

# Kanesville-Tinley residents optimistic

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**Kanesville-Tinley residents optimistic** By Tim Johnson  
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**Staff photo/Joe Shearer**

Left to right, Officer Jarrod Poore, Police Chief Ralph O'Donnell, Officer Mark Alba and Kanesville-Tinley Neighborhood Association President Dan Rhoades pose for a photo outside the KTNA meeting at Children's Square USA Thursday night. Poore, O'Donnell and Alba were recognized for their work with the Council Bluffs Police Department at the meeting.

Most of the residents surveyed believe the neighborhood is improving, another chart showed. Of those who participated, 28 percent said they believe the neighborhood has improved a lot, and 37 percent think it has improved some. Another 26 percent think it is about the same, 6 percent said it has declined some and 3 percent think it has declined a lot.

An even bigger majority see a brighter future for the area. About 35 percent of participants said they believe the neighborhood will improve a lot, and 41 percent said it will improve some. Another 18 percent said it will stay about the same, 4 percent said it will decline some and 3 percent said it will decline a lot.

A very high percentage of respondents – 85 percent – said they participate in neighborhood activities, and 82 percent said they feel they can make a difference in the neighborhood.

"We have very high participation here," Johnson said. "You have made a difference, and you will continue to make a difference."

For one thing, residents are keeping the neighborhood clean, she said.

"There is literally no trash in this neighborhood now," she said. "If litter is blowing around, somebody is picking it up. You are even going out and picking up after the garbage collectors."

Results from a survey show that residents believe the Kanesville-Tinley Neighborhood Transformation Initiative and the Kanesville-Tinley Neighborhood Association are making a difference, an official told attendees at a neighborhood Christmas party Thursday.

Residents in 222 households, including some as far west as North 10th Street, were canvassed in the survey conducted by NeighborWorks Home Solutions in cooperation with the association, said Barbara Johnson, chief operating officer of NeighborWorks.

"What it shows is that the vast majority are satisfied with KTNA – not necessarily with everything, but you call this your home and you like being here," she said.

According to a chart based on the survey, 39 percent of those who participated said they were satisfied with the neighborhood and 50 percent said they were somewhat satisfied. Only 9 percent were somewhat dissatisfied, and only 2 percent were very dissatisfied.

The association honored Officer Mark Alba, PAR Officer Jarrod Poore and Chief Ralph O'Donnell of the Council Bluffs Police Department, as well as Mayor Tom Hanafan, who could not attend.

Regarding Alba, KTNA President Dan Rhoades said, "He helped us get our Neighborhood Watch started, and we have seen a significant decrease in crime since we started."

Said Alba, "Give yourselves a round of applause, because you made it happen – and I'm really pumped about this."

Police reports from the neighborhood have fallen, he said, although calls are about the same.

"It's really gratifying to see a neighborhood come together like this one really has," Alba said. "I know Sheila (Graham)'s gone, but I know you guys are going to keep this momentum going. We've enjoyed working with you folks."

Rhoades presented a scrapbook to Graham, who resigned as coordinator of the initiative effective at the end of the day Dec. 13.

He thanked Poore for being involved in the neighborhood and O'Donnell, who will retire this year, for working with the neighborhood.

NeighborWorks will roll out more survey results later, Johnson said.

A Christmas party will be held for residents of the Kanesville-Tinley Neighborhood from 3 to 6 p.m. Monday at Sequels 2, 709 Mynster St., Mike Reazer said. The event will include turkey bowls, refreshments and drawings, said Jo Winger, manager.