

NORTH END MATTERS

The Friendly House A North End Institution

The Friendly House and Terry Conard are synonymous. The former Friendly House kid turned executive director has been

affiliated with the non-profit organization for 43 years.

"It's been a huge part of my life," Terry said in a recent phone interview. "I started as a kid and worked my way up to a locker room attendant, (and) to a lifeguard. I've also worked at Hidden Hollow as a counselor and a dishwasher, so I've done just about everything that can possibly be done here."

The Friendly House, 380 N. Mulberry St., is a North End institution and has been serving the Richland County community for over a Century.

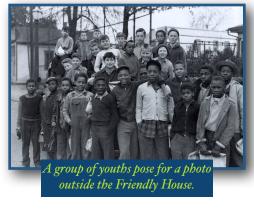
"Our objective is to provide crime prevention, recreational, educational, health/fitness, camping and daycare programs to our immediate neighborhood and our community as a whole, at a cost

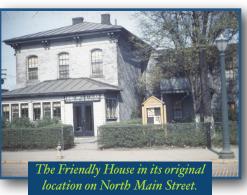
everyone can afford," he said. "Our camping programs are conducted at Hidden Hollow Resident Camp and at our Day Camp, Happy Hollow." Terry said he feels he knows what children and families need and want from a community center because of his deep ties to it.

"Since I grew up here and loved coming here, it wasn't something that we were made to come to the Friendly House, we wanted to come to the Friendly House and enjoy all the activities and all the things it provided for us," he said. "We went swimming and camping during the summer. obviously the opportunities because at that age you didn't make much money, but you started at (age) 15 and 16 to make a little bit of money, which has been huge for probably hundreds of people throughout the county, in order to get their foot in the door and learn some good work ethics. So, I'm trying to give back and do it in the same type of way that I was accustomed to as a kid, but obviously it's (operated)

differently from when I was a kid, but I still think it's enjoyable and I still think we're making an impact on the North End."

A North End resident through and through, Terry was reared on North Mulberry Street, then





Continued On Page 2







The Friendly House Continued From Page 1

moved to the Bowman Street area behind the Johns Park.

"We spent a lot of time at Johns Park during the summer," he said. Terry said he knows the importance of the Friendly House to families of the North End area - then and now.

"I have five siblings and my dad worked at Ohio Brass and my mom stayed home. So, there were six of us in the household, so I think for my mom to get us out of the house was just a blessing for her," he said with a chuckle. "And it gave us something to do besides running and getting in trouble all of the time... I think it has kept a lot of people out of trouble by providing as many activities as we were accustomed to as a kid and I think it's doing the same thing today."

The Friendly House is a multi-layered organization that offers the resident and day camps, but it is also known for its fully booked, very popular after school and Summer Fun program for grades K-6. Swimming lessons are offered in their Olympic sized pool as well as classes for senior citizens.

"We still provide programming for the junior high and high school students; however, they're not coming in how I wish they would," he said. "We have the computer lab, the gym, the game room and I just wish more teenagers would take advantage of those programs."

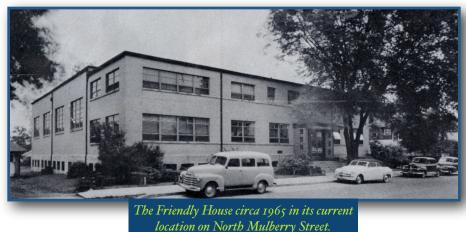
Membership to the Friendly House is simple by filling out a membership registration card, and a \$10 fee but if someone cannot afford it, they will work with them with what they can pay.

"We just want them to come in and take advantage of everything we have to offer," he said.

The organization is funded by United Way, private donations and revenue from Hidden Hollow resident camp. "With United Way dollars is how we can keep our membership fees so low," Terry said.

With the closure of the Ocie Hill building in 2020, Terry said he is looking to see what the Friendly House can do to fill in the gaps of programming that were provided out of that building.

Continued On Page 3



NECIC

Executive DirectorDeanna West-Torrence

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Crystal Weese

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> Farm Coordinator in Training Justin Ocheltree

Teaching Garden Coordinator

Mona Kneuss

Staffing Specialist Heidi Viola

Staffing SpecialistMelissa Petty

Contact NECIC

134 N. Main St.
Mansfield, Ohio 44902
(419) 522-1611
Fax 1-877-433-0848
"staff 1st name"@necic-ohio.org
www.necic-ohio.org





Friendly House Continued From Page 2

"I'd like to start doing more programming and opportunities for either seniors or adults during the day when we don't have kids in here to utilize our building so we're looking at that," he said in terms of the future for the Friendly House. "With our after-school programs those things are just full, and we can't take anymore because we just don't have the space to do it. But we do have opportunities during the mornings to provide a library or a computer class or for people to just come in and play cards or whatever they wanted to do in the mornings."

He said the Friendly House hopes to have another Grand Re-Opening in September or once the national pandemic is over.

If residents have any ideas on how the Friendly House can be a benefit to the neighborhood, Terry encourages them to stop by the facility, call 419-522-0521 or visit their website at www.friendlyhouseonline.com.

A Brief History Of The Friendly House

A Brief History Of The Friendly House			
1894:	Initial beginning of settlement movement in Mansfield known as the "Peoples Mission".	1952:	First Golden Age Club in city organized at Friendly House.
1912:	Mission reorganized as the "Friendly House Association" and located at 280 N. Main St.	1960:	The new Hidden Hollow Camp established on O'Possum Run Road. Happy Hollow Camp organized on Hull Road.
1915:	Friendly House provides the first free playground in Mansfield.		Boals Pool constructed at Friendly House.
1918:	Friendly House provides the first free kindergarten in Mansfield.	1972- 1974:	Pete Battisti, Director of Friendly House.
1920:	Friendly House becomes one of the original charter members of the Community Fund (now	1974 ⁻ 1996:	Bernard Dillon, Director of Friendly House.
		1985:	Warren Rupp Observatory built at Hidden Hollow Camp.
1922:	First English lessons for new Americans in Mansfield given at the Friendly House.	1996- 2006:	Thelda Dillon, Director of Friendly House
1925:	First free baby clinic initiated at Friendly House.	1997:	"Bernie's Playground" built at Friendly House with memorial contributions in memory of Director, Bernard Dillon.
1931- 1972:	Director Russell Gimbel and Co-Director Mary Gimbel, called "Mr. and Mrs. Friendly House", devoted their lives to the community center.	1998:	Construction of new lodge at Happy Hollow Day Camp.
1940:		2007- present	1011 / 3011414, 2 1100101 01 11101141 / 110400.
	Hidden Hollow Camp.	2017:	Construction of Sand Volleyball Pit/Playground at Friendly House.
1948- 1949:	Construction and opening of present Friendly House on North Mulberry Street.	2018- 2019:	New Waste Water Treatment Plant constructed at Hidden Hollow Camp.
1950:	Establishment of permanent Day Care Center.	2019:	Construction of new Barn at Hidden Hollow Camp
1951:	Gift and establishment of Hanna Road area playground.	2019- 2020:	Construction of new parking lots at Friendly House





Letter From The Director

Greetings!

In the front of the NECIC office, there are photos taken by Braxton Daniels III of some people who are nothing short of North End treasures. One of the photos is of Joe Mudra standing in front of the Ocie Hill Neighborhood Center sign. Joe passed away on March 18, 2021.

Joe was a dear friend of mine. He was someone who made it his life's mission to have a school return to the North End. Having been heavily involved in the closure of the last North End school, West Fifth Elementary, Joe realized too late, the damage that had been done to the neighborhood. One evening we sat in his office until 9 o'clock in the evening, and he shared the story with me. He told me that he would never be



Deanna West-Torrence
Executive Director NECIC

able to undo the damage that was done, and so in response, he, Joan Day, and Darryl Eyster, with the blessing of former Mayor Lydia Reid, sought to try to rectify that situation by bringing the Neighborhood Youth Corps and other programs and agencies into the Ocie Hill Neighborhood Center to meet the needs of the community that were lost with the closure of schools.

Over a period exceeding three decades, one by one, nearly all of the elementary schools closed their doors: Rebecca Grubaugh, Creveling, Empire, Stadium, Roseland. Later, John Simpson closed as well, and Joe and I spoke about this dozens of times over the years. How do you turn a neighborhood around with no schools? How do you teach children that education matters when all that remains in their neighborhoods are old, empty school buildings, or vacant lots where they once stood? Schools are gathering places for communities. They bring people together and serve a neighborhood in more ways than simply educating children. The presence of schools impact property values, housing development,

Continued On Page 5





Letter From The Director Continued From Page 4

levels of crime, and a number of other issues. Schools protect neighborhoods. And the North End had none anymore.

Joe was the Director of the Richland County Youth and Family Council. In that role, he brought all of the directors of all of the public agencies, including school superintendents, into the building month after month. He used to say, as long as I'm here, these people will see face to face who they are serving...I'm not leaving, I'm staying right here. He, Joan, and Darryl, knit together a quilt of sorts, covering the North End with what they could. Every classroom in the old Creveling school was converted into offices or space for activities that addressed education, health, social services even legal services at one point were offered from that building. The people in the building were partners, seeing that their common link was the people they served, and not merely tenants renting space in the same "facility." There was thoughtful intention in bringing Job and Family Services, the Health Department, Children Services, and the Center (now Catalyst) into one office where low-income families could transact business within walking distance, or when they came to pick up their children from one of several after school programs operating in the building such as the Culliver Reading Center.

It was in Joe's office that I first encountered the work of John McKnight, his book *Careless Society* became my introduction to Asset Based Community Development. It was there that we had conversations about what was in the neighborhood, and not what wasn't. We focused on what we could do with what we had, and not on what we couldn't.

My time with Joe Mudra spanned over twenty years, and during that time, he did not hesitate to tell me that he was passing the baton, and that as we saw things begin to unravel, that I would continue his fight to bring a school back to the North End. In the end, he was heartbroken to see Ocie Hill viewed simply as a gymnasium, and not the critical lifeline that it was. It was there that youth of all ages came together. It was the center of the community occupying a space. Later attempts to revive it were unfruitful and with the departure of one agency after another following his retirement, it became evident that despite bearing the name of Councilman Ocie Hill, it was simply a building that the city was not interested in keeping. At one time, hundreds of kids were being served there every day, and with the loss of those caring adults, so many of whom were North End residents themselves, it was the North End youth who lost the most...safe spaces where they could learn and play.

From the entire NECIC board and staff, we thank Joe, Joan Day and Darryl Eyster, all now deceased, for the wisdom and vision they left with so many of us. Our heartfelt condolences go out to Joe's entire family and we thank them for sharing him with us for such a long time. His work, as long as NECIC stands, will not be forgotten, and we continue to work towards the day that a school and a community center return to the North End.

Farewell my friend!

Deanna West-Torrence
Executive Director NECIC





April Is National Child Abuse Prevention Month:Help Prevent The Problem Before It Starts

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, a time for communities to come together to help families thrive and prevent child maltreatment. During the month of April and throughout the year, communities are encouraged to increase awareness about child and family well-being and work together to implement effective strategies that support families and prevent child abuse and neglect.

This year Richland County Children Services theme is "Staying Safe Together." The most important thing we can do to help children thrive is to support families before they reach a crisis. This month and throughout the year, Richland County Children

(RCCS) Services encourages all individuals and organizations to play a making role in Richland County a better place for children and families. By ensuring that parents have the knowledge, skills and resources they need to care for their children, we can help prevent child abuse and neglect by making meaningful connections with children, youth and families in communities.

the country are seeing significant drops of child abuse reports in part to stay-at-home orders issued March of 2020. Under the order, children were kept out of schools away from mandated reporters like teachers, counselors and pediatricians.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), a December analysis from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that visits to the emergency room for cases of child abuse and neglect of children under 18 years of age dropped by 53% in mid-March 2020 compared with the same time frame in 2019.

According to Childhelp.org, Every year more than

3.6 million referrals are made to child protection agencies involving more than 6.6 million children (a referral can include multiple children). The United States has one of the worst records among industrialized nations - losing on average between four and seven children every day to child abuse and neglect.



On March 16, 2021, the House passed *The Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act*, whichaddresses child welfare in the U.S. The new legislation would require the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to establish national standards for tracking and reporting child fatalities along with near fatalities as a result of maltreatment. The House hopes the legislation will gain the support of the Senate.

The bill would also set up an electronic infrastructure for states to share information from their respective child abuse and neglect registries.

Recent data revealed that during the pandemic child welfare agencies across the state and throughout

A report of child abuse is made every ten seconds.

Yearly, referrals to state child protective services involve 6.6 million children, and around 3.2 million of those children are subject to an investigated report.

In 2014 alone, state agencies found over 702,000 victims of child maltreatment, but that only tells part of the story. This would pack 10 modern football stadiums.

Health Impacts of Child Abuse

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention links adverse childhood experiences







April Is National Child Abuse Prevention Month:

Help Prevent The Problem Before It Starts Continued From Page 6

(which include other household dysfunctions along with abuse and neglect) with a range of long-term health impacts.

Individuals who reported six or more adverse childhood experiences had an average life expectancy two decades shorter than those who reported none.

Ischemic heart disease (IHD), Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), liver disease and other health-related quality of life issues are tied to child abuse.

Mental Health Disorders, Addiction, & Related Issues

- Risk for intimate partner violence
- Alcoholism and alcohol abuse
- Illicit drug abuse
- Smoking & drinking at an early age
- Depression
- Suicide attempts

Sexual & Reproductive Health Issues and Risk Factors

- Multiple sexual partners
- Sexually transmitted diseases
- Unintended pregnancies
- Early initiation of sexual activity
- Adolescent pregnancy and fetal death

Learn the Risks: It's important for you to know how to recognize child abuse and neglect.

Recognizing a Child's Behavior Physical Abuse Signs and Symptoms

- Unexplained injuries, such as bruises, fractures, or burns
- Injuries that don't match the given explanation
- Untreated medical or dental problems

Neglect Signs and Symptoms*

- Poor growth, weight gain, or hygiene
- Lack of clothing or supplies to meet physical needs

- Taking food or money without permission
- Eating a lot in one sitting or hiding food for later
- Poor record of school attendance
- Signs of untreated medical or dental problems

*Please note that families of any socio-economic status can experience signs of neglect.

Sexual Abuse Signs and Symptoms

- Sexual behavior or knowledge that's not ageappropriate
- Blood in the child's underwear
- Trouble walking or sitting or complaints of genital pain
- Abuse of other children sexually

Emotional Abuse Signs and Symptoms

- Loss of self-esteem
- Depression
- Headaches or stomachaches with no medical
- Avoidance of certain situations
- A decrease in school performance

How Can I Make a Difference?

Whether you suspect a child is being abused or neglected, or just want to make a positive impact in the life of a family, it only takes a minute:

- To reach out to a child
- To reach out to a caregiver or child in distress
- To reach out for support if you're a caregiver in distress
- For an unsupervised child to get hurt
- To help find the caregiver of an unattended child
- To report suspected child abuse
- To call law enforcement

If you recognize any of the warning signs or suspect a child may be at risk, call Richland County Children Services at 419-774-4100.







ABCD Key For Akinyemi: NECIC Says Goodbye To Team Mate

Edward Akinyemi will take the ABCD model he learned at NECIC with him into his future endeavors. The Asset Based Community Development model, developed by John McKnight, is a model that looks to build on a community's assets instead of its deficits.

"At first, I thought yea, ok, whatever, (of the model)," he said with a chuckle. "But I really, really see just how incredibly important it is and how society can benefit so much from such a model. In fact, I think if we use government policy that was created from that framework of how we can empower the people to basically run their own lives and we kind of provide a capacity - a space there or a park here - (it could change people's

lives)."

Edward started his career with NECIC in November 2017 as an Americorps VISTA. He worked with Temp2Hire (NECIC's for profit arm) in workforce development and authored a proposal for a program called The Employer Resource Network (ERN).

"Nothing really came of it, but we tried. We tried really hard," he said. "It was basically a program in which employers would group together and pool some money together to hire a person who would basically help their employees with stuff like housing or if they needed utility assistance or stuff like that."

After his year of being a VISTA, Edward was hired full-time by NECIC to help write grants and then he eventually became a business counselor as

the agency moved toward entrepreneurial business development.

"I basically wrote the curriculum for the micro business development program," he said. "Then eventually I started teaching the program and I also then became a Certified Business Advisor

where I helped small businesses, supported them and tried to connect them to

resources, business planning and stuff like that."

In addition to business development, Edward said he is most proud of his work on the State of the African American in Richland County report that was released in January 2020 by NECIC to statistically show how black people live in the county.

He said he also has a deeper knowledge of how government works.

"I just think it's funny how everybody loves to criticize the government, but so few people actually know how it works just on a kind of day-to-day level," he

said.

After submitting his resignation in March 2021, Edward plans to continue freelance writing while also pursuing a real estate business with his girlfriend.

"Another big thing that I'm in the process of doing is more social advocacy work," he said.

He recently just launched a website advocating for financial literacy being taught in every high school. Go to www.financialliteracymovement.com for more information.





EbaNee Bond Is Proud To Be From The L-Block

"I think I might have had a unique upbringing because literally on my block, I had like six aunts," she said of Lily Street. "I had my aunt Hattie Flowers (on) Orchard Street, my brother's aunt and his grandma; Up the street were Murdis and Kay then my mother right next door and then we had Ms. Young. Sherri lived also there and right around the corner (were) Barbara Young and Joan Day lived right next door (to her)."

"So literally, I had a layer of protection and a sense of community while growing up. Everybody in the neighborhood had your best interest in mind and heart."

EbaNee is the newest member of the NECIC team and is charged with continuing the business development work of Edward Akinyemi who left the organization in March to pursue real estate and other business opportunities. At minimum, she

will teach NECIC's microbusiness and entrepreneur classes.

entrepreneur classes.

"I think the most interesting part of business I learned about is that the best entrepreneurs know their customers very well," she said.

EbaNee graduated in 2018 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Akron and considers herself an "Akronite" even though Mansfield is her home. She most recently resigned from the University of Akron Research Foundation where she was an Akron Entrepreneurial Fellow.

"It was my job to coach and guide early-stage entrepreneurs," EbaNee said. "It was from the 'napkin stage' part of the idea, companies that had some kind of differentiated aspect to their product service or business model. I also helped researchers out of the local university find ways to commercialize the research and realize it in the real world."

The 2009 Mansfield Senior High School graduate said she's always been attracted to innovation and new ideas.

"Creativity is one of my core values," she said. "I just like innovation and outside-of-the-box new stuff. I've always been drawn to people finding their spark. I also value independent thinking. The type of people I like around me think differently and can challenge me and can have their own opinions. And I also think that is a quality of entrepreneurs."

EbaNee said there's no doubt being raised on the North End has shaped her into the stellar woman she is today. She mentioned the importance of North End institutions of going to the Friendly House in her elementary school days then to the Ocie Hill Neighborhood Center in her high school years.

"It was definitely and probably a unique experience because I grew up in a world where I realized that I was able to emerge into the world with a sense of innocence and even though it was the North End - it was kind of sheltered," she said. "So, I think it was very, very special."

She relishes in the memories from her childhood of growing up with multiple cousins playing and riding their roller blades and bikes to Johns park and around the neighborhood, stopping at the neighborhood

candy store.

"It was such an adventure I think we got to have in our little part of the North End," EbaNee remembered.

"Wherever I go I take that with me...No matter where I go or where I stand for it's all based on keeping the North End in my heart wherever I go."

EbaNee said she can't wait to get started in her new position.

"Mansfield is really special," she said as her voice trembled. "I grew up with some really special people... I just

think there's so many talented and unique people. I would like to see people shine and get the light that they deserve."

In addition to her aunties and her mother, Ms. Alice Bond, EbaNee said she's also grateful for the influences of her cousin The great Chris Kent (RIP), her grandfather Willie Bate Bond, Joan Day and Deanna West-Torrence. All these people are North End stalwarts to EbaNee.

EbaNee will host classes virtually at first but has full intentions to come home and "feel and breathe the North End."

"I think it's kind of serendipitous," she said her first professional job back at home on the North End. "I feel like it's supposed to be, and I feel like that I can do it justice and really try to help people in the best way that I can."





Congratulations to our executive director *Deanna West-Torrence* for winning the 2021 ATHENA Award from the Richland Area Chamber and Economic Development during their 2021 Annual Meeting and Economic Excellence Awards Zoomcast in March.

The ATHENA award was founded to recognize women in the community for demonstrating professional excellence, community service and for actively assisting women in their attainment of professional excellence and leadership skills. There are many exceptional women in our community who are active and involved in making it a better place. This year's recipient has made that her life's mission. Deanna has knocked down barriers, been a voice for the voiceless, worked collaboratively with many other people and organizations, and she has done it all with an incredible passion for making Mansfield better for all. She has given many young people a chance to learn and grow professionally in her organization and helped connect them into the community. Deanna has a tireless thirst for knowledge and her input is sought out on many local issues.





Congratulations *Brady Groves*! He was the recipient of the Chamber's coveted **Chairman's Award.** Recipients have demonstrated a long-standing commitment to community service in the Richland County region. Brady is a visionary and when he speaks, people listen. He is a positive, enthusiastic, forward thinking and approachable man that is always ready to listen. Starting as President of the Richland County Foundation in 2011, Brady has embodied the leadership of trust and serving the community. On top of all he does for the Foundation, Brady has been a high school and collegiate track official for over 30 years including being the Mehawk Relays Race Director.

Congratulations to *Tracy Gorenflo Graziani* for being presented with the Volunteer Service Award from the Chamber. Tracy joined the Chamber Board in 2015 and has been an active and involved member during her tenure. She has been a strong voice for small business, for downtown Mansfield, and for stronger efforts around diversity, equity, and inclusion.

We, here at NECIC, send our most heart-felt congratulations to all of the award recipients. We are honored to work with Brady, Tracy and all the members of our community.



Shoe Giveaway At NECIC

Governor Mike DeWine and Operation Warm partners with NECIC, MIMA, and We ACT to provide new shoes to Richland County Children in Need

Children from low income families in Richland County will receive brand new athletic style shoes courtesy of Ohio Governor, Mike DeWine's Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives (GOFBCI). The GOFBCI will provide 300 pairs of Operation Warm shoes to children in Richland County through a collaboration with the North End Community Improvement Collaborative (NECIC), the Mansfield Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance (MIMA) and We ACT.

Last year, the GOFBCI office partnered with Operation Warm, a national nonprofit that manufactures brand-new coats for children in need, to launch a pilot that provided brand-new shoes. The program was executed in partnership with Community Action Agencies and gifted new shoes to over 5,000 children across the state of Ohio.

2020 marked a milestone for Operation Warm, as they gifted their 4 millionth brand-new coat, and now, the nonprofit has expanded its mission to include brand-new shoes. "Last year, our survey data told us that in addition to coats, shoes were an essential need for the children we serve," said Grace Sica, Executive Director for Operation Warm. "We responded with a pilot program that distributed 10,000 pair of brand-new shoes in select U.S. markets. The feedback from teachers, parents, and the kids has been resoundingly positive. This initiative would not have been possible without support from partners like Ohio Governor DeWine and his team at GOFBCI."

"We, at NECIC, are grateful for the opportunity to support this initiative of Operation Warm with our community partners, We ACT, MIMA, and Governor Mike DeWine's Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives to provide shoes for 300 children in our community. Working together with across various sectors to meet even the most basic needs of our local children, builds and strengthens our relationships, and ultimately enriches our community." Deanna West-Torrence, Executive Director.

The shoes will be distributed beginning Tuesday, March 16, at NECIC, 134 N. Main St., Mansfield, Ohio.

How it works-Application Process:

- Parents/Guardians must complete a TANF form online on the NECIC website/Facebook page or pick up a form at NECIC.
- Parents/guardians will receive a call from a representative from NECIC to schedule an appointment time to pick up the shoes.
- Parent/guardian must bring a form of ID and a copy of the completed TANF form to the appointment. (The form will require social security numbers and dates of birth for all household members.) We do not need to see birth certificates or social security cards.

The statewide mask mandate will be followed. Masks are required during the appointment and will be provided.

For more information contact NECIC Business Operations Manager, Tionna Perdue at 419-522-1611 ext. 102





Looking For A Job?

Register today at www.Temp2Higher.org. NECIC's Barrier Checklist helps our Staffing Specialists identify any obstacles preventing success in the work force. As an alternative staffing agency NECIC is able to help applicants be better equipped for employment, including funds to provide work boots or gas for your car, help buying groceries, and sometimes bigger things like paying rent or helping with a car repair.

UPCOMING EVENTS:



NECIC To Host Annual 60/60 Clean Up

On **Thursday, April 22** from 5:00 to 6:00 pm join NECIC for our annual North End clean up. Our goal is to organize at least 60 volunteers to pick up litter for 60 minutes. Meet up at the Blust Avenue Teaching Garden 417 Blust Ave., Mansfield. Clean up supplies provided. Stay tuned to NECIC Facebook for updates, especially in case of inclement weather.

NECIC 134 N. Main St. Mansfield, Ohio 44902

Address Label Here



