



National Neighborhood Day inspires, builds, and sustains the neighborhood relationships that provide the foundation for civic action and the building of stronger, more caring and effective communities.

Save the Date: September 11, 2005

Embargoed:
Monday, August 29, 2005

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**National Neighborhood Day Film Contest Winners
Receive Awards from Providence Mayor David N. Cicilline**

**Adult Grand Prize awarded to Bravell Smith of Providence, RI
Youth Grand Prize awarded to students from the Art Links program at
South Avondale Elementary School in Cincinnati, OH**

Providence, RI – The winners of the first annual National Neighborhood Day Short Film Contest were presented with their awards today by Providence, RI Mayor David N. Cicilline. Bravell Smith of Providence, RI won the Adult Grand Prize of \$5,000 with a film entitled “Straight 2 the Point”. 5th and 6th grade students from the Art Links program at South Avondale Elementary School in Cincinnati, OH won the Youth Grand Prize of \$2,000 with a film entitled “AI-Off the Hook”. The winning films can be viewed at www.neighborhoodday.org

The nationally advertised contest drew a terrific variety of entries from across the country. A diverse group of film makers submitted 5-minute films that sought to answer the question: “What does your neighborhood mean to you?” After 20 finalists were culled from the total pool of entries, the films were reviewed and the winners were selected by a panel of judges led by an Academy Award-winning documentary filmmaker.

Earlier this year, National Neighborhood Day was warmly received at this year’s US Conference of Mayors following its presentation by Mayor Cicilline, who stated, “I believe the greatness of a city is judged by the quality of life in its neighborhoods, and National Neighborhood Day is a great excuse to celebrate our community spirit and to fortify bonds with our neighbors.”

The number and quality of the films entered into the contest was notable for a first-year contest and bodes well for future years. “Everyone was really impressed by the quality of the films submitted, especially those made by young people,” said National Neighborhood Day Film Contest Director, Lynne Couture. “We are already looking forward to next year’s contest.”

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About Bravell Smith:

National Neighborhood Day Film contest Adult Grand Prize Winner Bravell Smith was born and raised in Providence, RI. He has been a member of the Everett Dance Theatre for ten years. Mr. Smith hopes to continue his education and explore more opportunities in film making.

About Art Links and South Avondale Elementary School:

Art Links is an umbrella arts organization that provides arts in education programming to disadvantaged school districts in Greater Cincinnati. Art Links contracts over 100 local arts organizations and individual teaching artists impacting over 55,000 students a year. The Art Links pilot program "Art on the Block" is an after school arts program serving K-8 students at Cincinnati Public Schools (CPS) Community Learning Centers. Art Links Teaching Artist Mark Santangelo is one of our top artists with many artistic talents: musician, video photographer, producer and a true compassion for connecting children to arts. Contact: Linda Tresvant, Executive Director, phone: 513-363-0202, email: artlinks@cps-k12.org

The National Neighborhood Day Film Contest Youth Grand Prize has been generously supported by the Cinergy Foundation of Cincinnati, OH. The mission of the Cinergy Foundation is to be a recognized leader in corporate citizenship by creating proactive, innovative partnerships that improve the quality of life by reinvesting in the communities we serve. Contact: Kathy Meinke, Cinergy Media Relations, phone: 513-287-2121, email: kathy.meinke@cinergy.com

About National Neighborhood Day:

National Neighborhood Day is a nonprofit initiative created to strengthen neighborhood ties and improve the quality of life from the ground up. It promotes neighborhood gatherings across the country each year on the second Sunday in September to enable a broad array of neighborhood activities from meeting new neighbors to planting trees to improving security. This year, National Neighborhood Day is Sunday, September 11th.

“National Neighborhood Day is an annual gathering of neighbors to have fun and to strengthen the relationships and connectedness that lead to people caring for one another and working together for a better community” says Lorne Adrain, Providence, RI businessman and National Neighborhood Day Founder.

This year National Neighborhood Day launched a mini grant award program to community-based nonprofit organizations in Providence enabling them to hold neighborhood based events planned for September 11, and at the same time, enhancing their existing programs. A food drive, neighborhood clean up, an after church brunch, tree plantings, and block parties are examples of events scheduled for this year.

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Thanks to the generosity of the Rhode Island Foundation, 11 Providence nonprofits received mini grants ranging up to \$500. Recipients include Crossroads RI, Greater Elmwood Neighborhood Association, Groundwork Providence, Lennon Street Residents, The Met School, Providence Crime Watch, Providence Housing Authority, St Francis Chapel & City Ministry Center, Violet Hill Club Association, West Broadway Neighborhood Association, and Rhode Island Community & Justice.

While Providence is National Neighborhood Day's home base, highlights of the initiative's nationwide reach include:

- Family gatherings from Philadelphia, PA to St Louis, MO and the California Coast.
- Neighborhood Alliances are engaged from Portland, ME to Kansas City, MO to Renton, WA. They keep us informed about issues in their geographies and help inspire events with their memberships.
- National Faith Based Organizations across America have heeded the call to commemorate National Neighborhood Day – The United Methodist Church, United Church of Christ, the Rhode Island State Council of Churches, and others.
- Safe Street Kids in Oakland, CA is hosting an event on crime prevention for teens; Volunteer Centers and Points of Light are requesting volunteer support for events; United Way Chapters like Metro UW in Louisville, KY are engaging their constituency in innovative ways to join the call to action; Boy & Girl Scout Troops are creating new events for Scouts; and other organizations.
- Participation from schools and education programs continues to grow including Teach for America, The Big Picture Company, Coalition of Essential Schools, Connect for Kids, Do Something, Edutopia, and others.
- Employee and Volunteer Networks have been activated at leading corporations including Dell, Northwestern Mutual Life, National Association of Service & Conservation Corps, A T & T Pioneers, General Electric Elfun Volunteers, Disney VoluntEARS, CVS, Microsoft, and others.

To learn more about National Neighborhood Day visit www.neighborhoodday.org. Ideas and helpful tools for organizing your event are also available on the Web site.

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