
NEWS

North side neighborhood organizes parade for peace 'Stop the Violence'

Staff Writer Herald-Journal

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In an effort to dispel any misconceptions that residents of Spartanburg's north side are apathetic, citizens of the community and members of the "Stop the Violence" collaboration will team up this Saturday for a United Neighborhood Celebration.

The day will begin at noon with a peace walk from Cleveland Elementary School to Cleveland Park. Sheila Dogan, a community development specialist with "Stop the Violence," hopes the gathering will show a community united. "Solidarity is important in a community," she said. The day's events will include free food in Cleveland Park, old-fashioned games, and an open mike forum for anyone wishing to speak. Everyone is welcome. Members of city and county governments as well as law enforcement officers will be among the 300 to 600 people Dogan estimates will attend. Local merchants and vendors have donated more than 1,000 hot dogs along with other food and services to the project. "Businesses have been very open to what we are doing," Dogan said. The program, the first of its kind on the north side, was suggested by residents as a way to get together and discuss the problems facing them. Dogan said the event will help expose problems that need attention and will lead to future projects. "We've got a lot of work to do," she said, adding that this is the first step to positive change.

