

2008 Rose Village Neighborhood Paint-a-thon Survey Results

Below are some thought provoking questions we asked each resident whose home was painted in 2008 and the responses they gave.

1. Please *share how you feel* about your home as a result of it being painted.

- Energized and proud of my home
- I love how much nicer the house looks and will look even better when the trim is completely finished on the back and front
- My duplex is no longer an eyesore
- Great, hope we can finish this spring
- I feel happy when I drive into the driveway now.
- I feel more able to address other items needed for my home.
- The project was a surprise that snowballed into LOTS of other home improvement jobs—the spark for change

2. How did it affect *your view of you* as a neighbor?

- I want to feel good about being a part of the neighborhood and viewed as a responsible home owner.
- Made me more aware of wanting and needing to be part of revitalizing homes for others
- Much nicer street look, good to help others
- I feel my home adds to the neighborhood-rather than being an eyesore
- I am extremely happy that there are people that care about this neighborhood. I do not live at the duplex so I am not there for a long period of time
- It provided a catalyst to help and visit with neighbors and to share the pleasures of the challenges with others
- Very positive!

3. How did it affect *your view of your neighbors*?

- a. Gave me a new respect for those who are my neighbors who go above and beyond and help without conditions
- b. Good to meet more of the folks on my street
- c. I got to know the neighbors a little better and like what I saw. The street my duplex is on looks great and is no long an eye sore
- d. I found that there are many good people in our area
- e. Brought more awareness of their difficulties/circumstances/humor/hopes and working together on projects

4. How did it affect *how you feel about our neighborhood*?

- a. That we don't have to feel bad about our neighborhood.
- b. Part of a community – included and participating
- c. The homes in our neighborhood have increased in value
- d. I have always liked my neighborhood and I am proud of the work that has been done to improve it
- e. Nice to see the 'hood' returning to better days
- f. I've lived here all my life—and to have the neighborhood back to the original way when it was new is awesome!
- g. I feel fortunate to have been asked to participate. I was impressed and surprised by the projects existence and glad to see the willingness of a bunch of strangers to reach out and give, and for others to accept the help.

5. How did your home and other homes being painted affect *your view of the world*?

- That there are good people in the world who reach out and make the spaces around them more beautiful—which in turn lifts people's spirits. I love my yellow house!!

- Together we can make a difference
- It is actually the first time anyone has done something for me and I am sure others—it has reaffirmed to me that there are good people in the world
- If people work together you can make anything happen
- Looks nice and I'm really glad we could help other neighbors achieve a job that would not have been possible without freely available help and materials.
- The project is very uplifting.

6. Did the Paint-a-thon *create any new connections or deepen relationships* with your neighbors? If so, how?

- I've lived here for several years and never really knew most of these people here on "M" street—and now we are talking to each other and helping each other out. It makes me wonder why we didn't do it before this happened?
- The bond and familiarity created a basis for extending positive regard.
- It created a willingness to help out or ask for help from a larger group than I might have otherwise.

7. What, if anything, *did it inspire you to do* and why?

- It makes me want to be a part of making someone else's home beautiful again.
- It brings a sense of pride to the neighborhood.
- Improve other areas and take pride in my home
- The improvement was so great! I am inspired to do more work, and to maintain my house in a prideful way. I hired a lawn company.
- To continue recognizing similarities with others
- To go beyond my rather antisocial tendencies in this neighborhood

8. What is *something you learned* as a result?

- To pay it forward—helping others to have a beautiful homes as well.
- How to prep a house for painting (and that I like to do it)
- I learned a lot about painting, I learned it is ok to need help and to help others. I learned I should focus on one thing at a time.
- Just never know what's going to happen
- Good things happen when I do my part

9. What is *something you learned about yourself* through the experience?

- That I am blessed more than I thought to live in an area where there are caring people who have a vision.
- I am capable of more than I imagined
- I can make a difference
- It made me look deeper within myself and keep learning

10. Please *share a story* that the event prompted or connected you with.

- Not a story but a powerful observation, seeing teenagers, adults of all ages, and senior citizens working side by side on a common goal
- I grew up here, moved away and came back to live just two doors down from my parents where my best friend lived during my younger years. After buying the home, I often wondered about painting it the beautiful yellow color it was when my friend lived here. My husband and I were away on a trip when it was painted, and we returned to our beautiful sunshine yellow home!!