

Randy's Ramblings...**THE RESULTS (part 2) from National Neighborhood Day**

October's issue of *The Downtowner* featured the elementary winning essay from the National Neighborhood Day Essay Contest. The middle school division winner is **Brooke Fear**. Below is her essay. Thanks again to HomeFederal for sponsoring the contest and awarding both first place winners with \$100 savings bonds!

To most people their neighborhood is just a quiet place that they can go home to after a long day at work or school, but to me my neighborhood is my whole life. If I didn't live in the neighborhood I do now, I wouldn't ever have anything to do or have very many friends. My neighborhood may not be a rich neighborhood and our houses may not be gigantic, but it's perfect.

One reason I love my neighborhood is because there are always lots of kids outside to play with. Sometimes we all go on long bike rides, or just hang out and talk. Most of the time we go to Mill Race Park, The Commons Mall or Lincoln Elementary's playground to play truth or dare. In the summer we meet everyday at about nine in the morning and everyone goes home when the street lights come on at night. Although I love all of the memories my favorite memories are during winter. We always run and slide on the ice that is on the street. Normally we do it until someone gets hurt, or until one of our parents make us stop. That is my favorite memory because we all get together and actually get along.

I think we all became really close after one of our best friends got hit by a car and died on July 6, 2005. His name is Travis, he was always the first one to be at my house every morning. None of us really expected him to die. The day after he died we all sat down in a huge circle and just talked about all the fun times we had with Travis. There were only two girls that lived in my neighborhood, me and my sister, and the rest were boys. When me and my sister started crying over Travis, the boys all hugged us and tried to tell us he was happier and in a better place. That's what I call good friends. The boys weren't crying in front of us, but we could tell they were just trying to be brave for us. We all miss him so much, he always had a smile on his face, and he could always put a smile on mine too, no matter how sad or mad I was.

That is my neighborhood in just a few short paragraphs. My friends are great and my neighborhood is perfect. If I had the opportunity to move to a mansion, I wouldn't take it because I have the best neighborhood ever now. My parents don't like our neighborhood very much, they say that there are too many kids around and stuff is always getting damaged, but at least I'm not inside all day annoying them. I hope I will live there my whole life and get to raise my kids there.

~ Brooke Fear

CONGRATULATIONS—AND GOOD JOB—BROOKE!!!

Building tomorrow's neighborhoods... TODAY!

THE DOWNTOWNER is a monthly newsletter for the Lincoln-Central Neighborhood Family Center. Our office is located at 1039 Sycamore St. See our enclosed calendar for the activities and programs that you or your family might be interested in or jump online at www.lcnfc.org. Please call the LCNFC at 379-1630 for additional information.



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