



Neighbors, Inc.
222 Grand Avenue West
South St. Paul, MN 55075
(Address Service Requested)

Phone: 651.455.5000

Fax: 651.455.1319

Email: info@neighborsmn.org

Web Site: www.neighborsmn.org



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Neighbors News

Summer 2016

Get Your Ducks!

Duck adoptions have begun for the 9th annual Great Neighbors' Duck Races on October 1 during On The Road Again, and this year's grand-prize winner will receive a one-year lease on a Jeep! You can pick up an adoption certificate at Neighbors, around town at various businesses or at www.neighborsmn.org. Ducks are \$5 and each comes with a chance to win prizes throughout the day. Qualifying races will begin at 11 a.m. and the winner of each heat will go on to race for the Jeep in the final race of the day.

In addition to the races, there will be kid's activities, games and, of course, appearances by Delbert the Duck. Proceeds from this event will support the programs at Neighbors. Volunteers are also needed; if interested, please contact Dylan or Heidi at 651.455.5000. Thank you in advance for your generosity and contributions to make this event a success.

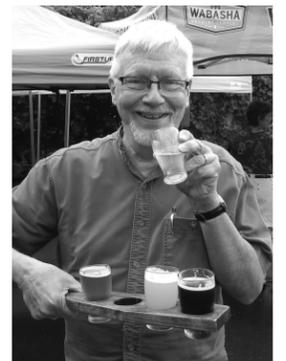


Tell Us What You Think

Neighbors appreciates your commitment to the organization and we want to make sure we're doing our best to communicate how your time, money and resources are being used. To do that, we want – and need – to know how you'd like to receive information from us! Please take a few minutes to share your preferences at www.surveymonkey.com/r/NeighborsCommunications by September 15.

Taps & Apps a Success!

Thanks to everyone who came out for our 3rd annual Taps & Apps event at Wabasha Brewing Company on July 27. It was a relaxing evening filled with food, beer and good company. Overall, you helped us raise \$4,500 for the emergency and supportive services Neighbors offers. Special thanks to Albarella Design for sponsoring this event.



2016-2017

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*With the help of its
volunteers,
Neighbors, Inc. will
strive to reduce
poverty, promote
self-sufficiency and
build community.*



Upcoming Events

Be sure to mark your calendar for the following!

Give to the Max Day

Annual state-wide giving event November 17. Like us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/NeighborsInc) and follow us on Twitter (www.twitter.com/NeighborsInc) for the latest!

Walk to End Hunger

Give back before giving thanks.

Neighbors will again be participating in the annual family-friendly 5k walk on Thanksgiving morning at the Mall of America. New this year – an

advance registration event! Drop by Neighbors on October 10 from 3 p.m. – 7 p.m. to register for the Walk to End Hunger. Whether you are starting your own team or simply need to sign-up, we will help you



Recent Grants

Thank you to the following organizations, who have provided grants to Neighbors in the past quarter:

- RBC Foundation
- Union Pacific Foundation

through the online registration process. You can also pick up promotional items and meet fellow walkers. Refreshments will be served and there will be a prize drawing. For details, contact Heidi at 651.306.2154 or heidi@neighborsmn.org. For general information and walker registration visit www.walktoendhunger.org.
It's A Wonderful Life: Live Radio Play Benefit Night will be on Wednesday, December 7, at The Saint Paul Hotel. To reserve your ticket, visit www.neighborsmn.org/events.

HELP US UPDATE OUR MAILING LIST: If you are receiving duplicate copies of our newsletter, would like more copies or would like to be removed from the list, please call or send a note with instructions. **NOTE:** We do not sell our mailing list to anyone or any organizations. Neighbors News is a quarterly publication of Neighbors, Inc.

Help for the Holidays

“To the Angels,” the thank you note from the mother of a 10-year-old boy begins. “This year has been the hardest we ever been through.”

His father and her husband – just 46 – died earlier that year. “(My son) and I both witnessed his passing,” she writes. “Then only eight months later, his only grandmother passed away of cancer.

In addition, she was unable to work due to ongoing health conditions, so the family’s relied solely on her disability social security income. “He has had a hard year,” his mother writes. “It hasn’t been easy, but God surrounds us with angels many days and you were one. Thank you.”

Having previously participated in the Holiday Program through her church, this was the first year the family’s adopter did it on her own. “Even though shopping for boys can sometimes be hard, I felt inspired and had fun finding things I thought he would like,” his holiday adopter said. “I did try to imagine him opening the gifts, and hoped they would bring him some joy.”

When she received the thank you note from her family, she “felt so thankful that I had decided to adopt and have that opportunity to give them a little cheer during a dark time,” she said.

Because of the generosity and courage of both women – one who gave and one who was able to ask for help in a time of need – a little boy had a merry Christmas. We invite you to be an angel to a child this holiday season.

There are several ways to participate: adopting children and seniors, donating and volunteering. The program begins October 24 and runs through December 23. Adopters may contact Annie Nelson as early as October at holiday@neighborsmn.org or 651.306.2142. As of October 24, the phone number for the Holiday Program will be 651.306.2152.

Adopters are asked to spend about \$100 per child, and wish lists are provided.

Neighbors also puts together gift packs for the children who aren’t adopted. We accept donations of clothing, toys, gifts and money so we can make sure every child who signs up receives gifts.

We’ll also be looking for individuals and groups to volunteer in “Santa’s workshop” – especially those who can speak Spanish and English. If you are interested, please call 651.306.2133.

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This group of little angels, a first-grade class from Lincoln Elementary, raised \$300 and adopted two children through Neighbors’ Holiday Program last year.

Holiday Program’s Most Needed Items

Nerf guns • Science kits for ages 10-17 • Craft kits/art supplies for ages 10-17 • AMC Movie Theater gift cards • Flat irons • Curling irons • Legos • Sports items • Jurassic World toys • Elsa or princess toys • iTunes gift cards • Sports gear, especially fleece and nylon pants • Sweatpants and joggers (popular style of sweatpants with a skinnier fit and narrow closures at the ankle) • Leggings and yoga pants • Waterproof/insulated gloves and mittens for all ages

Welcome New Volunteers

Neighbors would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest volunteers who have joined us on a long-term basis. Be sure to give a friendly “Hi!” and introduce yourself if you see them around.

Food Shelf

Mary Bombardo
Nora Crowley
Barb Frame
Sarajane Grubb
(Clothes Closet too!)
Mark Koepke
Valerie MacDougall

Clothes Closet

Andres Brown
Adam Cahn
Mario Rodriguez

Building and Grounds

Donny Bowe

Dial-a-Ride

Denny Needham
Ashley Brown

Come As You Are

Kim Fischbach
Robert Fischbach

Marketing Internship

Nicholas Hagberg

Development Internship

Annalivia Robinson

Neighbors Helping Neighbors: Joe and Sue Eschenbacher

Multiple times a week, Joe Eschenbacher can be found tending the four gardens at Neighbors. He started last year at the suggestion of his wife, Sue, using some extra plants from his other gardens. Now, his efforts include teaching his young garden helpers – students in the Kids’ Choice summer program at Lincoln Center – about what it takes to grow healthy plants and nutritious produce.

“I’ve been gardening for as long as I can remember,” says Joe. “I started by watching my grandmother, who used to go out to the garden with a salt shaker in her pocket in case she wanted to eat a fresh tomato on the spot.” Now, he enjoys growing fruits and vegetables for others who may not otherwise have access to them.

And while Joe’s in the garden, Sue can be found picking up food from Dakota Woodlands – where she used to volunteer – and delivering to the food shelf. Committed to helping the communities in which they’ve lived and worked, the Inver Grove Heights residents have also donated countless hours to organizations like Habitat for Humanity, the VA Hospital and the former Children’s Safety Centers (now FamilyWise).

“We feel morally compelled to serve,” says Sue. “But volunteering also has a built in social component, which we also appreciate. It’s nice to connect with people in the community.”

Beyond their volunteer contributions, Joe and Sue have also chosen to give financially to Neighbors.

“Neighbors is an organization run by and for the local community, and that’s important to us,” they say. “The government can’t do it all and the need is not diminishing.”

A big thank you to Joe, Sue and all our volunteers and donors who give so generously and in so many ways. We are grateful for all you do help our neighbors in need.



Joe and his helpers work in the Neighbors gardens.

“Neighbors Helping Neighbors” features members of the community who give in a variety of ways. If you’d like to learn more about different giving options, please contact Beth Skwira, director of development, at 651.306.2148.

Staffing updates



Neighbors is thrilled to announce that Dylan McDonough – who has been working at

Neighbors for the past year through the AmeriCorps VISTA program – is now a full-time member of our staff! Dylan will continue on as our talent engagement coordinator, helping to recruit and retain volunteers, coordinate group projects, manage the Come As You Are program and facilitate community engagement. A native of St. Paul, Dylan graduated from St. Olaf College, where he participated in both football and wrestling.



The end of the summer means it’s time for us to say farewell to Mark Oppitz, who has

been filling a temporary staff position in the food shelf. Having been a Friday afternoon food shelf volunteer for more than two years, we were excited to have Mark with us each morning over the past few months. He and his wife plan to continue enjoying retirement, traveling to Georgia in the winter months and spending time working on landscaping and building/remodeling projects.

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