

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 2011

Grand Happenings

Grand Happenings is produced by NorthWest Initiative

2nd Annual "A Decadent Dessert & Silent Auction" Fundraiser

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Decadent Dessert & Silent Auction
Notable Author Dr. Michelle Alexander Coming to Lansing
Senior Citizens—Need Assistance With Raking or Shoveling?



Can you believe that the holidays are almost here? That means that it is once again time for our 2nd Annual "A Decadent Dessert & Silent Auction" fundraiser event to support NorthWest Initiative. Join us on Thursday, December 1, 2011 from 5-8 pm to learn more about NorthWest Initiative, enjoy a variety of delicious homemade desserts and scrumptious professional culinary treats and beverages, and ultimately have the opportunity to bid on some fantastic silent auction items - just in time for holiday gift-giving! Tickets are \$15.00 per person. All proceeds benefit the programs and services of NorthWest Initiative. To purchase tickets or donate an item, contact Peggy at 999-2894.

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Do You Need Dental Care?
Youth Program Welcomes New Coordinator
NWI Seeking Volunteers for Free Tax Preparation Site
The Michigan Fair Chance Coalition

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VOTE — NOVEMBER 8, 2011

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Do You Need Health Coverage, Emergency Food, or Other Assistance?
Help Support Programs of NWI
News From NWI Team

NWI's ARRO Program Is Bringing Notable Author Dr. Michelle Alexander to Lansing!

Mark Your Calendar...join us on Tuesday, January 17, 2012 at 5:30 pm in Cooley Law School Auditorium to hear Dr. Alexander widely acclaimed speaker and author of the book "The New Jim Crow" as she kicks-off the "Fair Chance Coalition" campaign. Ms. Alexander will speak on employment and other consequences of a criminal conviction and how barriers to employment for individuals hurt our communities, families, and taxpayers. Funding for this advocacy event is from the Self-Development of People, Presbyterian Church. We would also like to thank the Michigan Legislative Black Caucus for their generous support that helped make this event possible. This event is free and open to the public!



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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

Senior Citizens - Do You Need Assistance With Raking Leaves or Shoveling Snow?

NorthWest Initiative is launching a new program designed to assist senior citizens and disabled individuals (who live within our boundaries) with various types of "affordable" lawn maintenance (i.e. raking leaves, shoveling snow, etc.). Please consider calling us to find out about this program and our great rates! For more information, call Jonathon at 999-2894.

Submit an Article!

Send January/February newsletter submissions by December 1 to peggy@nwlansing.org

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Youth Coordinator

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ARRO Outreach Worker & Legislative Advocate

Karen Kapala
Ex-Offender & Family Advocate

Christian Scott
AmeriCorps Health Initiatives and Community Gardens Coordinator

Annette Sokolnicki
FSP School Nutrition Educator

Peggy Vaughn-Payne
Executive Director



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, Michigan Fitness Foundation, Capital Area United Way, Self-Development of People, Presbyterian Church and the City of Lansing 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.

Do You Need Adult Dental Care?

The Ingham County Health Department's Adult Dental Center is open and ready to assist individuals who meet the income and residency requirements. All services are provided at the **Ingham County Human Services Facility**, 5303 S. Cedar St., Lansing, MI 48910—building/door #3, 2nd Floor. You must live in Ingham County and meet income guidelines to receive services. For more information, please call the **Adult Dental Center** at 517-887-4423 or 517-887-4609.

NWI Youth Program Welcomes New Coordinator

NWI's Fall Youth Engagement Program has a new Coordinator, James Gardin, also known as PHILTHY (Positive Hip-Hop Individual Living Through His Years). Mr. James has worked with youth in Africa and the United States and brings his passion for the arts to teach youth how to effectively use communication to make their point. We have many new activities planned for the youth, so if you're looking for a positive experience for your child ages 9-16, please join the group **every Saturday morning from 9am-12noon at Grace Lutheran Church** (528 N. MLK Jr. Blvd—corner of Lapeer). To register your child, call **Natalie** at 999-2894.

Seeking Volunteers for Free Tax Preparation Site

Did you know that last year NWI was able to prepare over 400 tax returns for low to moderate income residents in Lansing? We couldn't have accomplished this without the twenty volunteers who helped us every week! We are once again, looking for volunteers to help with the upcoming tax season. We have volunteer positions available as greeters, outreach specialists, or tax preparers during our free tax clinic from February 1 - April 15, 2012. No experience is required and free training will be provided for everyone! If you have a minimum of four hours per week to volunteer, please contact Jonathon at 999-2894 for more information.

The Michigan Fair Chance Coalition

ARRO has diligently been working over the past few months on our advocating program funded by the SDOP. We have formed the Michigan Fair Chance Coalition to Ban the Box. **OUR MISSION:** The Fair Chance Coalition is a group of individuals and organizations working to reduce barriers to employment based on an individual's prior conviction record.

We want to "ban the box" on employment applications that ask questions like: Have you ever been convicted of a crime (felony or misdemeanor)? Passing legislation will help taxpayers, communities and families by giving individuals with past convictions a chance to become self-supporting. Communities are safer and stronger when individuals with prior convictions are able to find jobs, housing and be able to support their families. If you would like to join us in our efforts **contact Monica or Karen** at 517-999-2895 or e-mail bantheboxin2012@gmail.com.

Donations are kindly welcomed. Checks should be made out to Northwest Initiative and mailed to: 530 W. Ionia Street, Suite D, Lansing, MI 48933, please put ARRO in the memo.

**REMEMBER TO EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE
ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2011**

Do You Need Health Coverage, Emergency Food, or Other Assistance?

The NorthWest Initiative's Outreach Program is here to help you sign up for a variety of programs and services to assist you and your family. We can help you sign up for the Ingham Health Plan, MICHild, Healthy Kids, Plan First, Medicaid, food stamps, SafeLink cell phones, and much more. We also offer additional services for those who are returning to Ingham County from a correctional facility (non-MPRI). Call our Outreach and ARRO Programs, 999-2894 or stop by our office at 530 W. Ionia St., Suite D, Lansing, MI 48933 (Monday-Friday—10am-3pm).

Help Support the Programs of NorthWest Initiative

As we near the end of 2011, have you considered making a tax-deductible donation to NorthWest Initiative? We are always in need of unrestricted funds to purchase needed items that our grants do not cover, such as garden tools, seeds, clear plastic bags and food preparation gloves for our weekly free bread and food distribution, food for the children's weekend survival backpack program, signs and marketing for the Westside Farmer's Market, *Grand Happenings* bi-monthly newsletter, used furniture and office equipment. All donations help to support the ongoing programs and services of the organization. No amounts are too small and we certainly welcome larger donations too! Make checks payable to NorthWest Initiative and mail to 530 W. Ionia St., Suite D, Lansing, MI 48933. We thank you for your support of our organization!

News from the NWI Team!

We would like to welcome new members to NorthWest Initiative's fabulous team! Laura Sager has recently joined us as our new Outreach Manager. Laura brings a wealth of experience to NorthWest Initiative and we look forward to gleaning as much of her skills as possible, and seeing great improvements to our Outreach Program! Jonathon Bailey has been selected as our Outreach Assistant and comes with almost a year of experience working with other NWI programs and he did a superlative job coordinating our 2011 tax site! Finally, James Gardin has joined as our new Youth Coordinator. We welcome his experience and passion for the arts and music and the positive vibes that he will bring to the youth program! We would like to say good-bye to Maria Zavala who served as our Outreach Manager for the past five years. Maria was offered a new position working with migrant families in southwest Michigan and we wish her the best of luck! We would also like to say good-bye to Ramona Spencer, Jacqueline Milton, and James Ramos. Ramona was our Garden Coordinator and we will truly miss her wonderful garden skills. Jacqui worked as an Outreach Worker and we will definitely miss her lovely personality and database skills! Finally, Jim was our AmeriCorps Food Access Specialist who did a phenomenal job of increasing by over 500% the amount of food secured and distributed by NWI to low income families in our community. Finally, we offer a warm welcome to our new students interns - Emily Heaton, Dariusz Lewandowski, Robert McGowan, Brooke Nugent, and Nicole Pierce from Lansing Community College's Human Service Practicum Program. All of the LCC students are working with our Food Systems Development Project, except Dariusz is working with Outreach. Natalie Kyles also joined us from MSU School of Social Work and she's working with our Youth Program.

Upcoming Events

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

From Your Friends at
NorthWest Initiative

NWI Office Closed

November 24 & 25, 2011
December 26, 2011
January 2, 2012

Celebrate Your Health Club

3rd Saturday of Every Month
9:30 - 11:00 am
November 19, 2011
December 17, 2011

Trinity Lutheran Church
501 W. Saginaw St.

Open to all women interested
in learning about women's
health issues while enjoying a
delicious healthy breakfast.

Open to the public, but
please RSVP to Stephanie at
999-2894

Let's Garden Lansing

For a full calendar of gardening
education events, visit:
www.lets gardenlansing.org
or call 272-4146.

Follow NWI on
Facebook & Twitter

- www.facebook.com/nwlansing
- Twitter us at NWIlansing

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

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)



NorthWest Initiative
530 W. Ionia St., Suite D
Lansing, MI 48933-1062

NON-PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
LANSING, MI 48924
PERMIT 672



November/December 2011
NorthWest Initiative
Newsletter!

| November / December Calendar 2011 | | | | For further November /December events—see page 3 | | | |
|---|--|----------------------|-----------------------|---|-----------------------------|--------|-------------------------------|
| Title | Day | Time | Location | Title | Day | Time | Location |
| Programs | | | | Meetings | | | |
| Youth Engagement Program | Saturdays | 9:00 am - 12:00 noon | GLC | ARRO Meeting Frank Rodriguez | November 25/ December 23 | 4:30pm | NWI |
| Celebrate Your Health Club | Third Saturday of Month | 9:30 am- 11:00 am | TLC | Hull Ct. Park Neighborhood | November 2/ December 7 | | For info call 267-9848 |
| Special Engagement: Dr. Michelle Alexander | January 17, 2012 | 5:30 pm | Cooley Law Auditorium | Genesee Neighborhood Assoc. Hazel Bethea | November 3/ December 1 | 7:00pm | GLC |
| National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI) Support Group Sessions | Thursdays | 7:00 pm- 8:30 pm | NWI | NorthWest Initiative Board Meeting Rudy Wilson | November 10/ December 7 | 5:45pm | NWI |
| Location Addresses and Phone Numbers | | | | Westside Neighborhood Danielle Casavant | November 16/ December 21 | 7:00pm | LC |
| BCFI= Black Child and Family Institute, 835 W. Genesee, 487-3775 | GLC = Grace Lutheran Church, 528 N. MLK Jr. Blvd., 372-5830 | | | Old Forest Neighborhood Kevin Webb | November 17/ December 15 | | For info call 372-8649 |
| CADL= Capitol Area District Library, 401 S. Capitol, 367-6300 | NWI= North West Initiative, 530 W. Ionia St., Suite D, 999-2894 | | | Knollwood/ Willow N'hood Walter Brown | November 17/ December 15 | 5:30pm | WE |
| LC= Letts Community Center, 1200 W. Kalamazoo, 483-4311 | SH= Scott House, 125 W. Main, 999-2894 | | | Edmore Park Neighborhood Dayle Benjamin | November / December | | For info call 372-1455 |
| WE= Willow Elementary, 1012 W. Willow St., 325-6886 | TLC= Trinity Lutheran Church, 501 W. Saginaw St. 372-1631 | | | Downtown Neighborhood Cindy Redman | November 17/ December 22 | 6:00pm | CADL |
| | | | | Walnut Neighborhood Rina Risper | November/ December | | For info call 372-8466 |