

Near Northwest Neighborhood, Inc.
1007 Portage Ave
South Bend, IN 46624
574-232-9182
nearnorthwest.org



NNN COMMUNITY DATES

The Local Cup Pay-It-Forward Coffee Shop at 1009 Portage Avenue is Open:

FRIDAY 9AM-1PM
SATURDAY 9AM-1PM
SUNDAY 1-5 PM
TUESDAY 7-10 AM

EVENTS

Rising Star Mentors 11AM-3PM, Saturday, January 11 (and every third Saturday) in the Mary Grace Room

NNN Chili Supper is Wednesday, February 19 from 6-8PM at the Holy Cross Gym

ONGOING

Yoga Classes in the Mary Grace Room with Ann Clark, Mondays, 4-5:15 PM, no charge

Pop Up Yoga, with Latasha Flint 6-7 PM Wednesday nights in the Mary Grace Room.

Play, Chat and Chew in the Mary Grace Room, starting January 14, Tuesdays, 3-4:30 PM for children 3-10 with sibs welcome.

Zumba with Carlos Centellas in the Community Center, Tuesdays 6-7 PM, \$5.00 per session

Hoop Embodiment Classes, 6:15-7:15 PM in the Community Center, most Wednesday evenings, \$ Fee

Drawing & Painting, Fridays, 10 AM-12 PM, NNN Community Center, with area Artists

Kid Time many Saturdays while SMC is in session, 10-11:30 AM in the Mary Grace Room. See The Local Cup Facebook page for more information

REGISTRATION REQUIRED EVENTS: *Please call the office for additional information*

Michiana Community Male Chorus meets Thursday evenings

A **Grandparents Support Group** is meeting in the Mary Grace Room and welcomes new members.

Change 180, a support group for people exiting challenging relationships is meeting monthly at the NNN

Save the Date for 2020 NNN Events

Circle these major 2020 dates on your calendar folks:

- **Wednesday February 19, 6-8 PM** is the annual NNN Chili Supper. Cooks, volunteers and appetites needed at the Holy Cross Gymnasium. Cooks and volunteers can sign up by calling the office @232-9182
- **Saturday, April 18. 8AM**, the NNN Adopt a Block starts with light breakfast and instructions at the NNN Community Center. Clean up follows throughout the neighborhood.
- **Thursday, May 14, 6-8 PM**, the NNN Annual Meet and Greet is at the NNN Community Center, 1013 Portage Ave.
- **Monday, June 1**, Best Game Night Ever will again take on the NNN for one evening, during Best Week Ever 2020, in the 1000 block of California. Time TBA.
- **Arts Café is Sunday, September 27**, with a new start/end time of 12-6 PM. 1000 Block of California.

Seeking contributions for the Common Ground: News You Can Use Feel free to write 100-300 words about your non-editorial neighborhood happenings. Subject to editing and space available, we welcome your contributions. Call the office for more information.

THE COMMON GROUND

Near Northwest
Neighborhood
INCORPORATED



NEWS YOU CAN USE

Near Northwest Neighborhood, Inc. 1007 Portage Ave. South Bend, IN 46616 574.232.9182

JANUARY 2020

Weatherization and Lead Remediation Help Available

The South Bend Green Corps helps residents improve financial stability and the environmental quality of their home. Green Corps members evaluate homes for utility savings opportunities, install basic efficiency measures, and educate residents in energy basics. Green Corps members will work with residents to navigate other City and community programs related to housing and utilities.

Applications for assistance are ongoing and open to residents city-wide who meet income eligibility; renters must obtain their landlord's written permission. Apply by calling 311.

Additionally, funding is available through the City of South Bend for grants to income-qualified homeowners for lead abatement or interim controls that make your housing safer. Property owners and landlords that rent to income-qualified tenants may qualify for grants or forgivable loans.

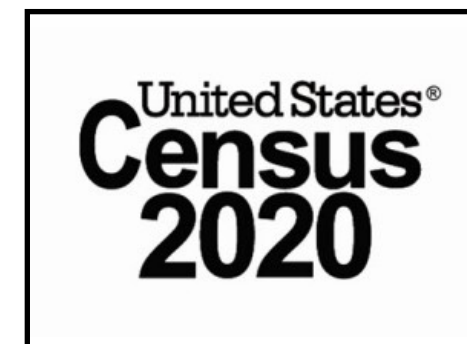
Who is eligible? Renters and homeowners who earn less than 80% of median income (\$54,000 for a family of 4). Call 311 for more information or more information is online at: <https://311.southbendin.gov/knowledgecenter/article/?id=KA-01818> or call the NNN Community Outreach Team at (574) 850-1296

Help your community: Work for the U.S. Census Bureau!

The U.S. Census Bureau is currently hiring for the 2020 Census. The positions are temporary with varying pay ranges. For Census Takers, the pay starts at \$18.50/hour in St. Joseph County.

By working for the Census Bureau, our community has a special opportunity to help make the 2020 Census an accurate and complete count. There are so many reasons our nation needs to be counted completely and accurately. The count happens every 10 years with the decennial census, which influences how more than \$675 billion from more than 100 federal programs are distributed to states and localities each year. Here's some of what the census numbers effect:

- Medicaid
- School lunch programs
- Community development grants
- Road and school construction
- Medical services
- Voting district boundaries
- Business locations



If you're interested in a job, please visit the Census Bureau job site to apply. You'll also be able to see descriptions and frequently asked questions at 2020census.gov/jobs. Feel free share this with someone in your network who may be looking for a job. Working for the Census Bureau is a unique opportunity!

The Art of Neighboring

By André Stoner, Neighborhood Networker

One of the best engines of building our strong community is **The Local Cup**, our neighborhood pay-it-forward coffee shop, at 1009 Portage, in the NNN buildings. On any Tuesday, Friday or Saturday morning, or Sunday afternoon, you are likely to find a bustling set of diverse neighbors enjoying a warm cup of coffee and good conversation. Parents, artists, students, neighbors, pastors, business people all make this a regular hangout. Friendships have been forged, houses bought and sold, community initiatives started in that small space. If you've never stopped in, it's time!

Sociologists call a spot like The Local Cup a "third place." It's not the privacy of a home, or the controlled environment of a workplace. It's a place where people exchange ideas, build relationships and have a good time. Third places often serve food. It's a place where everyone is welcome and people from different backgrounds can get to know each other. A third place like The Local Cup is a resource and a treasure for a neighborhood like ours. Thanks to those who have invested time and energy into creating and maintaining this space for all of us.

Reflecting on a year of Community Outreach

By Emily Dean, COT

Another year is coming to a close, and it has been another year of great connections and meaningful work for the Community Outreach Team (COT). In this past year we have welcomed two tireless outreach team members, Clara Ross and Katheryn Redding, and two wonderful volunteers, Rachel Schrank and Carolina Serrano.

We have hosted free lead screening events, shared information with families, and advocated for the needs of our neighbors whenever we have the opportunity. Hopefully by now we have had a chance to meet you at an NNN event or on your front porch. I'd like to take this opportunity to remind you why we are knocking, and why we are inviting you in.

We knock because we can't do our jobs without knowing what matters to you. We knock because we love chatting with you and helping you when we can. We knock because we want to help ensure our neighbors have what they need to strive and thrive. We knock because we want to share information about an issue or a new resource that you might need. We knock because we care about you.

We invite you to events because we want to provide opportunities for you to build and strengthen relationships with your neighbors. We invite you in because we want to make sure you know you are a valuable member of our community, and our events are better when you are there.

If we have missed you, and you would like a visit from us, please contact the office at 574-232-9182 or email outreach3@nearnorthwestneighborhood.org. On behalf of the Outreach Team, thank you for being such wonderful neighbors!



Would you like to be on the NNN ListServ and be in contact with your neighbors about Community information and announcements? Please email or call us with your name and email address to nnnassistant@nearnorthwest.org or 232-9182. Ask us how to use our shared space, or find more information at <http://www.nearnorthwest.org/neighborhood-projects/community-space-use/>

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Welcome Our New Volunteer, Carolina Serrano

We are thrilled to be blessed with new/more volunteer help on our Community Outreach Team.

Carolina Serrano was born and raised in Bogotá, Colombia. She has been living in South Bend since starting her M.A. in Peace Studies at Notre Dame in 2015.



Her research work experience, both in Colombia and South Bend, related to peace building initiatives. Most recently she was a research associate at the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at Notre Dame.

Carolina is in the process of starting a family in the NNN. She is recently married (to NNN board member Mike Hebbeler) and is soon to be the mom of twins.

She loves living in the NNN and volunteering with a team that is deeply invested in making the NNN a healthier environment for all neighbors.

Bike Garage Funding

The South Bend Bike Garage, <https://sbbikegarage.com/>, opened in fall 2019 in the NNN. They currently operate out of a garage behind 819 Portage. SBBG allows people to donate old bikes, learn to fix bikes, buy a bike and/or earn their own bike through volunteering/working on bikes.

Already, 5-10 people have earned their own bike and volunteers have fixed 100s of bike problems. They have five regular volunteers and are open every Wednesday night 5-8 PM. SBBG has a stock of about 50 bikes and they are always looking for more bikes to rehab. They also plan to be open more hours in 2020.

The garage is currently looking for donations to offset the cost of an adjacent heated and cooled room. They need to raise about \$4000 for rent and expenses for all of 2020 at 9090 Portage. It so much easier to fix bikes out of the extreme heat and cold. Please think about donating to this worthy community effort.

Zachary VanDeman of the Garage has started a go-fund-me site for the effort with a link on their home page. Lots more info about the group is also on that site. Your donation is tax deductible.

NNN Leaders Assembly

"When you think about our neighborhood or our city, do you feel powerful?" Andre Stoner, Neighborhood Networker, posed this question to a group of about thirty leaders from across the NNN who met on a mid-November evening. It kicked off a discussion about challenges we face in our neighborhood, our sense of being able to bring change, and the sources of community power.

The group identified a number of important factors in building and exercising community power: a strong web of relationships and trust across differences; shared commitment to working together for the well-being of our neighbors; training and strategic engagement on specific challenges.



Andre told the group, "I believe the people in this room are a powerful force. We have much more power than we think we do. I believe we can change not just our neighborhood, but this city." In fact, the work of the NNN has already directly changed how our city deals with lead poisoning and rental housing inspections, among other things.

"Do we want to work together to build power in this kind of way?" That was the challenge posed to the group. This is not about coming to another meeting, Andre and Kathy Schuth told the group. It's about building our capacity as leaders in the public arena. More than half the group said they wanted to move together in this direction. We are planning to meet again in February for training and further work together. In the meantime, each person was tasked with meeting with two people at the meeting.

If you are interested in being part of this kind of leadership team, building power to address challenges facing our children and families, please contact Kathy Schuth or Andre Stoner.