In 1985, the mysterious new epidemic of HIV/AIDS was facing the nation and creeping through the population. Resources were limited; facts were obscure. A diagnosis of the disease was frightening new territory, a virtual death sentence to many.

Around that time, a group of Minneapolis friends began informal meetings in living rooms and church basements, moved their experiences and supporting one another to better live with the disease. Interest in their group grew, and they quickly recognized a huge need in the community for what they had created: a centralized resource for successfully coping and surviving the illness. By 1987, the Aliveness Project was officially born.

From their home base at 38th and Chicago, the Aliveness Project works to bring self-empowerment to the HIV community. With a small staff of nine full-time and nine part-time employees, they strive to ensure that people can serve at least two hot meals daily, provide various professional physical therapies and holistic treatments, keep an extensive library, and run a food shelf. Additionally, they offer case management, connecting people with resources to help meet their needs, assisting with everything from housing arrangements and health care to legal and financial issues.

In more than 20 years, the Aliveness Project has served nearly 1,600 Minnesotans living with HIV/AIDS. Considering that Minnesota’s HIV population is around 6,200, this means they have reached 1 in 4 Minnesotans needed more than ever in coming year. The Minnesota Department of Health projects newly-diagnosed cases of HIV to rise by 25% in 2009, with the highest increase in the 15-24 year-old demographic.

Marberger speculates that in some ways, HIV/AIDS education has fallen off the map with young people. “One young boy, about eighteen years old, was telling me he just didn’t learn about AIDS. There’s more...abstinence-only training in schools. It’s just so sad.”

Even though a new mural has gone up and excitement is building, we won’t be seeing the group officially moving in until about fall of next year. But in the meantime, “We need volunteers,” says Marberger. “That’s an ongoing thing. We strive to make every dollar go to services. We work very hard to make sure money goes to the work, rather than other things.”

As I write, staff and volunteers are bustling to complete their 22nd year delivering holiday gift baskets. Last year, these baskets brought food and gifts for adults and children in 700 homes delivered on Christmas Eve. The majority of the hands-on work, including deliveries, is done by volunteers.

Marberger encourages anyone interested in volunteer opportunities to check out the website, www.aliveness.org/volunteer. Watch the video entitled “Alive!” for a glimpse at some of the faces that depend on the work of the Aliveness Project, not only for a few hot meals, but for the empowerment, the resources, and the family that this group has brought into their lives.

-- Amanda Vitsch

GO GREEN AND SAVE GREEN THIS SPRING!

Round two of a full-service energy saving program is coming to Kingfield.

KFNA has again teamed up with the Center for Energy and Environment, CenterPoint Energy, and Xcel Energy to offer Kingfield homeowners Community Energy Services (CES). Through the program, residents will receive professional home energy visits, low-cost energy saving items, free educational information on how to lower energy use, and more. See the article on page 2, which describes one neighbor’s experience with this program.

A 15-hour informational training meeting will take place on February 16 for Kingfield homeowners interested in organizing their immediate block to attend the program. The two-hour workshops will be offered on Thursday evening, March 18, and again on Saturday, March 20. Reserve your spot at one of the workshops by contacting Beth Bennett at 612-335-5874 or bmennet@mcnece.org.

HELP US GET YOUR ENTIRE BLOCK TO THE WORKSHOP!

Contact Sarah Linnnes-Robinson, KFNA Executive Director, at 612-823-5980 or sarah@kingfield.org to see if someone has volunteered from your street to do outreach on this program yet!

Funding for this project was provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR).
For our neighborhood and for KPNA, 2009 was a busy year—one we can look back on for its many accomplishments and noteworthy projects.

The year began with the emergence of a newly independent Kingfield Farmers Market. Originating from KPNA, a dedicated group of volunteers put in countless hours of hard work and planning and, with the assistance of grant from KFNA, created an independent, non-profit corporation to run the market. Besides being a great place to shop, the Kingfield Farmers’ Market still serves as a gathering place for the community and includes a weekly KPNA table that helps residents keep in touch with happenings in the neighborhood.

KPNA took on projects to beautify the neighborhood, including laying the groundwork for a new pilot program to prevent graffiti—strategizing utility boxes with local artists and photographic images of our community—which was approved by the Minneapolis Arts Commission in October. KPNA also organized four block in the northeast section of the neighborhood to address graffiti issues in their alleys (see story on page 4). The results of the cleanup and alley mural project are block-long art galleries.

KPNA also served as the review committee for the Nicollet East Harriet Business Association’s business façade grants program in 2010, providing guidance and assistance. And they facilitated the outreach to the neighborhood regarding the development of an affordable housing facility for young adults at 37th Street and Nicollet Avenue (page 1). This year some board members traveled in Kingfield’s new Hour Car, which was introduced to the neighborhood with the assistance of KPNA.

One of my favorite neighborhood events each year in KPNA is the community arts fair, an opportunity for our community to see the depth of artistic talent in Kingfield. This year’s show—ReDefine, ReCreate, Reinvent—was no exception. I think we all have great pride in the event as it continues to bring to the neighborhood the assistance of KFNA.

Another event that tops my list is National Night Out, when the assistance of KFNA. The other consultant toured the house with me, pointing out possible areas for improve- DOG PARK UPDATE

After a full summer of hard work and research, a group of dedicated neighbors held a meeting at Martin Luther King Park on Oct 22nd to share proposals for an off-leash dog area located at the park. Discussion centered on the areas of the park that seem most suitable for an off-leash area—looking at photos of the areas, they weighed the pros and cons of each.

I arrived in San Diego last week to attend an event for a great-uncle Chuck’s funeral. I am now helping my dad’s cousins pack up the house and sell household items. My great-aunt Joby, Chuck’s older sister, can move to Escondido to live with one of his nieces. She has been in Los Angeles for 80 years, watching family coming and going. My great-grandparents boarded many others here over time, both friends and strangers who would ultimately become family.

The modest house is part of a small cow town. A breezeway leads to a double garage with rooms above it and an attached apartment. In the backyard is “the hut,” a garage-like structure with an outdoor kitchen in it, as well as several gardens along the back of the property. Next door in the same direction is the house that was built for my dad’s parents to live in with their family, and next door in the other direction is the “chicken house” now that I will “chicken-sit” over the summer. It was originally built to house chickens but turned into a bunkhouse for soldiers during the war.

With many months to feed, my great grandmother did all her cooking in the small kitchen with the help of an extra outdoor cuminurr, a saucepan for preparing food outside. She raised chickens in the large yard. Godbers are a problem in California, so my great-grandmother dealt with them by planting in raised beds of beets and chard. Sitting out her “hut” garden” helping her weed when she was well into her 90s.

As I walked the grounds after the funeral with my cousin, we talked about the lemon tree in front of the house and what great lemonade she made from the fruit. I talked about the lemon tree in front of the house and what great lemonade she made from the fruit. I talked about what great lemonade she made from the fruit. I talked about what great lemonade she made from the fruit. I talked about what great lemonade she made from the fruit.

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On Saturday, September 19th, a new kind of community celebration was inaugurated: A special day to celebrate 38th Street, the commercial and transit corridor that has connected south Minneapolis neighborhoods for over a century. Kingfield businesses and organizations enthusiastically joined in, offering special deals, entertainment, and free food and prizes. Beautiful weather made it a great day to take advantage of all the opportunities for fun!

The festivities kicked off early, with workshops led by volunteers from Lake Country and San Miguel schools: Neighborhood kids and families made maracas, and enjoyed a joyful noise, in anticipation of the West 38th Street Parade. Neighborhood musicians entertained the waiting crowd, and many stayed to enjoy the crunchy caramel apples, diverse performances and sample activities offered by performers and providers from the Center for Performing Arts.

Up the street, Quality Coaches celebrated their 38th anniversary with an open house, garage band music, and lots of free hot dogs on the grill. Piner Meats fed all who came in the door. Best Food offered special 8-cent shishkabobs, and new Kingfield neighbors, The Aliveness Project introduced themselves with homemade cookies and painted on a bright new “face” at their 38th and Nicollet location.

In the middle, an eager crowd gathered to view photos clockwise from top left:
- Celebrate 38th!
- …Alex Bauman
- 3

380 Nicollet to savor the Nicollet Pothole ice cream given away by Lander Group. In addition to participating in the parade, Nicollet Ace Hardware played generous host to the History Hounds scavenger hunt, and gave away big backyard prizes.

Meanwhile, bargain hunters visited the Incarnation Church and Bancroft neighborhood garage sales, as well as special sidewalk sales and a mini-flea market at the market on 38th and Grand. The HOURCAR made appearances up and down 38th street, enrolling neighbors in the Minnesota Energy Challenge and a free prize drawing. East of the freeway, the 38th and Chicago business association gave away reusable bags full of resources, and Bancroft neighbors tied up their Meridian garden over cookies and lemonade.

If you missed the festivities, be sure to check out more photos at www.kingfield.org/celebrate-38th, as well as lots of snippets of 38th street history from the History Hounds scavenger hunt at www.kingfield.org/local-history. And stay tuned for a possible 2nd annual Celebrate 38th in 2010.

Photos clockwise from top left: A new face for The Aliveness Project, discovery from San Miguel, a classic car from Quality Coaches

Our neighborhood abounds with HISTORY! Did you know that 38th Street used to be the border of the city? That means all your neighbors south of 38th lived in the suburbs! Learn more about Kingfield and your neighborhood’s settlement at www.kingfield.org/local-history. Want to know more? Contact Sarah at info@kingfield.org to join other neighbors in researching and sharing more history about your home and neighborhood!
ALLEY MURALS CREATE A NEW KINGFIELD ART ZONE:

The new murals feel like a virtual art gallery, and work as a strategy to prevent graffiti by making the painted surfaces less tempting targets for taggers.

THANK YOUR LOCAL BUSINESSES FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF KFNA THIS YEAR!

Local businesses give in many ways to KFNA throughout the year, to further our work of community building and community bonding. One of our favorite business-sponsored events has to be Eating for Art! For this one day event, folks are encouraged to eat locally at specific restaurants, who then donate a percentage of their sales back to us.

For this one day event, folks are encouraged to eat locally at specific restaurants, who then donate a percentage of their sales back to us.

Special thanks are due to the cafes that participated in Eating for Art in 2009. This year we raised close to $3,000! We then turned around and donated these funds to the Hosmer World Music and Dance program, which brings free live music and dance programming to Hosmer Laryaby and Painter Park. We are surrounded by so many clever partners who help us further our mission of bringing neighbors together and expanding on their creative enjoyment of the world! Thanks, all!

Victor’s 1939 Café • Curran’s Family Restaurant
Anodyne Coffeehouse • Butter Bakery Café
El Paraiso • Champions Bar and Grill
Bryant-Lake Bowl

THINKING OUT OF THE BOX: A Call for Artists

Creative solutions, unusual juxtapositions, innovative use of materials... Kingfielders are a revolutionary crowd! This year’s 6th Annual Community Art Show asks local artists and community members to create 2-dimensional or 3D art that expresses their creativity and presents something outside of the ordinary 4-sided straight walls of our regular world.

A twist of words, a repurpose of materials, an invention of sound or sight, an image that leaps off the wall...let your mind go free and think out of the box!

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: March 10, 2009
ARTWORK DUE: March 13 and 14, 2009

Selected pieces hung for pre-display at Anodyne @ 43rd. All pieces to be sold by auction Saturday, March 20. To register, visit www.kingfield.org or call 612-823-5980.

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