

## Warm Welcomes *by Angela Hammers*

I arrive on a beautiful, sunny morning. I am ready to start my day as an Ivy Tech Intern at Patchwork Central in the children's summer program. As the children begin streaming in, I can see the excitement and eagerness visible on most of their faces. Some of the children who walk in are a little uncertain and slightly nervous since this is their first experience at Patchwork. The "old-timers" greet friends they haven't seen in several weeks...or even months... but I am impressed to see that they take the time to introduce themselves to the unfamiliar faces as well. The sense of community and belonging is evident as those children already busy making their name tags call out the names of the new arrivals, and I can't help but silently compare those boisterous and warm greetings to that of Norm as he arrives at Cheers. Within minutes, any remaining uncertainty and nervousness has vanished, and all that is left is a room full of happy, excited children ready to start their day.

I spend my first day of summer program familiarizing myself with all the wonderful activities made available to the kids. I wander out to the pottery studio and find it abuzz with excitement as the kids gather the materials they need to begin creating beautiful pinch pots with staff member Elisa Pike and visiting artist Claire Helfrich. The excitement is contagious, and I find myself eager to make my own pinch pot.

As I make my way back to the main building, I follow the sound of children's voices and that of volunteer Pat Marienau and find myself in the beautiful Patchwork garden. Pat is patiently instructing the children to pick only the ripe cherry tomatoes, eggplant and kale as she keeps an eye on the other group who have been assigned the task of planting young fruit trees. The children are excited about the new trees, and Pat is bombarded with questions such as "what kind of tree is this?" and "when can we pick the fruit?"

Laughter drifting from inside the building draws me in, where I discover the vibrant Susan Fowler teaching several enraptured children about Johnny Appleseed and his journey. As I watch, I realize this isn't just any old story time but one where the children act out the parts of the main characters whether it is an apple tree or Johnny himself; many smiles are seen and much

laughter is heard. My attention is so focused on the children and their story I find it hard to move on until it becomes impossible to ignore the wonderful aromas wafting from the kitchen.

In the kitchen I find volunteer Joni Kelley working right alongside the children, and it is hard to determine who is having more fun, Joni or the children? Under Joni's watchful eye, the children prepare the day's snack with items that have been brought in from the garden. Today's snack is seasoned kale chips and fresh vegetables. I'm surprised to learn the wonderful smell making my mouth water is kale. Many of the children tell me that it is one of their favorite snacks. When I mention I had never had kale chips before, they tell me that they too experienced it for the first time in the Patchwork kitchen. I am surprised that so many children love this healthy snack in spite of this being the age of fast food and French fries.

By the end of my first day, I know I have discovered a treasure at Patchwork, and I am eager to register my own nine-year-old granddaughter. Patchwork Central's Children's Program is the hidden gem of the community, and I can't wait to tell everyone I know about the wonderful opportunities available.



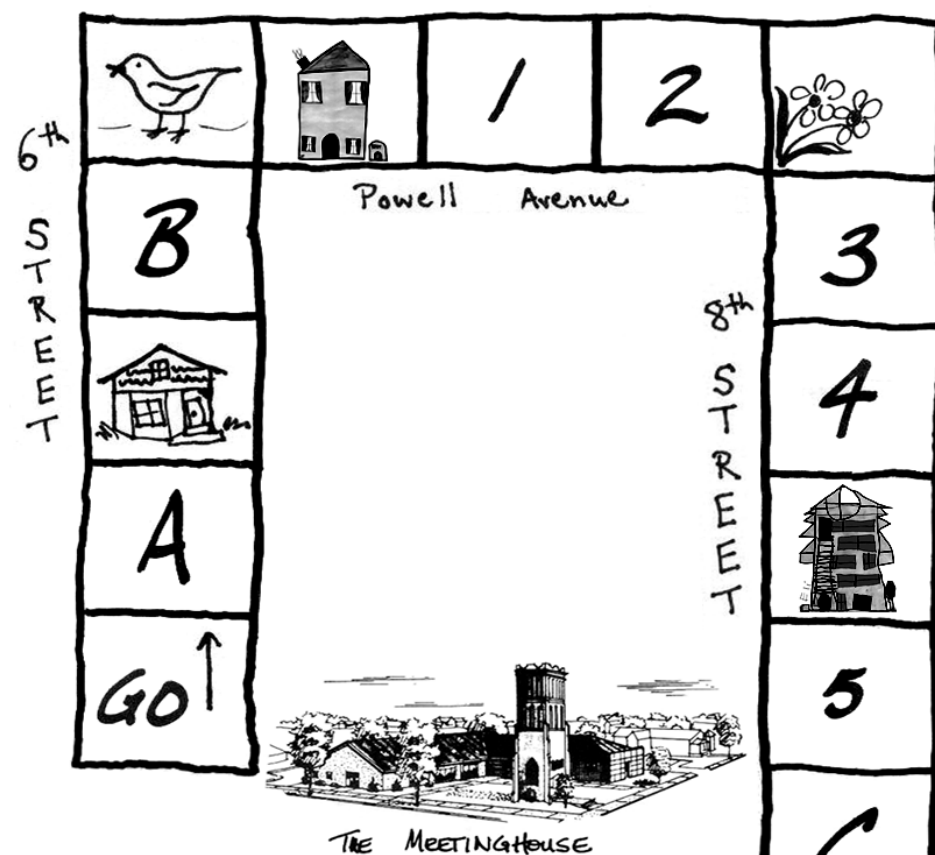
## Images of the Patchwork Summer by Amy Rich











In 1987, the original "Neighborhood Game" appeared in Patchwork's Stitches newsletter. It was designed by Calvin Kimbrough and Deborah McBride and told the story of our neighborhood and the Patchwork people who lived, worked, and worshiped here. In the 27 years since that game was created, many things have changed, but many have stayed the same. We still remain connected to our neighborhood and still live, work, and worship here.

#### NUMBERS:

1. Find liquefied carrots in Patchwork refrigerator – 2 spaces back
2. Workday, 10 people come – 1 space forward
3. Someone spills coffee on the carpet in the Meetinghouse – 1 space back
4. Your neighbor helps with much-needed home repairs – 3 spaces forward
5. A sinkhole appears in the Patchwork parking lot after a heavy rain – 2 spaces back
6. Plant tomatoes in the garden – 1 space forward
7. Arts & Smarts participant's family is evicted and must move in with aunt across town – 3 spaces back
8. Empty lot across the street from your house is chosen as the site of a new home – 1 space forward
9. Sink faucet left running overnight – 1 space back
10. Meet new neighbors at a neighborhood association meeting – 3 spaces forward
11. Neighbors' trash blows into your yard – 1 space back
12. Need financial advice, rescued by Alan – 3 spaces forward
13. Neighbors pick all the tomatoes green – 1 space back
14. Neighbors thank you for growing green tomatoes – 2 spaces forward
15. Loud fight in the alley by your house – 2 spaces back
16. Grant proposal finished, accepted and funded – 2 spaces forward
17. Everybody brings beans for Sunday supper – 3 spaces back
18. A boy who grew up attending Patchwork's programming years ago returns as a repairman repairing the fire alarm – 3 spaces forward
19. Food donation for the Pantry is full of six-year-old canned goods – 2 spaces back
20. Everyone shows up for committee meeting – 3 spaces forward
21. Raccoons in your basement – 3 spaces back
22. Child chooses free book while Mom gets food from the Pantry – 1 space forward



# The Neighborhood Game

**RULES:** The Patchwork Neighborhood Game can be played by as many people as can find a bottle cap or pull-tab in the alley for their marker. Players start at GO next to Patchwork and proceed around the board with moves determined by the roll of a die (1-6 moves) borrowed from a game in the Patchwork children's area (please put it back when you're done). When your marker lands on a numbered or lettered square, follow directions given for that square. Players must roll exact number to enter FINISH square at the Meetinghouse.

#### LETTERS: Player loses next turn because

- A. Jump back! Bill's in the garden planting potatoes and you stop to help.
- B. There's a neighborhood party at Billy's Studio and you join in.
- C. You stop to pick flowers with Renee and enjoy a glass of kombucha at the Co-op with Kristen.
- D. You found an interesting piece of trash along the way and you stop to make art out of it with Jane.
- E. You stop at Alan's to pet his dog Tank.
- F. You stop for a peaceful moment in Amy's garden and pick some basil while you're there.
- G. You walk with Darlene back to Patchwork to volunteer in the Food Pantry.



## Sign Language *by Amy Rich*

What's big, blue, and waving hello to everyone passing by on Washington Avenue?

Patchwork's new sign!



The old sign that marked 100 Washington Avenue for years had begun to look dilapidated and failed to convey Patchwork's true character. Its replacement was the perfect project for this summer's Sculpture Weeks.

Over the course of two weeks in June, 18 youth, nine teen volunteers, and 12 adult volunteers and staff worked with visiting artist Rob Millard-Mendez to take the project from ideas and sketches all the way through the design phase and fabrication. The resulting sign represents ideas and contributions from the entire group.

"We all brainstormed ideas," said Gavin, one Sculpture Week artist. "We picked the hand shape and then we took bits and bobs of other drawings and composed the sign."

The sign is in the shape of a giant hand to symbolize the fact that Patchwork is all about giving. Each finger tip is embellished with ceramic images that symbolize the things that Patchwork does in our community: the arts, gardening, worship, learning, and arms hugging a heart.

Patchwork's name and address are spelled out in mismatched "ransom note" lettering with a colored rectangle behind each ceramic letter. The posts supporting the sign will be painted to look like pencils, symbolizing the learning that takes place at Patchwork. An idea to put a flower box

at the bottom of the sign was transformed into creating permanent flowers using the burner grates from Patchwork's historic old kitchen stove.

Once the design was approved by all present, the hard work of construction began. First, the initial sketch, a tracing of Gavin's hand, had to be scaled up to become a 6-foot tall sign. This proved to be much more difficult than planned and involved several missteps, lots of math, and lots of work with rulers. The outline of the hand was transferred onto a plywood base, cut out, sanded, sealed, and painted. Meanwhile the letters and symbols were created from clay, and the metal flowers were painted.

All of this work benefited from the knowledge and experience of Rob, who is a sculptor and an associate professor of art at the University of Southern Indiana. Rob has led Patchwork's sculpture weeks for several years and always does well at introducing children to artists' creative processes and allowing the group to shape the final product rather than imposing his design upon them.

"He's really a good teacher," said Harley, a Sculpture Week artist.

"He was very inspiring," said Eme, another youth artist.

"It was really fun. I'm coming back to Sculpture Week again, that's for sure," said Gavin, reflecting on the experience. "It's going to be so awesome when the sign's up and I'm going to high five myself."

"Hopefully the sign doesn't blind drivers with our awesomeness and they crash into it," said Eme.





*Thank you the Children's Center for Dance Education for partnering with us this summer to present Dance Week.*

## Back to School Sale 2014

August 2 marked another successful Back to School Sale. On the day of the sale, we sold 178 bags of school supplies tailored to grades K-5, and the last six bags were snapped up by grateful parents on the following Monday. In addition to the bags of supplies, we sold hundreds of pairs of brand new socks and underwear as well as assorted individual school supplies.

We want every child to be prepared for school. We know that it is a considerable expense for parents to prepare their children for a new school year. Pencils, paper, rulers, bottled glue, glue sticks, crayons, colored pencils, watercolor sets, facial tissues, scissors, erasers, pens, school boxes, paper, notebooks, highlighters, index cards. It all adds up quickly, especially for parents with multiple children.

We ask parents to contribute a small amount in exchange for the supplies that they receive. We think it helps children to see their parents investing something into the children's education. It also means that we don't have to ask for identification, proof of income, or that the children be present. The parents shopping at our Sale are very grateful for the opportunity.

The Back to School Sale would not happen without careful shopping, help with setup and the sale day, and both financial and in kind donations to cover the majority of our costs. Thank you especially to Jane Johansen for coordinating all the shopping and to those who contributed toward the Sale: many individuals, Northside Congregational Church, First Presbyterian Church, Simpson United Methodist Church, Eastside Christian Church.



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*Please be generous as you consider sending your cash contribution in the envelope provided for your convenience. Your generosity will help us continue the Patchwork tradition of providing these many creative programs.*

### PATCHWORK'S MISSION STATEMENT

Based in Evansville, Indiana, Patchwork Central, Inc creates community and encourages spiritual and social growth

by offering hospitality,  
by providing opportunities for learning,  
by fostering creativity and involvement in the arts, and  
by working toward a more peaceful and just world.

### SUNDAY WORSHIP

*The Patchwork Community meets for worship every Sunday at 5:15 p.m. at the Meetinghouse, 100 Washington Avenue, followed by a covered dish supper. All are welcome!*





100 Washington Avenue  
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- In This Issue...
- Warm Welcomes
  - Images of the Patchwork Summer
  - The Neighborhood Game
  - Sign Language
  - Back to School Sale 2014

