

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: September, 2007

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**BEST NEIGHBORHOOD PROGRAM AWARD COMPETITION
OPENS**

Madison Neighborhoods, Inc. is pleased to announce the opening of the competition for the Best Neighborhood Program Awards, formerly known as the Neighborhood of the Year Award. The Best Neighborhood Program Award Program is a way for MNI to recognize the outstanding work of neighborhood organizations from throughout the City of Madison, and to let neighborhoods know that the work they do is valued and deserves to be recognized. These are the first awards of their kind given to recognize neighborhood organizations for their self-help initiatives.

The 2007 awards will be presented at the City of Madison Mayor's Neighborhood Roundtable, Saturday, November 3, 2007 at CUNA Mutual Training Center, 5810 Mineral Point Road.

Madison Neighborhoods Incorporated (MNI), a 501 (c) 4 non profit that was created with a Neighborhood Leadership grant from the City of Madison, operates as a forum for the sharing of experiences and knowledge towards cooperative working relationships among citizens, staff members and elected officials for the strengthening of our city through the promotion of neighborhoods. The strategic mission of MNI is to foster communication within and amongst neighborhood associations and other neighborhood-based organizations.

MNI has fashioned the awards to emulate those of Neighborhoods, USA (NUSA), the largest grassroots organization in the nation addressing the concerns and issues of neighborhoods throughout the country. In 2004, Prairie Hills Neighborhood Association was a NUSA finalist for their establishment of the Hammersley-Bettys-Jacobs-Theresa Neighborhood and Southwest Resource Center which greatly improved the fabric and livability of the neighborhood and just this past May, the University Hill Farms Neighborhood Association took second place in the nation in the Social Revitalization category at the 2007 NUSA Conference.

Awards will be given in three categories - 1) Physical Revitalization/Beautification in a Single Neighborhood; 2) Social Revitalization/Neighborliness in a Single Neighborhood and new this year the 3) Multi Neighborhood – Multi Partnerships category for projects sponsored by more than one neighborhood association or a

planning council. Judging will be based on the extent of self-help, innovation, grassroots participation and capacity building exhibited by the nominated organization. A distinguished panel of NUSA judges will select four finalists in each category, and finalist will be asked to make twenty minute presentations during this year's Mayor's Neighborhood Roundtable.

In order to be considered for the 2007 Best Neighborhood Program Award, an organization must have completed a noteworthy neighborhood improvement project in 2006, and submit a completed application **postmarked no later than October 1, 2007**.

For More information on the Awards program, contact:

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2007 Best Neighborhood Program Awards
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For more information about the City's Neighborhoods Roundtable contact:

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