

NEIGHBORWORKS PAINT DAY ON BIRCH STREET



The residents of the 1900 block of Birch Street have been organized for a long time. The co-block captains keep their neighbors informed about upcoming meetings and events. Parents watch their neighbors' children after school. Several of the women even organized their own gardening club, with hanging plants flourishing from porch to porch. So when the residents of Birch Street partnered with NKCDC to host a Paint Day event on their block, they already had a vision in mind.

On the morning of Saturday, June 7th, over 40 neighbors came out to freshen up each other's doors, windows, wrought iron fences, porches, and street lamps. In total the residents of Birch Street used over 50 gallons of paint to touch up 20 of the 30 houses on their block.

While a fresh coat of paint can do wonders to brighten up a block, it was the community effort of the neighbors that made the day such a success. "Miss Maria is much older and can't paint her own steps, so my son and I helped her," explains Nicole Lopez, covered with drips of white paint after touching up her front door. "She does so much for us, she deserves it."

"It's something nice for the kids," says Yolanda Durant, whose son and daughter helped their dad paint the porch while she covered up graffiti on the poles along her stretch of sidewalk. "It gets everyone involved. I hope we can do more projects like this."

Paint and supplies were graciously donated by Neighborworks America, Home Depot, Benjamin Moore Old City Paints, Sherwin Williams, and Gelfand's Hardware.