



# The Rosedalian

ROSEDALE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

[www.rosedale.org](http://www.rosedale.org)

## Rosedale Holiday Dinner

Rosedale families and senior citizens who are in need are invited to the annual Rosedale Holiday Dinner with Santa Claus as a featured guest. The event is the brainchild of Ruby Morlan. She came up with the project after being overwhelmed with support from the Rosedale Community when her restaurant, Dagwood's on S.W. Blvd, flooded in 1998.

Eleven years later, the event continues to be one big way the community comes together to help neighbors in need of a boost.

Since selling Dagwood's this past year, Ruby needed another place for the dinner and Quick's BBQ was . . . quick to volunteer. So, sign up and spread the word!

**Place:** Quick's BBQ, 1007 Merriam Lane, KCKS

**Date/Time:** 5 pm to 9 pm, Monday, December 7

**Reserve a Place:** Call Ruby, 913 362-3687 by November 30, 2009

**Don't Miss:** Great food, good company and family gift baskets from Santa Claus

The Holiday Dinner is made possible by the generosity of Rosedale businesses including the Coach Lite and Hitchin Post taverns, Jifscooters, Micheal Bergen's Hands to Heart, Napa Auto Parts, Strasser Hardware and Vital Signs. ☞



## Annual meeting:

RDA's annual meeting will be held Dec. 15, 7 p.m. next door to the office, 1401 S.W. Blvd. A special presentation will be given by Jane Heide and Heidi Holliday on the first year of the Healthy Kids Initiative. RSVP at 627-6756 by Dec. 11.

## Introducing: Myself

October 31 was a happy day for me. It was my first day in Rosedale, Kansas City Kan. After an arduous 40+ hour journey by train from California, I had finally arrived at my new home.

My name is Jordan Penner and I am the newest member of the RDA team. In September I received an invitation by the non-profit Mennonite Voluntary Service (MVS) program to take a position at RDA. After reading about RDA and all it does for the community, I found it hard to say no. So I said yes.

I am now in the process of learning to ropes here at RDA and I am having fun doing it.

I was born and raised in the Central Valley of California. I grew up in a household of boys who loved to play. My brothers and I played all sports, but we loved basketball and soccer the best. I am a little embarrassed about it now, but I also spent countless hours reading fantasy books such as J.R.R Tolkien's epics, and a great many Star Wars books.

I was raised in the Mennonite tradition and became an advocate for peaceful solutions, dialogue, and four-part harmony. I was baptized at the age of 17.



JENNIFER REGIER PHOTO

**Jordan Penner**

After a while I eventually grew to enjoy school. An influential history teacher in high school made the subject come alive for me by introducing me to the study of Mexican and Chicano history in a special course. As a result, I chose to be a history major at Bethel College in North Newton, Kan.

After graduating from Bethel College I accepted a one-year position with Mennonite Central Committee (a relief, development and peace organization) in Guatemala. I worked and lived within an indigenous Mayan culture known as the Q'eqchi'. I learned to speak Spanish and a little of the local Mayan language. I loved to travel in Guatemala and I look forward to meeting people in Rosedale from that beautiful country.

I am now enjoying working for such a meaningful organization as RDA and am looking forward to getting to know more and more of the community. If you see me on the street, I hope you introduce yourself to me! ☞



**Christmas in October** volunteers, pictured above working on the house of Tracy Aguilar, were happy to bear the cold air and provide assistance to some of the residents of Rosedale.

## “Special angels” descend from KU

On October 10 KU Medical Center and Hospital continued a tradition of cooperation with the RDA community by organizing another successful *Christmas in October* in Rosedale. Christmas in October is a long-standing tradition in the Kansas City area, in which volunteers give up their Saturday to do volunteer projects around the community.

This year 222 volunteers, most of whom were KU staff and students showed up ready to work. So many offered to help that we were almost overwhelmed.

A total of 1,201 volunteer hours were logged planting flowers, cleaning yards, painting houses, and doing minor home repair such as plumbing, weatherization and fixing windows. RDA organized the volunteers into 13 groups that worked in different locations around Rosedale.

Volunteers from the KU Medical Center and Hospital did a wonderful job helping out needy households in Rosedale and seemed to have fun doing it.

Allison Edwards, a first year medical student who participated, said, “I felt like it was a really successful day despite the cold.” Edwards added that “everyone had a good time” and that she enjoyed “getting to meet new people.”

RDA always attempts to send vol-

unteers to the most deserving homes by collecting requests and suggestions from community people in order to decide who receives the assistance. Furthermore, RDA tries to focus on homes without able-bodied people who could do the work themselves. The folks who did receive help were especially thankful.

One homeowner even wrote a special thank you note to her volunteers who painted the side of her garage and house, calling them “special angels.” The volunteers were equally happy with the response they received. Ryan Gove, a volunteer with the Community Outreach Program (COP), said, “to have the homeowners there, thanking you for all your help, is an amazing feeling.”

For the volunteers, it was good to get out and experience Rosedale in ways they previously had not. Edwards said, “I think it is really important to get to know the community you live in.” Gove expressed that the homeowners “couldn’t have been nicer.”

However, *Christmas in October* does not only benefit those homeowners who receive direct assistance. The house Edwards helped clean up is visible from Highway 35, and therefore, “serves as a representation of Rosedale.” Cleaning it up improves Rosedale’s image.

RDA also sent volunteers to a vacant lot on Southwest Boulevard and

## ROSEDALE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Working in partnership with residents, businesses, and institutions to build a strong and healthy community and to improve the quality of life for those who live, work, and play in Rosedale.

1403 Southwest Blvd.  
Kansas City, KS 66103  
Phone: (913) 677-5097  
Fax: (913) 677-3437  
www.rosedale.org  
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Wendy Wilson**, Executive Director

**Linda Wright**, Office Manager

**Jordan Penner**, Community Organizer

**Design**, Elizabeth C. Johnston  
www.lizzardbrand.com

**Board of Directors**,  
www.rosedale.org/  
who\_board.htm

Mission to plant flower beds. The flowers brightened up the dreary lot, something Rosedale residents will especially notice this spring.

RDA commends all those who decided to volunteer and hopes that Rosedale will continue to benefit from committed volunteers. ☺

## Special thanks:

**Heinen Landscape & Irrigation** donated their time and did a great job cleaning up the Hilltop pocket park, readying it for winter. Thanks for cleaning up this park that is on one of the entrances to our community!

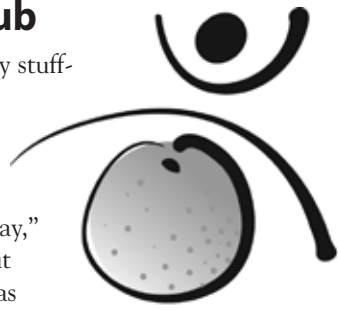
**Premier Contracting** for installing needed gutters on the back of the RDA office building. This donation is a real improvement to our building, thanks!

**Building Blocks Inc.** has graciously donated \$1,250 to be used for minor home repair projects. This donation will make a difference for our homes. Thank you!

**Wyandotte Health Foundation** for their generous donation of \$5,000 towards RDA’s Healthy Kids Initiative. This donation will be a big benefit for our children. ☺

## Healthy Kids Club

Imagine children happily stuffing carrots into their mouths, singing at the top of their lungs “we are healthy kids, and we’re going to stay that way,” and children talking about jumping jacks and sports as good ways to keep their bodies strong. Imagine children excited to be healthy.



# Healthy Kids Initiative

Maybe you can’t imagine it, but that is exactly what one finds upon entering the Healthy Kids Club (HKC) at the Rosedale Congregational Church on Wednesday afternoons.

The HKC has been going on for years and is the brainchild of Pastor Jane Heidi and other members of the church who seized on health related issues as a way to reach out to the community. Casey Pettit, current director of HKC said, “Pastor Heide has built this program from the ground up and couldn’t be more passionate about working with the kids and seeing their growth.”

The HKC grew out of Heide’s strong belief in the neighborhood church and in being, as she said, “in community with the people around you.”

In part as a result of the HKC’s unique faith perspective, it works to provide more than simply knowledge of how to live healthily. Heide said that if the kids “know that they are valued, then the next step is that they love and value themselves.”

Pettit, a social work graduate student at KU, affirmed that HKC does more than simply teach kids to be healthy. She said, “It is empowering for kids to be part of a program that encourages self-esteem, community involvement, and taking care of their own bodies.” Pettit added that HKC helps kids “find trust in their community to be a safe and encouraging environment,” and that it “unites kids and their parents in a way that nothing else does.”

Perhaps most importantly, the kids seem to love it. Providing this comfortable space for children to be creative, learn and make friends is a great opportunity for them that will go a long way towards creating life-long healthy habits that will extend beyond simply eating vegetables and staying active. ☺

### RDA workers attend childhood obesity conference:

RDA workers involved with the Healthy Kids Initiative recently attended a conference on childhood obesity. The researchers singled out bad eating habits and sedentary living as main causes of weight gain across the US.

Conferences such as this and others have invigorated our work towards building a healthier community. We will continue working to inform about living healthy lifestyles and to advocate for policies that will make a positive impact on our community.

## Winnelson donates faucets.

RDA would like to thank president Joe DeSeure of the **Kansas City Winnelson Company**, a wholesaler of plumbing products, for donating to RDA several different varieties of faucets for Rosedale residents.

RDA will give the faucets for free to needy residents. However, RDA will not be able to provide installation services. If your household needs a faucet, come by RDA to see if you can take home one of these generously donated faucets. ☺

### Thanks to our volunteers:

Volunteers from Rosedale helped the Friendship Heights neighborhood to collect petition signatures calling for a Benefit District Feasibility Study to assess the cost of installing storm drains, sidewalks and curbs. Our goal is to make it a safe area for kids to walk to school and ride their bikes around T.A. Edison School.

The 222 volunteers who worked so willingly for us to make this year’s *Christmas in October* so successful were greatly appreciated. These volunteers helped fix up 12 houses and one vacant lot, and all on a very cold day! Thanks to all who participated, you are angels. ☺

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### Membership application

Annual business dues: \$100 ☺ Annual household dues: \$15

Name of business **or** name of household

Address

City

State

ZIP code

Contact person

Day phone

Evening phone

Fax

E-mail address

Please mail application, along with check made payable to:  
Rosedale Development Association  
1403 Southwest Blvd.  
Kansas City, KS 66103

*Rosedale Business of the Month:*

**Premier Contracting, Inc**

**Address:** 3940 S. Ferree St., Kansas City, KS, 66103, **Phone:** 913-677-4700, **Website:** www.premiercontractinginc.com/

Mike Budenbender has been roofing since 1979. After being laid-off working as a carpenter, Budenbender simply took a job as a roofer. The choice proved serendipitous and as Budenbender himself says, things just, “blossomed from there.”

And blossom they did. After running another man’s operation for eight years, Budenbender started his own company. That company, Premier Contracting, today sports 65 employees and enough big equipment to make your heart tremble.

Touring the Premier Contracting facilities is a fascinating experience. The warehouse sports everything from machines that can form 16-gauge steel to the specifications of the programmers at Premier, to a giant vacuum



JORDAN PENNER PHOTO

**Beau Budenbender pauses in his work within the warehouse at Premier Contracting. Premier Contracting provides roofing and sheet metal services for both commercial and residential buildings.**

used to suck off old roofing in re-roofing projects.

Premier Contracting will do commercial and residential work. They have done large projects such as the Bass Pro building in Springfield, the H&R Block Village Shop’s and the Sears on Bannister.

Premier has scored such large jobs as these with an ethic of self-reliance. Budenbender says, “I don’t like relying on others, so we about do it all ourselves.” That ethic helps insure good work and quality outcomes.

Premier provides a good service to all of Kansas City, and we can be happy that they base their operations out of Rosedale. Budenbender can reciprocate those feelings, as he said, “we like it down here.” ☺



**1403 Southwest Blvd.  
Kansas City, KS 66103**

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