

We believe in neighborhoods
... and the strong role of
women in neighborhoods ...



Photo: Judy Janda

National Congress of Neighborhood Women
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the NATIONAL CONGRESS OF NEIGHBORHOOD WOMEN

Who We Are

We are neighborhood women. We care about our families and want to preserve our roots and cultural heritage. We demonstrate for day care, better hospitals and housing, and against the bulldozing of our homes. When we see problems in our community, we form block associations to get pot-holes fixed and to plant trees, tenant groups to get heat and hot water, and safety patrols to stop violence. We care for the elderly. We run cake sales to raise money for our local schools, organize the girl scouts, and volunteer as readers in schools and hospitals.

We feel proud and strong about ourselves and our abilities, but we often feel alone and discouraged. Sometimes we feel our voices will never be heard. Some of us have joined a network of women like ourselves so we can exchange our skills and experiences and to get to know each other.

The National Congress of Neighborhood Women was formed in 1975 to build a network that will provide information, support, recognition, and technical assistance for low and moderate income women working to improve the quality of life for themselves, their families and their neighbors. Neighborhood women from across the country are joining us to develop a national organization that represents our needs. If you believe in our goals and programs, why don't you join us too?

Our Programs

Education

We continue to offer, expand and provide technical assistance for a community-based college program, developed in 1975, which now serves women in different neighborhoods across the country. Over 250 women have graduated from these programs and 400 are currently enrolled. Special curricula and courses are developed in the areas of family life and neighborhood studies,

ethnic cultural heritage, and women's leadership.

A national newsletter on women's community-based higher education is published quarterly.

NCNW also produces films and videotapes for classroom and community use.

Employment

NCNW formed Project Open Doors, a coalition of 30 women's groups, which obtained CETA Title VI funds to offer employment and services for women and their families in the New York City area. The Job Development unit of Project Open Doors prepares job seekers, locates positions, and trains groups in fundraising.

Neighborhood Development

A national conference of neighborhood leaders, co-sponsored by NCNW and the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development was held in 1979 to assess women's priorities and concerns. Community award nights sponsored by NCNW are organized to recognize and honor neighborhood women leaders. NCNW has designed a leadership training model to enhance women's role in neighborhoods.

Research

We have studied the impact of federal programs on women's leadership role in community

organizations, and have surveyed the technical assistance needs of low-income women. NCNW has prepared papers on ethnic women in the media and in higher education.

Network Activities

A national newspaper, **Neighborhood Women Network News**, is published quarterly, and NCNW provides speakers to community groups and other organizations.

Communications are maintained with other grassroots women's groups and with members of the neighborhood and women's movements. Individuals and groups are linked with one another to share information and resources.

Technical assistance to community groups, educational institutions, and professional organizations is provided in the areas of education, employment, neighborhood development and leadership training.

Conferences, workshops, speakouts and forums are sponsored which focus on the special issues and concerns of neighborhood women.

Members of the network will receive the quarterly newspaper, **Neighborhood Women Network News**, invitations to our workshops and conferences, and materials on our programs. Network members will help to develop a national Neighborhood Women's Agenda.



Our Goals

- To provide a voice for poor and working class neighborhood women's concerns.
- To strengthen women's leadership roles in their neighborhoods by giving support, information, training, and recognition for their work.
- To empower neighborhood women by developing programs which support community values and increase women's skills, awareness, and status.
- To encourage an emerging women's consciousness among neighborhood women consistent with the multi-ethnic, multi-racial character of the communities in which they live.
- To promote understanding and respect for the culture and traditions of various ethnic and racial groups.
- To present neighborhood women's issues in national forums and at all levels of ethnic, feminist, and neighborhood movements.



Photo: Janie Eisenberg