

Celebrating Rochester Neighbors



October 2

6-9 pm

German Cuisine

Oktoberfest

Beer & Wine

(Choice of one per ticket.)

Cash bar available.)



A fundraiser for
RNeighbors

Rochester's Neighborhood Resource Center
1421 3rd Avenue SE • 507.529.4150

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This Evening's Schedule

6 pm

Food and Raffle drawings throughout the evening

6:15 pm

Opening - Bob Nowicki, RNeighbors Past President
Prost (Cheers) to Rochester Neighborhoods

6:30 pm

OAKtoberfest Neighbor Awards

7:15 pm

Mayor's Urban Forestry Awards
Neighborhood Project Grants

8:15 pm

RNeighbors Board Recognition

9 pm

Good Night Neighbors & ol' Danke! (Thank You!)



Raffle Items

Need not be present to win.



7 pm: Raffle drawing for items 25-31

31. Backyard Barbecue. Just Add the Meat.

Horse shoe set for yard fun, pack-n-go Anchor hot-dish con.

30. Brew Tote

Hand-crafted Wooden 6-pack carrying case filled with beer by Jeff Ellerbusch, RNeighbors Board member.

29. Shiny!

Hand-crafted bracelet from Mermaid's Cove Jewelers in Mystic, Connecticut.

28. Shiver Me Timbers

Nautical and musical themed quilt handmade by Barb Armbruster.

27. Stain Glass Mushrooms

Hand-crafted stained glass donated by RNeighbors Board member Bob Nowicki.

26. Get Sassy at Salon Chic

\$50 gift card to Salon Chic and \$20 Five West gift card.

25. Skate Away

All Minnesotans enjoy the right of passage that is learning how to skate! Enjoy 6 weeks of lessons by nationally accredited staff for either children or adults at the Rec Center. Donated by the Rochester Figure Skating Club.

7:30 pm: Raffle drawing for items 19-24

24. Morel Garden

Chain saw mushroom sculptures created by RNeighbors Board member, Aaron Stelpflug.

23. Dress Up Your Door for Fall

Hand-crafted grapevine wreath made by Sarah Michet, Slatterly Park neighbor.

22. Up the Wall

T-shirt and gift certificate for Rochester's newest climbing wall ROCA for a Clip & Go Day Pass and a Learn the Ropes Course.

21. Tree-rific Roots

\$50 Whittings gift certificate, City Forester's planting assistance, RNeighborWoods T-shirts, Corona bypass pruner, 10 cubic yards of compost. Donated by Whittings, National NeighborWoods, Olmsted County Environmental Resources, and Jeff Haberman (City Forester).

20. Relax and Renew

90-min massage from Beneficial Massage Therapies and a bottle of wine from Germany.

19. Possibilities are Endless

A wine rack, book shelf or planter. This piece can be whatever you can imagine. Repurposed from an old pallet by René Lafflam, RNeighbors Executive Director.



8 pm: Raffle drawing for items 11-18

18. Tree-rific Night on the Town

2 Civic Theatre tickets and Victoria's gift card.

17. Fall Harvest

This bunch of potatoes and apples will see you through the fall and this wreath will add festive flair to your home. Donated by Aaron Stelpflug, RNeighbors Board member, Matt and Tasha Gurtner and the wreath was hand-crafted by Sarah Michet.

16. Forager Night Out

Gift Certificate and T-shirt to one of Rochester's newest neighborhood hangouts coupled with two tickets to the Civic Theatre.

15. Roll the Dice

This handcrafted yard dice game was made by Jeff Ellerbusch, RNeighbors Board member.

14. ZZest Basket

Lots of savory goodies from one of our favorite foodie hangouts in town. Donated by ZZest.

13. Birch Grove

Bring a bit of the outdoors into your home with these hand painted canvases by Sarah Michet, Slatterly Park neighbor.

12. Farmer's Market Fall Harvest

A Farmer's Market tote bag stuffed with a Ball home canning kit, Guide to Preserving book and \$20 gift card. Donated by the Farmer's Market.

11. Sport Shutter Time

One of a kind opportunity for the sports enthusiast in your life. I Dream In Photoshop offers creatively unique sports portrait composites that is sure to be the talk of your household.

8:30 pm: Raffle drawing for items 10-5

10. A Walk Through History

Enjoy a full day rental (value \$325) at the historic Plummer House, surrounded by big established trees. It's lovely no matter what season. Donated by Rochester Park and Rec.

9. & 8 Tree Time With Maier

\$200 worth of tree care services donated by Maier Forester and Tree, RNeighborWoods partner paired each with 10 cubic yards of compost donated by Olmsted County Environmental Resources.

7. Tumble Tower!

A giant Jenga game for back yard fun. Handcrafted by Bob Nowicki, RNeighbors' Board member.

6. Whimsical Fairy House

Hand carved Cottonwood fairy dwelling, ready to hang by Bob Nowicki, RNeighbors' Board member.

Raffle Items

Be sure to take a stroll through the raffle tables including handcrafted and original items. You can purchase raffle tickets 1 for \$5 or 5 for \$20. Toss your tickets in the bag corresponding to the item you want. We'll draw winners for items and announce them throughout the evening.

5. Arbor Day Foundation Visit

Visit the incredible Lied Lodge, a branch of the National Arbor Day Foundation, tucked in the woods of Nebraska with a 1 night stay and breakfast for two (value \$175) along with a baby oak tree for your garden.

Silent Auction Item

4. Urban Wood Salvaged Table*

This gorgeous live edge slab wood sofa/hall table was hand-crafted by Jon Veer, Slatterly Park neighbor. The top is made from Black Walnut salvaged and the bottom is Mahogany.

*This item is a silent auction item. Your event ticket number is your bidding number. Bidding will be closed at 8:45 pm and you must be present to win.

8:45 pm: Raffle drawing for items 1-3

3. Spring Valley Adventure

Wine Tasting for up to 8 people donated by Four Daughters' Winery in Spring Valley.

2. Hand-crafted Wooden Bean Bag Toss Game

This corn hole yard game set is hand-crafted and donated by Jeff Ellerbusch, RNeighbors Board member.

1. One Hundred Bottles of Beer on the Wall

Andy's Liquor picked out their favorite 100 beers for your enjoyment, not all at once, of course.



Board Members

Mark Bilderback

Kelly Corbin

Jeff Ellerbusch

Timothy Hawkins

Michael LaPlante

Ahmed Makkawy

Mitch Moore

Bob Nowicki

Samantha Rossi

Aaron Stelpflug

Jesse Welsh

Paul Wilson

Event Volunteers

Mary Gorfine

Bob Sixta

Ross Tew



Staff

René Lafflam

Executive Director

OAKtoberfest

Event Chair

Jesse Welsh

OAKtoberfest

Sponsor Chair

Samantha Rossi

Special Thanks

Greg Wimmer

Photo Cutout Artist

Evening Hosts

Tracy McCray

Megan Kennedy



Ol' Danke (Thank you) for joining us for the 4th Annual OAKtoberfest fundraiser for RNeighbors. It is through community support, like yours, that we are able to provide tools for neighborhoods to grow.

Created in 2001, RNeighbors serves as a nonprofit resource center for Rochester neighborhoods.

RNeighbors is managed by a Board of Directors and one full-time staff person. Partly funded by the City of Rochester, the remainder of our operating budget comes from grants and donations, especially those brought in by OAKtoberfest. With limited resources and dedicated volunteers, we continue to accomplish great things for neighborhoods!



Tag your **OAKtoberfest** photos with **#Oakfest** and we will share them!



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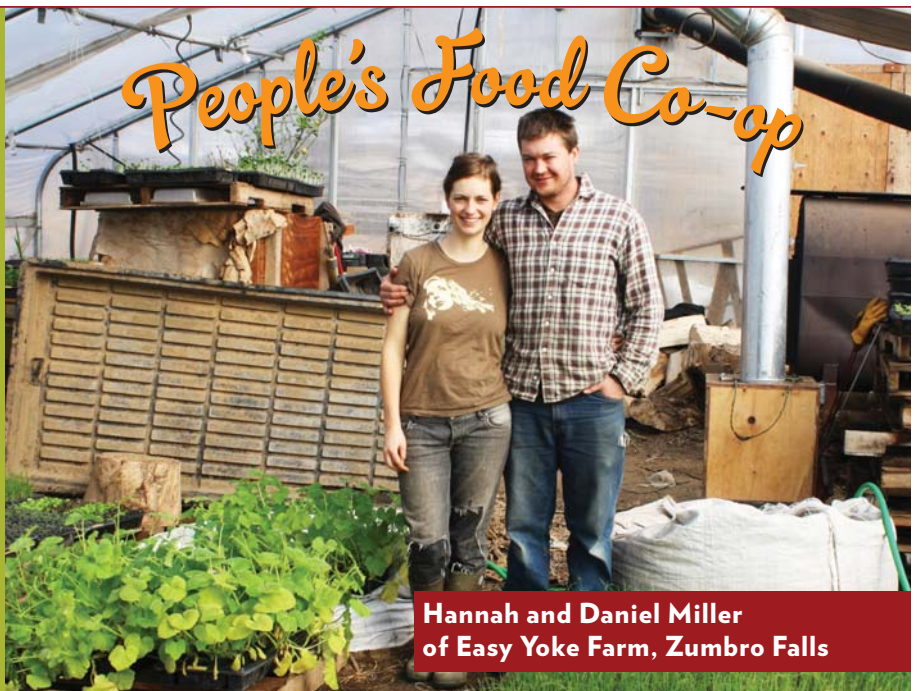
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Hannah and Daniel Miller
of Easy Yoke Farm, Zumbro Falls

Neighborhood Project Grants

This brand new RNeighbors program was developed from requests from neighborhood association for access to small amounts of funding in which to carry out improvement projects. We started off in the spring of 2015 with funds from the City of Rochester and Olmsted County Public Health, with oversight from RNeighbors.

Offered once a year in the spring, these grants reimburse up to \$1,000 in costs for neighborhoods to complete projects that enhance a neighborhood's livability and involvement, benefit the entire neighborhood and promote a strong sense of community.

Each of the applications had to ensure that the neighbors would put in the volunteer effort to bring the project to completion by October 30, 2015. This year's winners were:

- 19th Ave SW Neighborhood: Little Free Library
- Cimarron Neighborhood: Raised "Discovery" garden bed with surrounding paver walkway
- Eastside Neighborhood: Fourth Street Community Garden with components of a "Community Board" and weekly speakers
- Homestead Addition Neighborhood: Pocket Park Improvement
- Homestead Trails Neighborhood: Community Garden Enhancement
- Kutzky Park Neighborhood: Community Garden raised beds
- Kutzky Park Neighborhood: Historic Neighborhood Signage
- Slatterly Park Neighborhood: Community Gardens Project



19th Ave SW Neighborhood



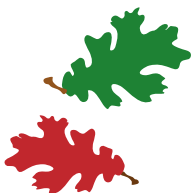
Eastside Neighborhood



Cimarron
Neighborhood
(above)



Homestead Trails Neighborhood



Slatterly Park
Neighborhood
(right)



Kutzky Neighborhood



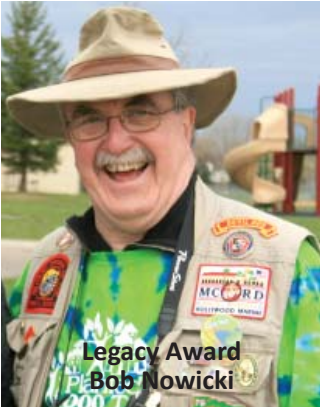
Green Thumb Award
Cathy Clermont



Green Initiative Award
Joel Dunnette



OAKtoberfest Neighbor Awards (above and to left)



Legacy Award
Bob Nowicki



Innovative Action Award
Jeff Urban

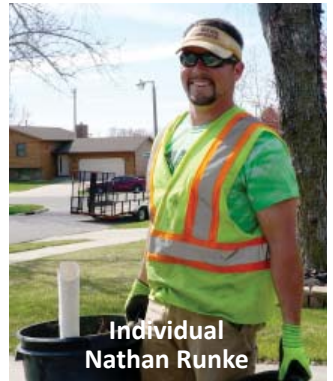
Urban Forestry Volunteer Awards (below)



Organization
Silver Creek Corners



Individual
Lindsey Meek



Individual
Nathan Runke



Family
Karen and Edward Cohen, Angie, Ash, Milan and Amani Gupta.



OAKtoberfest Neighbor Awards

Green Initiative Award

Neighbor who spearheaded and developed green initiatives within their neighborhood, as a means to make Rochester a more environmentally sustainable place to live.

Joel Dunnette

Nature in Your Neighborhood Project

Nominated by Tara Freimund

Joel has been a leader of Zumbro Valley Audubon in Rochester since its formation 30 years ago. This summer he developed the Nature in Your Neighborhood Project, a free hands-on Saturday experience for children to learn about the natural world around them.

“Nature in Your Neighborhood has been a hit on many levels. Joel’s authentic appreciation for sharing his passion for the natural world and transmitting that a group of squirrely kids and their sleepy, coffee laden parents on Saturday mornings has made Nature in Your Neighborhood grow in attendance and interest,” said nominator Tara Freimund from the Kutzky Park neighborhood.

“Joel’s professional experience and significant knowledge as a naturalist has offered a wealth of information, age appropriate materials and some fun in the park on sunny Saturday mornings, but what has struck me the most about these events is the genuine enthusiasm and interest Joel brings to each small hand having caught a bug in a net and every question murmured from behind the binoculars worn by the littlest amongst us as they spy the sight of a bird through the trees.”



Innovative Action Award

Neighbor or group who has worked with the residents to make structural improvements to a neighborhood.

Jeff Urban, Community Outreach

Bear Creek Church

Nominated by Mike LaPlante

Jeff has organized and coordinated rehab efforts in the Oak Terrace, Parkside and Eastside neighborhoods, with the end goal of helping people help themselves. He utilizes local talents and resources to help people better their own situations.

“Many churches try to help from the outside, but we have really strived to have “boots on the ground”, said neighbor Justin Moreland. “He really adopts the mentality of helping without hurting, meaning that we try as best as we can to not swoop in with resources and expertise to help. Instead, those who we help almost always contribute what they can. If they are able, he will maybe show them how to do certain things, but then just drop tools off for them to do it themselves. Others help alongside volunteers and pay only for material costs. Many that we’ve helped will help with other projects.”

“When I think of Jeff a Milton Berle quote immediately come to mind,” said Mike LaPlante, President of the Eastside Pioneers Neighborhood Association. “If opportunity doesn’t knock, Jeff builds them a door.”



Green Thumb Award

Given to a neighbor or group who has improved their neighborhood, yard, or local community park.

Cathy Clermont

Slatterly Park Neighborhood Association

Nominated by Brian Rognholt

Cathy has served as the organizer and point person for numerous community building efforts in her neighborhood that have not only brought neighbors together to work on projects, but have left a lasting impact in her neighborhood. She has spearheaded boulevard tree plantings, coordinated efforts to repaint their Flower Kaleidoscope street mural, volunteers at the neighborhood’s Art on the Avenue effort, as well as worked in their community garden.

“Cathy is the point person for neighborhood projects and motivating others, said Brian Rognholt from the Slatterly Park neighborhood. “Her uplifting inspiration and hard work have made being a leader in our association much easier. She is the ultimate in what it means to be a service oriented ‘good neighbor’!”



Mayor's Urban Forestry Volunteer Awards

Recognizing amazing citizens, for outstanding contributions to Rochester's urban forest.

Family

**Angie, Ash, Milan and Amani Gupta.
Karen and Edward Cohen.**



This extended family of three generations has been helping in our neighborhood tree plantings since the spring of 2012. They proudly wear their tie-dyed planting T-shirts as a group when they go to public places like the Med City Marathon, State Fair or the Renaissance Festival.

"Rochester is a great community and part of what makes it great is its tree cover. These trees and forests increase safety, promote walking and biking, reduce the heat island effect, help with storm water management and bring neighbors together," said Edward Cohen.

"We're a busy, active family, so it's important to us to find opportunities where we can all volunteer together while also making a difference," said Angie Gupta. "After one neighborhood tree planting event Milan confided that it was his favorite volunteer activity ever. The boys also can watch the trees grow as they walk and bike through the neighborhood and feel a sense of pride."

Organization

Silver Creek Corners



Residents of Silver Creek Corners have attended Citizen Forester Trainings, helped in our community tree plantings and spent countless hours helping in the Indian Heights neighborhood park.

Working with the RNeighborWoods program and the Friends of Indian Heights (FOIH) allows us to give back to the community. It keeps Silver Creek Corner residents active with in the community and gives them meaningful work," said Chad Ramaker, from Center City Housing. "Their involvement helps to diminish stigma and allows residents to make meaningful relationships with unpaid staff and community volunteers. Trees and parks are a renewable resource we can do something about. It takes a lifetime to grow a large tree and pays dividends for the next generation."

Individual

Lindsey Meek



Lindsey first planted trees with RNeighborWoods in the mud when we planted 1,200 trees in one day on 50th Avenue NW, in the spring of 2012. Although that effort is certainly admirable she is receiving this award because of her ongoing efforts to advocate for public trees while serving on the Committee on Urban Design and Environment (CUDE) and the City Planning and Zoning Commission.

"As an engineer, it is my duty to hold paramount the safety of the public in all designs. The data and evidence is clear that the presence of trees along a street slows down motorists," said Lindsey. "With speeding a recurrent problem in almost every neighborhood, trees represent and critical piece of safety infrastructure, equal in importance to a stop sign or a pavement marking."

"Continued public education of the value of street trees and the urban forest is a message that cannot be shared widely enough. More education will lead to passion which will lead to advocacy for additional policies such as an urban forest master plan, which will include tree replacement requirements for all developments."

Individual

Nathan Runke



He is a graduate of the Urban Forestry bachelors program at the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point, Certified Arborist and has been employed by the City of Rochester forestry division since 2006. Nathan has worked with the RNeighborWoods program since the summer of 2006 and has been instrumental in creating procedures to ensure the program is efficient and sustainable. The Neighborhood Tree Grant is a project that he has nurtured and helped form into the successfully streamlined effort it is today.

"Now that I have a child the ability to introduce him to natural areas without driving for hours has been amazing. For a guy that grew up surrounded by fields and wooded areas, to sum it up I feel like Rochester's urban forest is what makes Rochester a livable city"

OAKtoberfest Neighbor Awards (continued)

Legacy Award Given to an individual who through their dedication to community, volunteerism and talents has created a lasting positive impact on Rochester neighborhoods.

Robert Nowicki, (founding) RNeighbors Board member. Nominated by Mayor Ardele Brede.

In 1990 Rochester was named as one of the top places to live in the United States and Rochester experienced a growth flux. It was important to Mayor Canfield that the City kept some of the small-town feel to it as it expanded. Bob got involved in neighborhood work way back in 1996 when he was assigned by Mayor Chuck Canfield to the Mayor's Advisory Council on Neighborhoods. In 1996 Kutzky formed as the first recognized neighborhood association in Rochester with other downtown core neighborhoods such as Eastside and Slatterly Park soon following suite. Attempting to collect information to assist these young neighborhood groups, this Advisory Council attended several Neighborhoods USA (NUSA) conferences, did research on national neighborhood efforts and eventually developed the idea for the Rochester Neighborhood Resource Center in 1999, incorporated as a nonprofit in 2001. By 2003 this little nonprofit rebranded itself as RNeighbors and there were 16 registered neighborhood associations. In addition to nurturing RNeighbors into the resource it is today, Bob has served as City Councilman and an RNeighbors Board member ever since 1999. He's played many different roles on the board including President and resident historian.

"Bob is a true Renaissance guy. As a lone staff person at RNeighbors he's invaluable," said RNeighbors Executive Director, René Lafflam. "I know I can give him a call and he can help me mediate through a tricky political situation or I can ask him to serve as a photographer, greeter, water distributor, resident woodworker, tree planter, picture hanger, or messenger, but always an advocate and cheerleader for Rochester neighborhood leaders."

Nominator Mayor Ardele Brede said, "It's a great honor for me to present the RNeighbors Legacy Award to an individual who epitomizes the qualities of this award--dedication to community & volunteerism--that is centered on neighborhoods. The Legacy Award, or "Good Neighbor award", goes to my dear friend and colleague...the original Barefoot Santa...Bob Nowicki!"



OAKtoberfest
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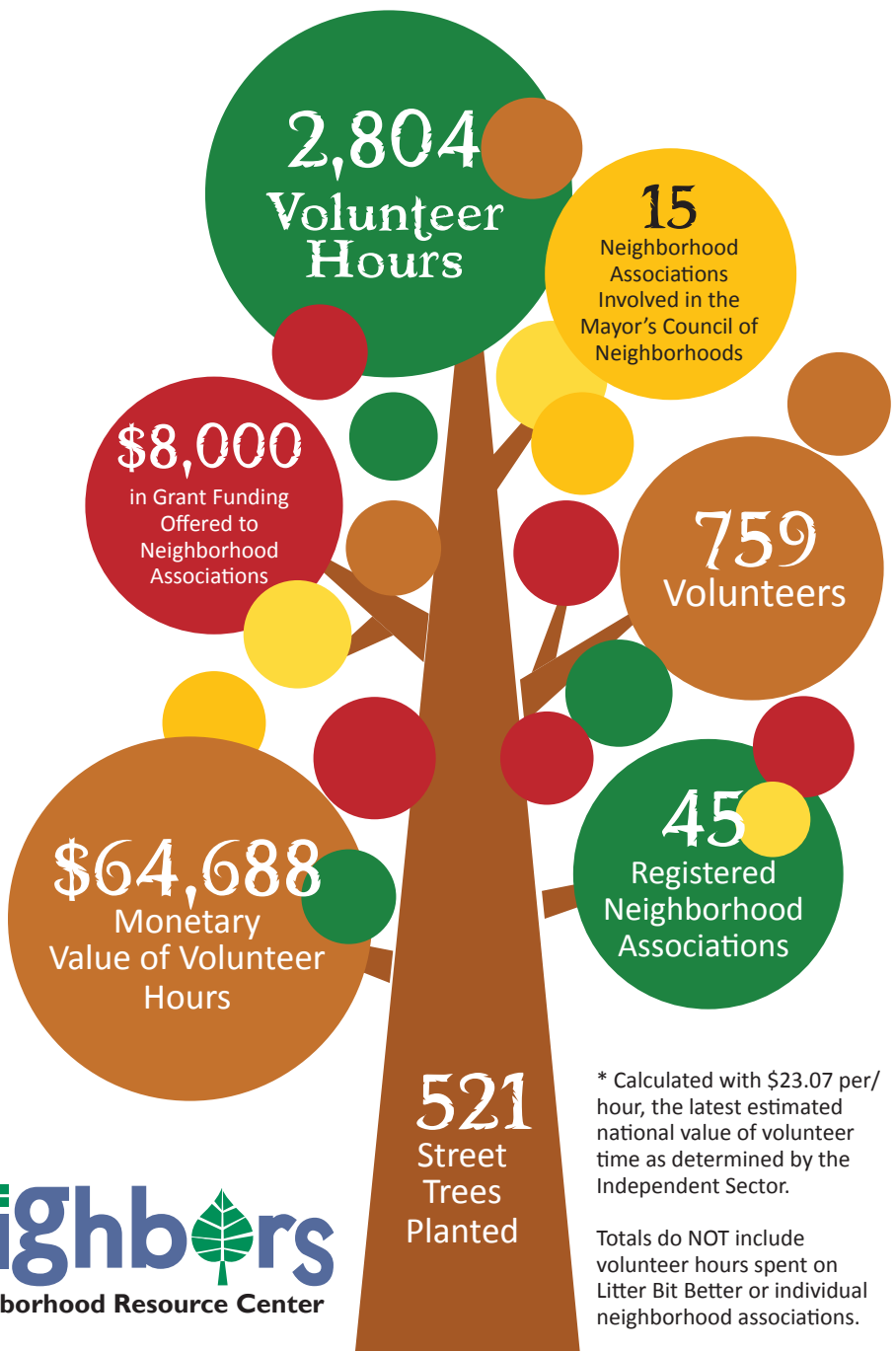


Special thanks to Natalie DeGrand, the RNeighbors board photographer. (above photo)

Tree of 2015

Mission

To empower citizen leaders to create sustainable neighborhood networks that promote a vibrant, healthy and livable community.



* Calculated with \$23.07 per/hour, the latest estimated national value of volunteer time as determined by the Independent Sector.

Totals do NOT include volunteer hours spent on Litter Bit Better or individual neighborhood associations.

