

**Duluth LISC's *At Home in Duluth* Collaborative's
2011 Neighborhood Heroes**

**AT HOME
IN DULUTH
COLLABORATIVE**

LISC
Duluth
*sustainable
communities
initiative*



Morgan Park: Terrific Trio: Wayne Purser, Darrell Eckenberg, Bill Majewski

The Terrific Trio of Wayne Purser, Darrell Eckenberg and Bill Majewski, represents three different kinds of people—the intellectual, the hands-on doer, and the agreeable devotee. With 71 years of living in the neighborhood between them, every major project that has happened in Morgan Park has this Trio's fingerprints on them.

A major transformation happened in Morgan Park in 2010 when the neighborhood took on the challenge of a volunteer make-over of a six-plex. For three months, it was a true labor of love as they spent hours transforming the multi-unit. The three have led and participated in numerous Morgan Park community events including conducting cleanups, building the playground, hosting community picnics and teen dances, mowing public spaces and managing the upkeep of the interior and exterior of the Good Fellowship Center.

Bill and Sue are longtime Morgan Park residents having lived there for 39 years. They recently celebrated 46 years of marriage. In the early 1980's, Bill started woodcarving. He especially likes carving birds and animals. He also teaches community education classes on how to make canoe paddles.

Darrell and his wife Jill have lived in Morgan Park for 27 years. They enjoy spending time with their adult children and five grandchildren. Darrell likes to hunt, camp, play ball, paint and coach little kids in hockey – besides all of the volunteer work he does.

Wayne and his wife Polly moved to Morgan Park five years ago. They have two cats that Wayne refers to as “his girls”. Retired from the Air Force after 30 years of service, Wayne enjoys renovating projects and playing bass guitar and drums.



Lincoln Park: Joe Perfetti

As a pillar of the Lincoln Park neighborhood, Joe Perfetti embodies a neighborhood activist and knows how to ignite his neighbors into action. Joe was born and raised in his current residence on Vernon Street in Lincoln Park where he lives with and cares for his 92-year old father, Guy.

When the Harrison Community Center was lost five years ago to arson, Perfetti started a fundraising committee to rebuild this important neighborhood destination for Lincoln Park residents. He recalls his most rewarding experience was knocking on over 200 homes in Lincoln Park when the *At Home in Duluth* collaborative formed to learn what residents wanted for their neighborhood. The outcomes included the rebuilding of Third Street with signs and lights, and many revitalized homes. He is instrumental in coordinating the annual Harrison Funfest, Lincoln Park Community Cleanups, Neighbors with Hope, and is the Senior Citizen Activity Leader providing lunch and Bingo each Monday at the Harrison Community Center. The first Lincoln Park Citizen Patrol started with his assistance eight years ago and more recently, he helped secure the new Miracle League Ball Field.

Perfetti is described as selfless and kind, making himself available to Lincoln Park seniors, residents and children. "Joe seems to be able to keep a middle-ground, voice of reason, positive attitude in almost everything he does," states Pamela Page. Over the years, he has influenced and motivated many of his Lincoln Park neighbors, reflected by his unanimous selection as Lincoln Park's 2011 Neighborhood Hero.



Central Hillside: Cathie McGovern

Leading by example, Cathie McGovern is Central Hillside's 2011 Neighborhood Hero.

"Cathie leads with grace and humility. She has a special leadership quality rarely recognized in our leaders of today," says Henry Banks. Cathie is an exceptional and caring professional always going above the call of duty for the residents of Central Hillside.

McGovern moved to Duluth 27 years ago and completed her Masters' thesis on Geriatrics and Art. She volunteered at St. Ann's and the Rainbow Center. She was so captivated by the people that she met, that she decided to stay on to become the coordinator at the Rainbow Center. Over the years, she has implemented several programs including Doctors @ the Center and the UMD Pharmacy Clinic. She currently manages a volunteer staff of 50 individuals, teaches watercolor painting and ceramics to students of all ages and distributes monthly commodity allocations to more than 60 eligible senior citizens and children in the neighborhood.

"From the beginning of my work as a volunteer, Cathie has not restricted or constricted me; instead she has given me room in which to grow," Rosemary Hampton shares. "Cathie is a friend, leader, teacher and a go-to person," according to Sue Dumas. According to Gerry Sweetnam, Cathie is the "subtle, consistent glue" to the Central Hillside neighborhood.

With a love of gardening, and a rose garden of her own, McGovern brings the joy of gardening to others including those at the Rainbow Center. Her memberships include the Duluth Rose Society, UMD Alumni Association, and she is active in her church. Cathie has four step-children and eleven grandchildren. When Cathie’s husband passed away, she turned her grief into energy with a focus on helping people, “That decision saved me,” shares McGovern, and it has helped countless Duluthians as well.



East Hillside: James Gittemeier

James Gittemeier is known for bringing extraordinary energy and devoting himself to help others.

“Even with the busy schedule that James has with his work, he finds the time to help with projects in our East Hillside neighborhood,” shares East Hillside Community Club President

Mona Cheslak. “James exemplifies each characteristic one would hope for in a neighborhood hero.”

James is a leader in fostering livable, safe and healthy environments. As a transportation planner, his focus is to have new development be pedestrian friendly for human access rather than automobile. His concern for the loss of several trees in the East Hillside neighborhood led to the project known as *Re-leaf Duluth*. He also shows others how to encourages young children with many neighborhood kids seeing him as a role model and a fun playmate. As a mentor, James encourages community participation in projects and events. He helped one neighborhood boy seek an out-of-state college scholarship—without James, this boy would have missed the opportunity.

James moved from Topeka, Kansas to East Hillside seven years ago. He was drawn to the Hillside because he loved the diversity, the walkability, and the view of Lake Superior. His energy and upbeat attitude is contagious. Just ask the people he works with through his volunteer activities with the Chester Creek Garden Club, Hillfest Planning Committee, Five Points Tutoring and Mentoring Program at Nettleton School, and Mentor Duluth.



West Duluth: Al Tervey

Known as the “friendly face” of West Duluth, Al Tervey has been a dedicated West Duluth business owner and active community leader for over 30 years. As the owner of Mr. D’s Bar & Grill, he has generously provided for the neighborhood and the greater Duluth community.

Over the years, Al has taken a leadership role in events such as Spirit Valley Days, the street dance and parade. He has opened his business to countless benefit dinners, sporting events and special luncheons. His dedication to customer service, willingness to support residents and encourage growth in West Duluth is evident in all he does.

“In today’s world, Al Tervey is an icon. He’s unique and one of the most gracious individuals I have ever met,” says Charlie Bell.

Al is a member of the West Duluth Community Development Corporation (WDCDC), West Duluth Business & Civic Club, Spirit Valley Days (co-founder) and West Duluth Revitalization Business Committee and a volunteer

for Service Learning projects at Laura MacArthur and Denfeld High School. His involvement goes beyond participation by helping to maintain the Service Learning Community Gardens, storing the West Duluth street banners at his business, watering flower baskets and welcoming new businesses to West Duluth.

Al enjoys all outdoor activities, especially fishing and hunting and spending time with his fiancée Laura Persgard and their son Joseph Alan.