



NEIGHBORHOOD ink

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NI Unveils E.C. Space

East Chicago ~ NI held an official grand opening of its new space on May 2, 2012 at the Bessie Owens Center at 4001 Alexander Avenue in East Chicago's New Addition neighborhood. About a year ago, NI began searching for a space in the city and, thanks to the East Chicago Parks Department and United Neighborhood Organizations, NI was given this room to meet with its East Chicago customers on an as-needed basis.

To spruce up the room and make it more welcoming, NI requested and received a grant from Foundations of East Chicago to paint and decorate the space. (See before and after photos below.)



NI proudly showed off the new office to supporters at the grand opening. New Addition residents came out by the dozens to welcome NI to the Bessie Owens Center and to learn more about NI's upcoming projects.

Coinciding with the grand opening was an awards ceremony for NI's Super Samaritan Contest. All nominees and nominators were invited to be recognized for their good works. Though a tough decision, Jose Garza of Sunnyside took home the honors. Nominated by friend Melissa Lara, Jose was recognized for loaning his only vehicle to a friend free of charge so he could use it to deliver pizzas for his job, despite the wear and tear such a job entails.



Eight nominations were received in the first month of the Super Samaritan Contest's existence. NI hopes to continue recognizing East Chicagoans' good works, funding permitting.

Jose Garza accepts his award for "Super Samaritan" alongside nominator Melissa Lara, right.

NI Receives Grant for Sunnyside Project

East Chicago ~ Foundations of East Chicago has awarded NI a \$14,950 grant to concentrate its Healthy Neighborhood Initiative in East Chicago's Sunnyside neighborhood. Located in the eastern part of Indiana Harbor, residents in this area will be the exclusive participants in NI's 2012 Landscaping Contest; Please, Have A Seat; Fourth of July Decorating Contest and Operation Restoration.

NI is no stranger to this neighborhood. Residents from Sunnyside have consistently been involved in many of NI's projects, most recently its 2011 Holiday Decorating Contest and Please, Have A Seat! There are already two benches installed in Sunnyside and residents have responded positively to community events like the 2011 garage sale and signed up to receive volunteer assistance through Operation Restoration.

Last summer, NI solicited the support of Precinct Committeewoman Stacey Winfield and has been encouraged by her positive attitude and sincere desire to assist her constituents. NI looks forward to working with Sunnyside neighbors to improve their community and beautify their neighborhood.



Calumet City's 1st Ward

Joins Best House Competition!

Calumet City ~ First ward Alderman Eric Schneider joins Alderman Roger Munda in bringing the Best House on the Block Contest® to his constituents. Beginning in March, homeowners will be encouraged to enter this contest aimed at promoting exterior home improvements.

The contest originated in the State Line area of the 5th, 1st and 6th wards of Calumet City in 2004. Since then, the contest has been operated in Highland, Burnham, East Chicago and other areas of Calumet City and Hammond. These are the 2007 before and after photos of a winner in the 1st ward in Calumet City.



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