

Brokerage raffle to help Neighborhood House

Century 21 M.J.L. Corporate Transfers Service, a real estate brokerage, has joined with Farmington Hills Neighborhood House to help brighten the holiday season for needy families.

Mark Zehnder, broker/owner of Century 21 M.J.L. Corporate Transfers Service, said his 45 associates and staff members wanted to put something special back into their community.

After examining several possibilities, he selected Neighborhood House as the firm's partner in a 50-50 raffle that is now under way. Neighborhood House will use its share of the proceeds to make meals available to individuals and families who would not otherwise have them for Hanukkah and Christmas.

Neighborhood House has evolved over a 20-year period into today's all-volunteer program to help the needy in Farmington and Farmington Hills.

"This is the first time we've been recipients of a raffle, and in fact it's the first time we've been partners in direct fund raising," said Phyllis Howard, volunteer administrator of Neighborhood House, in a written statement.

"Mark Zehnder came to us with the idea, and said his agency's staff really wanted to do something to help us help others. He also wanted to bat to obtain a raffle license for us and then put all of the wheels in motion."

The concept of Neighborhood House began in the mid-1970s when the federally funded Head Start program was established in a Farmington elementary school,

Howard said. A requirement of the program was the establishment of collaboration with the community.

"That's when many of us opened our eyes for the first time to poverty in our community," she said. "Within a short time, the school representatives began acquiring partners, such as three or four churches, The Salvation Army, Goodfellows and others who were in a position to help."

In 1988, Neighborhood House was incorporated and began acquiring still more resources, some to generate funds, but most to contribute time, effort and professional services. Howard estimated the program has reached more than 1,800 Farmington and Farmington Hills residents since incorporation.

In some cases the support is financial, but Howard said most of the assistance is in the form of moral support, including psychological, financial and employment counseling.

Realtor Marvin Cohen, who is chairing the program for Century 21 M.J.L. Corporate Transfers Service, said the associates and staff decided during the summer they wanted to make a positive contribution to the community. "We looked at several possibilities, and the Neighborhood House raffle was by far the most popular idea," he said.

The Realtors and office personnel of the brokerage are selling tickets for the Neighborhood House raffle, Cohen said. Half of each \$2 ticket will go directly to Neighborhood House, with the

other half going into the prize pool, he said. The drawing for three cash prizes will occur on Dec. 16. The prize amounts will be determined by the number of tickets sold.

Information on Neighborhood House and the raffle is available from Century 21 M.J.L. Corporate Transfers Service (810) 851-0700 or Neighborhood House (810) 474-7680.

REFLECTIONS ON THE WORD

by K.R. Elander

WHY DO CHRISTIANS EVANGELIZE?

It's been confirmed that you have the winning number. You've just won the one million dollar lottery jackpot! Now, what is the very next thing you would do? When something wonderful happens to us, something really amazing, our first instinct is to tell others. We can't wait to tell our friends and relatives about the birth of a baby, a great new job, an engagement or other thrilling event. This is the same principle which drives Christians to evangelize.

When people realize that their sins have separated them from God (Isa. 59:2), they often may feel grief and despair or even fear. But once they realize that God has made a way for their sins to be taken away by the death of Jesus (Rom. 3:20-28), there is a sense of relief and, in fact, joy as they accept God's forgiveness. When we rise out of the waters of baptism a "new creature," cleansed of our sins and now a child of God, we realize that a very special thing has happened in our life. Becoming a Christian is the ultimate reason for rejoicing (Acts 8:35-39; 2:41-47, Lk. 15:7) and celebration (Lk. 15:21-24, 32)! It is news too wonderful to keep to oneself.

Christians do not share their faith for selfish reasons, but rather out of the knowledge that God's gift of eternal life is available to all mankind (Rom. 3:21-28). They want others to find the same forgiveness of sins and joy that they have come to know. Christians who share their faith with you are trying to tell you of something of great value that they have found. The next time a Christian approaches you with the Bible's "good news," won't you be open to examining the Scriptures and finding out more about that special gift available to you from God?

If we can help you in any way in your search for God's forgiveness, please contact the Farmington Hills Church of Christ, 36500 W. Eleven Mile Rd., between (Halsted and Drake), 810-477-5033.

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Reaching out to the people of our community.
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