

# Trust, Possibilities and Neighbors-in-Action Institute

*Neighbors-in-Action Institute mobilizes community leaders.*

KAROLYN MOTTE:

"When I first started working with *Possibilities*, I didn't know what to expect. That was two years ago; I was part of the first Neighbors-in-Action Institute. The way it was structured put me at ease right away. You could speak your mind and everyone's input was encouraged and wanted. It was a great opportunity to network with others working in their neighborhoods. I was grateful for that because of all we were hoping for in Medical Community.



Karolyn Motte, President of the Medical Community Neighborhood Association; Graduate of Neighbors-in-Action Institute I

JOYCE WILLIS:

"I can remember when Karolyn Motte, our neighborhood association president, came back from Institute I. There was a noticeable difference in the Medical Community Neighborhood Association. The meetings used to be frustrating and discouraging. People were unable to communicate. The few people who came to meetings, came to complain.

"Now they want to help. We've gone from a cliquish, fragmented group to one that's unified. People used to be focused on their own agenda instead of



(Left): Joyce Willis, trainee of Neighbors-in-Action Institute III (shown at a People's Network meeting with her daughters Alexis and Ashley, Lisa Reed and Dorothy Tunley)

what we ought to be doing for Medical Community. Since *Possibilities*, there has been a constant flow of new and different people coming together to problem solve.

"Here is an example. At our last meeting, a woman came with a problem to put before the group. Every person in the room addressed the issue and the group as a whole contributed to the solution. Before *Possibilities*, first of all, she might not have come to the neighborhood association meeting at all. If she had come, she might not have had the nerve to voice her issue. If she had voiced her issue, she might have just complained about it and everybody would have left – doing nothing about it – saying, "That's just the way it is around here."

"Now we have the techniques and tools to involve everyone and make progress."

