = Letts Community Center, 1200 W. Kalamazoo, 483-4311	<b>SH</b> = Scott House, 125 W. Main, 999-2894			Edmore Park Neighborhood Dayle Benjamin	Nov. 19/ Dec. 19	For info call 372-1455	
<b>WE</b> = Willow Elementary, 1012 W. Willow St., 325-6886	<b>TLC</b> = Trinity Lutheran Church, 501 W. Saginaw St. 372-1631			Downtown Neighborhood Monica Zuchowski	Nov. 18/ Dec. 23	6:00 pm	CADL
				Walnut Neighborhood Kenetha Gibson	Nov. 18/ Dec. 23	For info call 267-0453	

News for people who live, work, and play in Lansing's grand neighborhoods- the City area bounded on the north, east, and south by the Grand River.

November/December 2010

# Grand Happenings

Grand Happenings is produced by NorthWest Initiative

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NWI is Relocating!  
NWI Silent Auction Fundraiser  
ARRO Meeting  
Celebrate Your Health

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Seeking Volunteers to Teach Nutrition, Cooking, and Gardening in Classrooms  
  
Seeking Volunteer Tax Preparers for 2011  
  
Ingham Health Plan—Open Enrollment October & November Only!

Page 3

Skyline Coney Dog  
  
Interested in Photography?  
  
NWI Staff Changes

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November/December Meeting Calendar

NorthWest Initiative  
North Neighborhood Center

530 W. Ionia St., Suite D  
Lansing, MI 48933  
Phone: (517) 999-2894  
OR (517) 999-2895  
Fax: (517) 999-2897  
www.nwlansing.org

Submit an Article!

Send January/February newsletter submissions by December 6th to peggy@nwlansing.org

## NorthWest Initiative Has New Home!

Effective November 4, 2010, you will be able to reach us at our new address:

**NorthWest Initiative**  
530 W. Ionia St. , Suite D  
Lansing, MI 48933

Our telephone numbers and email addresses will remain unchanged. Our offices will be closed from Monday, November 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup> as we move into our new facility. We thank you for your patience during our transition!

## “A Decade of Giving: A Decadent Dessert & Silent Auction” Fundraiser

You're Invited to a “A Decade of Giving: Decadent Dessert & Silent Auction Fundraiser” on Thursday, December 9, 2010 from 5-8 pm at NorthWest Initiative, 530 W. Ionia St., Lansing, MI 48933. Tickets are \$35.00 each and include delicious desserts and beverages and the ability to bid on wonderful silent auction items – perfect gifts for the holidays! We are also looking for individuals willing to make a delicious dessert for our event. All proceeds from the fundraiser will be used to support programs of the NorthWest Initiative. To purchase tickets, make a tax-deductible donation, or offer to donate a dessert, please call (517) 999-2894 or email peggy@nwlansing.org.

## Join ARRO, Now Meeting on the 3rd Friday of the Month

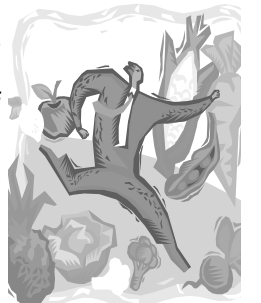
NorthWest Initiative's Advocacy Re-entry, Resources Outreach (ARRO) program is going to have their advisory board and general membership meeting on the same day once a month starting in November. If you are interested in getting involved with this program please come to the meetings to be held on November 19<sup>th</sup>, December 17<sup>th</sup>, and January 28<sup>th</sup>.

For more information, or questions please call Maria at (517) 999-2894 or email her at maria@nwlansing.org.

## Celebrate Your Health Club Tackles the Holidays!

Would you like to bounce ahead of the New Year and start getting your health in gear? So would we! This is precisely the reason we started the Celebrate Your Health Club up again! Not to mention, making healthier choices will help you through the stressful holidays!

If you have never been to one of our meetings in the past and have an interest in becoming healthier, we would love to have you join us! We meet every third Saturday of the month from 9:30 – 11:00am at Trinity Lutheran Church (501 W. Saginaw, on the corner of Chestnut & Saginaw in Lansing). We discuss health related topics and enjoy a tasty breakfast, as well as each other's company! Over the next few months, we will be meeting on November 20<sup>th</sup> and December 18<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Stephanie at (517) 999-2894 or email her at stephaniec@nwlansing.org. We hope to see you there!



**Board of Directors**

Cindy Carlanio  
Margaret Groves  
Michael Flowers, Vice President  
Joe McDonald  
Nick Lynch  
Carol Skillings, Treasurer  
Vennisha Smith  
Rudy Wilson, President  
Angie Zamora, Secretary

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Food Systems Project  
Coordinator & Webmaster

John Bolan  
AmeriCorps FSP Volunteer Coordinator

Rick Bennett  
Program Assistant

Janine Boylan  
AmeriCorps FSP Volunteer Coordinator

Stephanie Campbell  
FSP Nutrition Education & Physical  
Fitness Coordinator

Elizabeth Collins-Jones  
Office Assistant

Lori Eva  
AmeriCorps VISTA Program  
Development Assistant

Renee French  
Office Assistant

Monica Jahner  
ARRO Outreach Worker

Charlene Jamison  
FSP Assistant

James Ramos  
AmeriCorps Outreach Worker—  
Food Access Specialist

Diane Rethamel  
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Laymon Risper Jr.  
Program Assistant

Qosmon Sagataw  
Food Systems Project Assistant

Ramona Spencer  
FSP Garden Coordinator

Peggy Vaughn-Payne  
Executive Director

Jessica Yorko  
Westside Commercial Association  
Manager

Maria Zavala  
Outreach Manager

**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.

**Seeking Volunteers for Nutrition Education in Schools**

Do you like working with children? Would you like to gain experience in gardening, cooking or early childhood education? If so, then the Food Systems Project is in need of your time! Volunteer opportunities range from leading school garden activities in K-8 classrooms to garden planning, to simply helping water and weed the school gardens.

Volunteers wishing to assist in the classroom will visit the same classroom for one hour every week or every month (depending on the room) and will lead a garden based nutrition education activity. Activities include: veggie bingo, harvesting vegetables, cooking in the classroom, garden art projects, writing about the garden, and much more. Volunteers must be at least 18 years old, reliable, timely, and able to work with diverse student populations. If you would like more information on volunteer opportunities, please contact **Joy at (517) 999-2894** or e-mail her at [joy@nwlansing.org](mailto:joy@nwlansing.org).

**Seeking Volunteer Tax Preparers for 2011**

Do you enjoy preparing your yearly tax return (or those of family and friends)? Do you enjoy helping people? Do you have a few hours to volunteer each week during the upcoming tax season? If you responded yes to these questions, then we are in need of a few volunteers to assist our VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) Tax Preparation Site which will be open from late **January through April 15, 2011**. You can volunteer for as few or as many hours that you have available. No previous experience is required, just the ability to attend and complete the mandatory free IRS training. Each volunteer will learn how to use the TaxWise software that allows us to e-file all tax returns. For more information, please call **(517) 999-2894**.

**IHP Plan A - Open Enrollment October & November Only!**

Did you know that the State of Michigan has a health coverage program that only enrolls new people during a short time every other year? Don't miss your only opportunity this year to enroll! There is no cost to apply or to be a member. If you meet the income requirements below, you may be able to apply for the Adult Medical Program (also known as Plan A/ABW) at the Department of Human Services APPLY during the months of **October and November 2010, ONLY!**

FAMILY SIZE If your income is less than... you should apply!

- \$5,400 per year (\$450 per month)
- \$7,300 per year (\$600 per month)
- \$9,100 per year (\$760 per month)



HOW TO APPLY:

1. Go to the Ingham County Dept. of Human Services Office, located at: **5303 S. Cedar Street , Lansing MI 48911 (Building 4)**.
2. Fill out a Filing Form (1171-F) right away; turn it in to the DHS office to establish your application date.
3. Fill out an Assistance Application (Form 1171) OR ask to apply for the Adult Medical Assistance Program.

If you have any questions please call or Outreach Team **(517) 999-2894** or stop in to see us at **530 W. Ionia St., Suite D, Lansing, MI 48933** so we can help answers your questions.

**Upcoming Events**

**Silver Bells in the City**

26th Annual Silver Bells in the City. Join in the season fun on **November 19th, 5 pm– 9 pm in Downtown Lansing!**

**NWI Holiday Hours**

Our offices will be closed on the following days to celebrate the holidays with our families:

November 25-26, 2010  
December 24 and 31, 2010

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

**Save The Date!**

Come Celebrate 10 Years of Community Building with NWI!

**"A Decade of Giving: A Decadent Dessert and Silent Auction" Fundraiser on Thursday, December 9, 2010 from 5 – 8 pm**

**Food Resources**

**Panera Bread Distribution**  
Every Thursday from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm  
NorthWest Initiative  
**530 W. Ionia St., Suite D 517-999-2895**

**Angel Food Ministries**  
Place orders in the middle of the month and pick up at the end of the month.  
Call Julie @ **(517) 485-0174**  
(Must enroll prior to distribution)

**Great Food for All**  
Place orders at the beginning of the month and pick up in the middle of the month. Call Jack @ **(517) 374-2650**  
(Must enroll prior to distribution)

**Food Movers Distribution**  
November 10th & December 8th from 11am-12pm  
**Black Child and Family Institute**  
**835 W. Genesee St. Lansing, MI 48915 (517) 487-3775**  
(Must enroll prior to distribution)

**New Office Hours for NWI Outreach Program**

Beginning November 4th, our Outreach Program will change its hours. Due to overwhelming request for services that require individualized attention, we have instituted an **appointment-only schedule for Mondays and Tuesdays** (all day) in order to assist residents with signing up for the Ingham Health Plan, MI Child, Medicaid, food stamps, and other programs. The Outreach Program will be open to the general public on **Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 9:00 am 4:00 pm**. Late appointments may also be arranged by calling **999-2894**.

**Skyline Coney Island – 2010 West Saginaw Street**

Lansing's Westside welcomes Skyline Coney Island Restaurant to 2010 West Saginaw Street, which is at "the point" of Saginaw and Oakland, next door to BIGGBY Coffee, across from the Michigan Catholic Credit Union and west of the Irish Pub & Grill. Skyline is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, and also provides catering. Hours are Monday through Saturday, 7:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. and Sunday from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

Skyline opened in late-July and has added additional seating capacity which creates a pleasant and inviting dining experience. Stop by **Skyline Coney Island at 2010 West Saginaw**, or call Skyline at **(517) 484-8086** to learn more.

**Interested in Photography?**

All young photographers ages 9-16-years-old are welcome at a once a month photo program at NorthWest Initiative. The class runs the second Saturday of the month beginning **November 13** from **11:00 a.m. until 1:00p.m.** Snacks and digital cameras are provided. This is the second year of the program and we look forward to learning about photography and writing stories together. Can't wait to see you! Please call Lori at 999-2894 if you have any questions.



**NWI Staff Changes**

It's been a while since we welcomed new members and said good-bye to those leaving NWI. This fall, we have **five new interns** serving at our office: **Alyse Bedell, MSU**, working on a variety of projects for the organization; **Tiajuana Roper, LCC**; **Marilyn Block, LCC**; and **Denise Richey, LCC**, who are all working with our Outreach Program; and **Latoria Fields, LCC**, who is working with our Youth Engagement Program. We also have **two new AmeriCorps members** who have joined us: **John Bolan** who will be working part-time as our **Food Systems Volunteer Coordinator**; and **James Ramos** who will be working full-time as our **Outreach Worker – Food Access Specialist**. Please join me in welcoming them to our organization! It is with great sorrow that we say **good-bye to two AmeriCorps members** who are completing their second term: **Janine Boylan, AmeriCorps State – Food Systems Volunteer Coordinator** and **Lori Eva , AmeriCorps VISTA Program Development Assistant**. Both will be leaving us in early December. Also, **Jeana-Dee Allen, AmeriCorps VISTA Community Building Assistant** was recently married and has decided to pursue other opportunities. We would like to thank them all for their hard work and dedication to serving our neighborhoods and wish them the best in their new endeavors!