



2006 Heart of Gold Message

March 2, 2006

Dear Supporters,

As we prepare for our 100th year celebration in 2007, we've been looking back into the past to review the service record of the agency since its inception. It's a fascinating journey.

What strikes me most about our history is that the value of responsiveness has been a consistent theme through the years. To us, responsiveness means not only meeting the immediate needs of the day, but also changing as our community changes, so that we can continue to address the needs of the people we serve.

Indeed, from the Great Depression to the Great Society to today, we've adapted and evolved to provide needed assistance to the community's most vulnerable residents.

This past year was no different. In the face of the unprecedented challenge of Hurricane Katrina -- and under extreme conditions -- the entire agency mobilized in partnership with many other social service and government agencies. While the storm was a painful disaster for so many, the response of the Houston community was a source of pride.

That spirit of cooperation extends beyond crisis to the every-day work we do at Neighborhood Centers Inc. With the help of our funding and service partners -- the United Way, City of Houston, DePelchin Children's Center, New Kid Care, Houston Works, JPMorgan Chase, St. Luke's Episcopal Health Charities, Houston Community College System, Texas Children's Pediatrics and many, many others -- we served more than 150,000 clients this year.

And as always, our achievements were made possible by the inspired and dedicated leadership of our Board of Directors. This year, we recognize our Board as our 2005 "Volunteer of the Year." As a group they are simply extraordinary. We are deeply indebted to these remarkable people for their unprecedented generosity and support. Above all, we appreciate their courage.

In the face of a clear need for the organization to yet again evolve, we are fortunate to have a Board that embraces change and volunteer leaders who challenge us to meet ever higher standards of service and accountability.

With the full support of the Board, the agency met the challenge of Katrina, restructured into three major divisions to better serve our community and embarked on a forward-

looking campaign to fund the transformation of our community centers. On behalf of the Executive Team and all the staff of Neighborhood Centers Inc., we thank you for your generosity, encouragement and selfless dedication.

And to you, our supporters, we offer our heart-felt appreciation. You've helped make our region a place of promise and opportunity – a destination for all who labor for a better life.

Sincerely,
Angela Blanchard