Neighborhood Wellness Foundation 2025 Annual Report

St. John's relationship with Neighborhood Wellness (NW) in Del Paso Heights began in 2021, when a group of graduates of the Sacred Ground Dialogue Circles were looking for ways we could "repair the breach" and overcome the racial and economic inequities we could see in different neighborhoods such as Del Paso Heights. Through a relationship one of our members had with Dr. Gina Warren, CEO and founder of Neighborhood Wellness, St. John's began to form a partnership. Neighborhood Wellness was founded by Gina and others who had grown up in Del Paso Heights and graduated from Grant Union High School during a time when this was a vibrant community. All of that changed during the crack cocaine epidemic which brought gang activity and crime to the neighborhood, destroying families and lives. On their website www.neighborhoodwellness.org NW states that "Our programs and services address social, economic, academic and health inequities to reduce barriers of adversity."

Delivering school supplies and backpacks, fall 2025:



In 2022 NW launched “Pacers Take Space” on the campus of Grant Union High School, with the goal of minimizing learning loss by providing the support and items that would otherwise lead to students not coming to school. Services have expanded and now include primary care, mental and behavioural health, substance-abuse services, dental, reproductive health, and prevention-focused health education. The “Pacers Take Space” Essential Pantry was established to provide nutritious snacks, hygiene items, school supplies and warm clothing when requested and has been heavily used by students. The essential pantry provides valuable support to these students and has helped to lessen student absences and boost student achievement. Under the guidance of Daughters of the King, St. John’s members make monthly trips to Pacers Take Space to deliver snacks,these donations. In addition to the donations we take once a month, parishioners have contributed $3,775.00 during 2025, and Daughters of the King collected $405.00 from their Spring Assembly for the work of NW. Thank you to all who have helped to make this a special space for the youth.

CIM Webinar

In November of 2025, the Diocesan Commission for Intercultural Ministries sponsored a Webinar with St. John’s on the work of NW as it focuses on expanding its outreach to Martin Luther King Middle School and Woodlake Elementary School in Del Paso Heights. The hope is that other churches in the Diocese might join in supporting this vital work as NW strives to reach children at younger ages. In the Webinar, Dr. Gina Warren, CEO of NW, and Marilyn Woods, CFO, joined Fr. Cliff Haggenjos and Diane Williamson to discuss this outreach and specific ways to support it. You may view this Webinar Here.

It is very gratifying to partner with the wonderful people of Neighborhood Wellness to do this important work of raising up their community. In the year ahead, we look forward to additional ways in which the NWF will invite us to assist them. We are very happy to have three new members for our delivery team and always welcome more! If you are interested in helping with our monthly deliveries, please contact at dianewilliamson864@gmail.com or 916-300-6384.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane Williamson, NW Coordinator