N. Braddock Cares organizes successful board up project

Partners in the Caring Neighbors Project are pictured here. First Row, L-R: Vicki Vargo, NBC Member; Laura Zinski, MVI; Alison Flora, NBC Member; Mary Kay Mehok, NBC Member; Marie Jaffe, MVI; Nina Burdell, NBC Member and North Braddock Borough Councilwoman. Second Row, Left to Right: Anthony Rydzak, North Braddock Fireman; Chris Roland, NBC Member; Terry Stell, North Braddock Fireman; Bill Pfoff, Enterprise Zone President; Jim Reichert, Enterprise Zone Secretary and North Braddock Councilman.

North Braddock Cares (NBC) spent the last few months working on a very successful community wide project to help clean up the neighborhoods in North Braddock. Thanks to funding from the Enterprise Zone Corp. of Braddock and Mon Valley Initiative, NBC has boarded up broken windows and doors of numerous abandoned houses and removed debris and weeds from these properties. This project, called the Caring Neighbors Project, will not only improve the appearance of the community but will also help to improve the safety of the area.

With the help of North Braddock Volunteer Fire Department, volunteers from several community groups successfully boarded up over 120 abandoned homes. With additional support from the North Braddock Police Department, the North Braddock Neighborhood Watch Committee and other organizations, businesses and individuals, this project is an amazing example of what can be done when the entire community works together.

Artists from Transformazium painted the wood prior to installing the boards. They would like to use the boarded up windows and doors as an opportunity to bring some art into the neighborhood and to make the project visually appealing by painting creative images on the boards.

NBC is a community development corporation consisting of residents who are working to revitalize North Braddock. NBC is always looking for new members and encourages you to attend one of the organization's meetings which are held on the last Monday of each month at 7 pm in the North Braddock Borough Building at 600 Anderson Street.

For more information about this event or North Braddock Cares, call Vicki Vargo at 412-351-3851.