



Celebrating
30 Years

**NEIGHBORHOOD
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NCC's Compassionate Spirit Leads to New Facility *Will Serve Over 100 Children in Need*

Memphis, Tennessee – November 4, 2008 – Neighborhood Christian Centers (NCC) is gearing up for the grand opening of another facility. The new facility at NCC's Greenbriar Satellite Site in Frayser opens this Thursday, November 6, from 2-4 p.m. at 3155 Madewell (*within the Greenbriar Apartment Community*), with a ceremony starting at 3:30 p.m. For 15 years, NCC has provided compassionate services out of a 3-bedroom apartment donated by Mr. Frank Jemison, President of Alco Management and General Partner of Greenbriar Apartments.

The well attended programs NCC provides in the apartment led them to have to move outdoors at times due to space constraints. Many times, a note had to be placed on the door saying "NO MORE ROOM". About 10 years ago, Mr. Jemison told NCC Director Mrs. Hattie Porter, "One day, we're going to give you more room." Mrs. Porter saw Mr. Jemison throughout the years and he'd always say "It's coming!" The impact NCC has had on the Greenbriar community led Mr. Jemison to donate plans and construction of a building specifically for NCC, and earlier this year, a ground-breaking was held. The building is now complete, and the grand opening will be held this week. The area was previously paved with a basketball court but now is a 1,530 square-foot building with a large meeting room, a Neighborhood Network room for computers, a kitchen, and a clothes room and food pantry. Also, a playground was built adjacent to the building.

"Mr. Jemison and others in the area see what NCC is doing in their community," said Mrs. Porter. Weekly, about 10 ladies come to learn job seeking skills through NCC's WOE (Women of Empowerment) program, and it takes about 25-30 volunteers to serve that ministry alone. More volunteers are needed, however, in youth ministries due to the amount of children who attend the programs. Weekly, 25-32 children ages 12-18 are learning about God's word through NCC's Senior T.R.U.T.H. Seekers, and about 48 children, ages 4-11, attend Junior T.R.U.T.H. Seekers. Two days a week, about 28 children come from area schools for the after-school homework center.

"Mrs. Hattie and NCC have enhanced the awareness of what adults can do in their lives," said Vice President and Director of Property Management, Sondra Wimbs. "They've helped the ladies and the children there so much. The children are proud of this facility as it gives them a friendly place to go after school to do their homework. It also gives the children a positive self-esteem and motivates them to succeed in school. In fact, they bring their report cards to Mrs. Porter and she praises them."

NCC has served the community with compassionate services for over 30 years. In order to continue providing needed programs, NCC is holding its first annual family-walk and fundraiser, called The Chicken Strut, on Saturday, November 22, at 9 AM, at NCC's main facility, 785 Jackson Avenue. The Chicken Strut will benefit NCC's annual Christmas Basket program, a program that provides chicken and other foods for 12,000 families in need each year. With the death of Co-Founder Monroe Ballard last April, plans are in place to celebrate and give tribute and NCC is challenging the community to pass on the legacy. NCC wants to build awareness and for others to know how essential their services are.

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Neighborhood Christian Centers, Inc. is a non-profit organization in Memphis, Tennessee, whose mission is to provide compassionate, Christ-centered ministry by building healthier families, stronger communities, and meeting the practical and spiritual needs of the poor and people from all walks of life. Founded in 1978, NCC serves approximately 100,000 individuals each year, addressing the development of the whole person through educational tutoring, mentoring, college prep and assistance, arts/cultural activities, money management training, career guidance, Biblical teaching, and food/clothing/financial assistance. This year NCC celebrates 30 years of ministry!

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