



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

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January /February 2011  
NorthWest Initiative  
Newsletter!

January /February Calendar 2011				For further January/February events—see page 3			
Title	Day	Time	Location	Title	Day	Time	Location
<b>Programs</b>				<b>Meetings</b>			
				NWI/ARRO Meeting Linda Archer	Jan 28/ Feb 25	4:30pm	NWI
Youth Engagement Program	Saturdays	9:00 am- 12:00 noon	GLC	Hull Ct. Park Neighborhood	Jan 5/ Feb 2	For info call 267-9848	
Celebrate Your Health Club	Third Saturday of Month	9:30 am- 11:00 am	TLC	Genesee Neighborhood Assoc.	Jan 6/ Feb 3	7:00pm	Grace Lutheran Church
Free VITA Tax Site (2/2/11—4/16/11) Call 2-1-1 to schedule an appt.	Mondays, Wednes- days, & Saturdays	4-8 pm (M & W); and 9am- 3pm (Sat)	NWI	NWI Board Meeting Rudy Wilson	Jan 13/ Feb 10	5:45pm	NWI
National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI) Support Group Sessions	Thursdays	7:00 pm- 8:30 pm	NWI	Westside Neighborhood John Granger	Jan 19/ Feb 16	7:00pm	LC
<b>Location Addresses and Phone Numbers</b>				Old Forest Neighborhood Kevin Webb	Jan 20/ Feb 17	For info call 372-8649	
BCFI= Black Child and Family Institute, 835 W. Genesee, 487-3775	GLC = Grace Lutheran Church, 528 N. MLK Jr. Blvd., 372-5830	Knollwood/ Willow N'hood Walter Brown	Jan 20/ Feb 17	5:30pm	For info call 371-3453		
CADL= Capitol Area District Li- brary, 401 S. Capitol, 367-6300	NWI= North West Initiative, 530 W. Ionia St., Suite D, 999-2894	Downtown Neighborhood Monica Zuchowski	Jan 27/ Feb 24	6:00pm	CADL		
LC= Letts Community Center, 1200 W. Kalamazoo, 483-4311	SH= Scott House, 125 W. Main, 999-2894	Edmore Park Neighborhood Dayle Benjamin	Jan /Feb	For info call 372-1455			
WE= Willow Elementary, 1012 W. Willow St., 325-6886	TLC= Trinity Lutheran Church, 501 W. Saginaw St. 372-1631	Walnut Neighborhood Rina Risper	Jan /Feb	For info call 372-8466			

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.

January /February 2011

# Grand Happenings

Grand Happenings is  
produced by  
NorthWest Initiative

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Page 1

Happy New Year!  
NWI Celebrates 10 Years!  
Growing Our Food Systems  
Conference  
Youth Gardening Conference

### NorthWest Initiative Celebrates 10 Years!

It's hard to believe that the NorthWest Initiative has been providing a variety of services and programs to residents of northwest Lansing for 10 years, but it's true! We would like to thank everyone who attended our Decadent Dessert and Silent Auction Fundraiser held in December. It was a festive event and we had an abundance of delicious desserts and beverages and many people went home with great items that they bid on in the silent auction! We would especially like to **thank the following businesses and individuals** for their donations to our Decadent Dessert and Silent Auction Fundraiser:

Page 2

Intern and Volunteer Oppor-  
tunities Abound at NWI  
NWI Youth Program Meets  
Every Saturday  
ARRO Hosting Workshop

Commissioner Rebecca Bahar-Cook; Melissa DeVine; YaSheema Marshall, Simply Delicious Cupcakes; Jeff Johnson, Bake N' Cakes; Great Harvest Bread Company; Eleanor Norton; Sheila Burtley, Pastry Chef/Dustry Cellar's; Linda Archer; Manuela Kress; Margaret Keeler, NAMI-Lansing; Mr. and Mrs. Mosher; Kristen Taylor, NAMI-Michigan; Maureen McMullen; Rosa Killips Jewelry; Carol Skillings; Margaret Groves; Lucy Hunley, City Girl; Fort Shelby Tower Apartments, Detroit; Tim Toone, Detroit Lions Player; Joy Baldwin; John Bolan; Stephanie Campbell; Monica Jahner; Ramona Spencer, Qosmon Sagataw, Peggy Vaughn-Payne, and Maria Zavala.

Page 3

NWI VITA Tax Site Open in  
February  
Attention Ingham Health Plan  
Member  
March 19—80's Flashback  
Party to Benefit WCA  
Start Your New Year Off Right

It's not to late, if you would like to make a tax-deductible donation to help us continue to provide services and programs to area residents, please make a check payable to NorthWest Initiative and mail it to our address. We look forward to serving our community for the next ten years and wish to thank everyone for your support!

### Growing Our Food System Conference

The Greater Lansing Food Bank and a variety of area partners have come together to provide a one day conference for people who grow, produce, process, market, distribute, prepare or eat food (this means you).

Page 4

January /February  
Meeting Calendar

NorthWest Initiative  
North Neighborhood Center

**When: Thursday, 2/17/11 from 9am to 4pm; reception 4-6**  
**Where: S. Washington Office Complex (Old National Guard Armory), 2500 S. Washington Ave., Lansing**

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

For more information or to register, call (517) 853-7800 or visit [www.greaterlansingfoodbank.org](http://www.greaterlansingfoodbank.org).

Submit an Article!

### Youth Gardening Conference

The 2011 Youth Gardening Conference will take place on **Saturday, February 26<sup>th</sup> from 9am- 12noon** followed by a delicious lunch and networking session. There will be a tract full of workshops for both youth and adults who are or want to be part of the youth gardening effort.

Send March/April newsletter  
submissions by February 4th  
to [peggy@nwlansing.org](mailto:peggy@nwlansing.org)

For more information or to register for the conference, please contact Stephanie at (517) 676-7300 or visit [www.youthgardeningcoalition.org](http://www.youthgardeningcoalition.org).

Board of Directors
Cindy Carlano Margaret Groves Michael Flowers, Vice President Joe McDonald Nick Lynch Carol Skillings, Treasurer Vennisha Smith Rudy Wilson, President Angie Zamora, Secretary
Staff
Jonathan Bailey <i>Volunteer VITA Site Coordinator</i>
Joy Baldwin <i>Food Systems Project Coordinator &amp; Websmaster</i>
John Bolan <i>AmeriCorps FSP Volunteer Coordinator</i>
Rick Bennett <i>Program Assistant</i>
Stephanie Campbell <i>FSP Nutrition Education &amp; Physical Fitness Coordinator</i>
Lori Eva <i>Volunteer Youth Coordinator &amp; VITA Tax Site Coordinator</i>
Elizabeth Collins-Jones <i>Office Assistant</i>
Renee French <i>Office Assistant</i>
Monica Jahner <i>ARRO Outreach Worker</i>
James Ramos <i>AmeriCorps Outreach Worker—Food Access Specialist</i>
Laymon Risper Jr. <i>Program Assistant</i>
Qosmon Sagataw <i>Food Systems Project Assistant</i>
Ramona Spencer <i>FSP Garden Coordinator</i>
Peggy Vaughn-Payne <i>Executive Director</i>
Jessica Yorko <i>Westside Commercial Association Manager</i>
Maria Zavala <i>Outreach Manager</i>

**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 and western city limits. Ingham County, City of Lansing, and the Michigan Fitness Foundation are major sponsors of NorthWest Initiative. Program partners include residents, neighborhood organizations, local nonprofit organizations, human service agencies, Michigan Department of Community Health, and departments of Michigan State University and Lansing Community College.

**Intern and Volunteer Opportunities Abound at NWI**

NWI is looking for individuals who are interested in interning and volunteering in the following programs:

- **Garden-Based Nutrition Education**— Assistants are needed Tuesday through Thursdays (during school hours) in four elementary schools in Lansing. Volunteers will help lead the nutrition education lesson for the day and reap a lot of love from all of the children who enjoy these special visits!
- **VITA Tax Preparation**— If you enjoy preparing tax returns, have a few hours to volunteer each week during tax season, and are available on Mondays and Wednesdays from 4-8pm or Saturdays from 9am-3pm, then we have a very rewarding job for you!
- **Outreach and ARRO**— If you enjoy interacting with the public and helping people qualify for a variety of services, then this is the perfect spot for you. You're able to volunteer as many or as few hours that you have available.
- **Westside Commercial Association**—Do you have a desire to help revitalize the W. Saginaw and Oakland Avenue commercial corridor? If so, then there are plenty of opportunities to join with one of the four committees that are working to oversee this process.
- **Youth**—Volunteers are needed to help run our Saturday morning youth program for children ages 9-16. If you enjoy working with youth, free training is provided. For more information on these volunteer opportunities, please call NWI at 999-2894.

**NWI - Youth Program Meeting Every Saturday**

**Youth**— Are you interested in meeting new friends and participating in fun activities and going on educational field trips, learning leadership skills, and self-confidence? You will also participate in positive community service learning projects as well as discussing how to handle topics that



influence choices in your lives. So, come and join us on **Saturday mornings from 9:00 am—12 noon**. The program meets at **Grace Lutheran Church** (located at the corner of MLK and Lapeer Streets—one block south of W. Saginaw) - use entrance off Lapeer. Parents are welcome to attend and participate! **Parents— If you have a special interest or hobby that you would like to share with our youth, please contact Lori at 999-2894 or email her at lori@nwlansing.org.**

**ARRO Hosting Workshop: Problems With Getting Your License?**

NWI's ARRO Program in collaboration with Legal Services of South Central Michigan is hosting a workshop for people who are having issues with getting their driver's license. For more information on the date, time and place, please call Monica at 999-2894.

**Upcoming Events**

**Growing Our Food System Conference**  
 2/17/11 from 9am—4pm  
 See front page for more info!

**Youth Gardening Conference**  
 2/26/10 from 9am-12pm  
 See front page for more info!

**NWI Holiday Hours**

Our office will be closed on the following days to observe New Years Day and Martin Luther King Jr. holidays and our Organization Retreat:

December 31, 2010  
 January 17, 2011  
 January 31, 2011



**NWI VITA Tax Site Opens in February**

NWI is pleased to host a VITA tax site at our facility starting February 2, 2011. Low and moderate income residents should **call 2-1-1 to schedule their appointment to get their taxes prepared for free!** Our IRS trained volunteers will help you to maximize the credits that you're eligible to receive to increase your refund. So, start collecting your W-2, drivers license, social security card, and all other documents that you need and schedule your appointment soon. NWI will host VITA hours on Monday and Wednesday from 4-8 pm; and on Saturdays from 9am-3pm.

**Attention Ingham Health Plan Member**

Have you had your first Doctors Appointment? If not, we can help you get established with your assigned doctor or clinic. Did you also know that if you don't use your card you might loose your benefits. So let us help you get your doctors appointment scheduled. Call Maria for an appointment at 999-2895 or email her at maria@nwlansing.org.

**March 19th - 80's Flashback Party to Benefit Westside Commercial Association**

The Capital Area Women's Lifestyle Magazine has teamed up with the Westside Commercial Association to host an exciting new annual fundraising event for the WCA. This event will not only feature music, dancing and volunteer awards ceremonies, it will also offer an 80's costume shop, 80's hair styling station and 80s themed photo booth. Dig out the legwarmers, the stonewashed jeans. Tickets will be \$25 per person, \$40 per couple, \$10 per student. Sponsor levels are available from \$6,000 to \$500, corporate tables for \$350. For more information contact Tiffany Dowling at 203-3333 or tiffany@cawlm.com.

**Start Your New Year Off Right!**

Are you excited about the New Year? Are you ready to get busy and start focusing on your eating habits and exercise routines? Well then, you are in luck! For the past several months, we have been hosting the **Celebrate Your Health Club!** (CYHC) for new and previous members. If you are unfamiliar with CYHC, we meet from **9:30 - 11:00am every third Saturday of the month at Trinity Lutheran Church** (501 W. Saginaw, on the corner of Chestnut & Saginaw in Lansing). We have nutritious food to sample and informative speakers that teach us the ins and outs of how we can live healthier lives. The **next two meetings** are set for **January 15<sup>th</sup>** and **February 19<sup>th</sup>**. (Women only, please.)

We would also like to invite you to join us for two hour-long fitness activities every month. Each activity will vary and depending on the month, the location and time will as well. (All genders welcome.) If you have **questions about Celebrate Your Health Club! or getting fit with us,** please contact **Stephanie at (517) 999-2894 or e-mail stephniec@nwlansing.org.** As you can see, we are here to help transform you into the healthier individual you always longed to be!

**Let's Garden Lansing**

For a full calendar of gardening education events, visit: [www.letsgardenlansing.org](http://www.letsgardenlansing.org) or call 272-4146.

**Valentine's Day— February 14, 2011**

**Save the Date!**  
**5th Annual Westside Summer Fest Saturday, July 23, 2011**

**Food Resources**

**Panera Bread Distribution**  
 Every Thursday from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm  
 NorthWest Initiative  
 530 W. Ionia St., Suite D  
 517-999-2894

**Angel Food Ministries**  
 Monthly Distribution  
 Call Julie @ (517) 485-0174  
 (Must enroll prior to distribution)

**Great Food for All**  
 Monthly Distribution  
 Call Jack @ (517) 374-2650  
 (Must enroll prior to distribution)  
 \* Both Programs Accept Cash or Bridge Cards

**Food Movers Distribution**  
 Monthly from 11am-12pm  
**Black Child and Family Institute,** 835 W. Genesee St. and  
**Grace Lutheran Church**  
 528 N. MLK Jr. Blvd.  
 (517) 487-3775  
 (Must enroll prior to distribution)