



Dear Neighbor Ministries

eNews Update

March 2010

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our monthly eNews. Please use the send to a friend link at the top if you know someone who might like to receive this information.

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Margot Van Sluytman shares her story of healing and forgiveness with StepStone clients. Click on her photo to view her website and learn more.

StepStone Women Learn About Forgiveness

During their monthly support group meeting the women in our StepStone program listened intently as Margot Van Sluytman of Calgary, Canada told her story. The award winning poet and publisher was in Wichita to conduct a session on how in 2007 she met and forgave the man who killed her father in 1978, when she was a teen.

This example of forgiveness had special meaning to our clients who have suffered their own trauma. Her story of healing and forgiveness takes a special strength and passion to share as she travels and writes. You can read more about her story at www.sawbonna.com

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Dear Neighbor Board Profile

At the beginning of this fiscal year a new board of directors for Dear Neighbor Ministries was installed. We plan to introduce them to you in short profiles via eNews.



This month we will begin with Brent Moerer who serves as Secretary of the Board. Brent, an attorney in private practice, brings a special perspective to the board as a volunteer. He works at least one day a week as a representative payee and during tax season he puts in additional time helping prepare tax returns.

Brent Moerer, Board of Directors Secretary

Brent is a graduate of the University of Nebraska-Kearney and Washburn Law School. He has previously worked for Topeka Legal Aid and Anderson Law Offices, Topeka, KS and for the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, Kansas City, MO.

Brent and his wife Janell have two children.

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Sister makes her daily rounds in her golf cart.

Hilltop Journal by Sister Ann Catherine

One day as I was sitting in the car with my bag of candies, we were parked beside a walk where there were any number of children. I didn't recognize many of them. Anyway, I opened the car door and offered candy to them. They weren't like my regular customers. They tried to help themselves to as much as they pleased. Since this is not the way I hand out candy, I stopped that process told them to get in line and only take three pieces. That sort of worked, but not like my regular customers. Some still tried getting a handful. When all had gotten their share, there was still one boy standing back on the walk who had not come up. I asked him if he didn't want candy. He didn't respond, so I sort of coaxed him to come and get some. At that he responded, "My mama don't know you." That stopped my coaxing. I admired him for that. He was telling me his mother didn't want him to take anything from strangers. Needless to say, I didn't coax him any further, but told him I would like to meet his mother.

[To learn more or watch our video, click here.](#)

Another response that made my day, was made by a

boy who came up to the car on a day I didn't have any candy with me. As he approached the car, I rolled down the window and said, " I don't have any candy today." His reply, which made my day, was, "That's alright. I just wanted to say hello." Usually if I don't have candy they are disappointed, but this boy was different.

If you would like to send Sister a note of encouragement or have a question for her, email: dearneighbor@csjoseph.org

I love them all, and have missed them during the winter months. They are not out playing as much as in the warmer months.

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Dear Neighbor Annual Appeal

Friends, in about two weeks many of you will receive a letter and brief report on our programs to help the 'dear neighbor'.

Like so many others we have experienced a significant decrease in private grants and donations. We have also received cuts in state funds to provide services to victims of domestic violence. Please give this appeal your prayerful attention.

One way to help is to consider a monthly gift by automatic withdrawal from checking, savings or credit card. [You can sign up on our secure website at this link.](#)

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*Sisters of St. Joseph Dear Neighbor Ministries
Mission Advancement Office
3700 E. Lincoln
Wichita, KS 67218-2099
316-689-4061*

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