

NIDC Hosts Two Community Outreach Events with the Office of Community Wellness and Safety

In an effort to strengthen community bonds and provide meaningful resources to families, the Neighborhood Improvement Development Corporation (NIDC), in partnership with the Office of Community Wellness and Safety (OCWS), hosted two Healing Spaces community events this November. The first event took place on **November 15 at Polonia Peace Park (1020 w Montana St.)**, followed by a second gathering on **November 22 at Peace Park and Garden (3240 N Doctor M.L.K. Jr. Dr)**, Both events brought neighbors together for an afternoon of connection, enjoyment, and support. From the moment families arrived, it was clear these spaces were alive with positive energy. Children ran through the park, laughing and playing games, enjoying the open space and the freedom to simply be kids. Parents and caregivers also found a moment to unwind. Many gathered in small groups, talking, sharing stories, and embracing the peaceful environment. The events gave adults a chance to connect with one another while learning about the resources available through NIDC and OCWS. Community members expressed appreciation for the opportunity to come together in a safe, welcoming, and supportive setting.

NIDC contributed a variety of helpful giveaways, including **school supplies, wellness and hygiene kits, kids' water bottles, snacks, and warm winter boots for children**—all items aimed at easing the burdens that families often face as colder weather approaches. OCWS provided its own set of resources, offering **hot chocolate, apple cider, Narcan, gun locks, winter coats, and additional community support materials**. The combination of essentials, safety tools, and warm refreshments helped ensure every attendee left with something valuable. Attendance was strong at both events, with residents showing up throughout the afternoon to participate. The gatherings also attracted surprise guests who stopped by to support the initiative, including **Aldерwoman Dimitrijevic, Commissioner Lafayette Crump, Deputy Commissioner Sam Leichtling, Larry Kilmer, and Director of the Office of Community Wellness and Safety, Adam Purcell**.



NIDC Staff, Nazir Allen and Nora Graham talk with community members at the outreach event on November 22 hosted at Peace Park and Garden



NIDC Staff, Angela Mitchell Reid with two community members at the outreach event on November 22 hosted at Peace Park and Garden



Staff from the Office of Community Wellness and Safety at the outreach event on November 15 hosted at Polonia Peace Park



Group picture of partners present at the outreach event on November 15 hosted at Polonia Peace Park