



2012 Lincoln Community Development Week Award Winner: University Place Community Market

In 2010, University Place Community Organization (or UPCO) board members and residents attended a NeighborWorks sponsored community leadership workshop in Kentucky. That's when the idea of the **University Place Community Market** was born.

They had access to space: a half block in the heart of the UPCO commercial area that was vacant due to a fire in 2003 and which was now owned by the City.

They had funding: NeighborWorks awarded \$2,000 to get the ball rolling and the City of Lincoln's new Neighborhood Mini-Grants were available. Ultimately, Neighborhood Mini-Grants would fund a project coordinator and the one-time site preparation costs to the tune of \$4,000. UPCO itself kicked in about \$2,000 more.

They had strong community support. Certainly that included individual UPCO officers and board members who committed so much time and learned so much just to get the market started. It also included Nebraska Wesleyan University students who handed out flyers, local businesses like Ayars & Ayars who donated staff and equipment to help prepare the site, and all the volunteers who kept the market up and running all summer.

Besides the mini-grants, the City support included rent-free use of the vacant property and the use of Parks & Rec picnic tables.

Once again this summer, on Wednesdays from June 13th through September 19th, the University Place Community Market will be a place to gather. Neighborhood residents and visitors are all invited to drop by, between 3 and 7 pm, to enjoy time together while having the opportunity to support local vendors.

For more about University Place Community Organization activities, visit www.facebook.com/upcolincoln or upcolincoln.wordpress.com.

