It started with a door-knocking session by Louise Andrews and Louis Alemayhu going to Disciples Ministries Mission. Eventually Pastor Paul Arnopoulos and Gregory Reed, Center Director at Oak Park met and set up time to further discuss the bringing together of the two forces.

On July 4, 1985, Disciples held a picnic Fun Day at North Commons Park, North Minneapolis. All the food was free and it was open to the public. The theme of the day was “Send a Kid to Camp.” There were tables and booths set up with different activities, games, face painting, and contests with all proceeds going towards sending kids to camp. Now because the two forces of Pillsbury United Neighborhood Services and Disciples Ministries see the strength in unity, 40 young people will visit Camp Manakiki.

On July 18, a get-acquainted dinner was held at Disciples Ministry Church, 1000 Oliver Avenue North, for campers, their families, staff and volunteers. Fifth Ward Councilmember Van White also attended.

Strong neighborhoods are developed by people in that particular neighborhood seeing a need for change and caring enough to do something about it. Disciples and Oak Park saw a need for kids to have a camping experience, a time away from brother or sister, mom and dad. This is only the tip of the iceberg as far as working together, so if you have building blocks that we could use or you would like to be used in building up strong neighborhoods on the Near Northside, join the forces.