



neighborsnews

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

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Help Serve this Summer

Spring is (finally) upon us and we are getting ready for all the warmer months bring with them. At Neighbors, that often means an increase in the number of families coming to us for assistance. Why, you might ask?

For 45 to 67 percent of students in our area, the school year not only offers the opportunity to learn, it also provides consistent access to breakfast and lunch at a free or reduced rate. When classes let out for the summer, it means that these families, who are already struggling to make ends meet, now need to worry about how to provide for two additional meals a day for three months. The food shelf is always ready and willing to help, but there's also another resource: the summer meals program.

Through this program, anyone 18 years old or younger can get free breakfast and lunch in a school setting where they are already comfortable. Multiple schools in South St. Paul, West St. Paul and Inver Grove Heights participate, and often they don't even have to attend school at a location to eat there.

A partnership between the USDA, ISD #197, Special District #6 and Neighbors, this program helps ensure that all kids have access to nutritious food even when school isn't in session. The USDA provides the food, the schools provide an experienced staff person at each site and Neighbors provides the volunteers!

Volunteers serve meals, prep food and help with kitchen tasks. If you'd like to get involved, we're now scheduling morning and mid-day shifts. It's a great opportunity for groups or individuals, and you can find more information at www.neighborsmn.org/summer-meals-program.



Greater Twin Cities
United Way

And the winner is...

Congratulations to Cherokee Tavern, whose Saint Joe's Burger received the most votes during the 2018 Great Neighbors' Food Fight!

A HUGE thank you to everyone who participated in this year's event – especially the seven local restaurants who generously donated the burgers, including:

- B-52 Burgers & Brew
- BLVD Bar + Grille
- Cherokee Tavern
- Concord Lanes
- Jersey's Bar & Grill
- Mississippi Pub
- Perkins – West St. Paul

With your help, we raised more than \$8,000 to help fund Neighbors' emergency and supportive services.



Recent Grants

We are grateful to have received grants from the following foundations in recent months:

- Otto Bremer Foundation
- Thomson Reuters Foundation

These funds will help us provide food, clothing and support to thousands of people in 2018.

Neighbors on Parade

Summer is just around the corner and we're excited to be participating in a variety of local community festivals. If you're attending any of the following parades, be sure to say "hi" when we pass by! Better yet – join us as a volunteer and walk the route. It's a great way to connect with all our neighbors! Call Darcy at 651-306-2149 to sign up.

Celebrate West St. Paul Days parade

Saturday, May 19

Kaposia Days parade

Friday, June 22

Mendota Day parade

Saturday, July 14

Inver Grove Heights Days parade

Saturday, September 8

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Did you know that nearly 700 households donate to Neighbors during the Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign each year? This is one of the most important times of the year as we bring in enough food and funds to help serve people throughout the summer.

People around the community and in local churches know it too! A common theme we hear when asking people why they give during the March Campaign is that people feel strongly about helping their local community, and know that their gift goes further. Last year, Neighbors came in second among the 300 food shelves competing – which means we received the second highest amount of funds from the Minnesota FoodShare FoodFund! With one in seven children affected by hunger in our area, we are blessed that so many generous people respond to the need – during FoodShare and throughout the year.

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Debra and Bob Kaliszewski give in March because they know their gift helps people locally and that their gift goes further. "If we give during March, we know that our donation is increased."

They feel particularly tied to Neighbors' mission, as well. "Many years ago we used Neighbors, Inc. and felt so blessed to get help. We feel strongly about it and know you are good for people when they are down and out."

Debra and Bob continue to increase their support each year, and hope to be able to volunteer one day.

Similarly, Inver Grove Heights resident Janet Mathews gives to Neighbors because then she knows she is helping. "I want to help people in poverty or with low paying jobs so they don't have to go without food. I want the kids in my neighborhood and my backyard to be fed."

In addition to her monthly donation, she also volunteers as a donation pick-up driver, bringing in food donations from Hometown Meats. "I always give more in March so I can contribute to my church's campaign and help Neighbors bring in more funds from Minnesota FoodShare later in the year."

Our community is truly the backbone of our hunger relief efforts. It is through your support that Neighbors is able to help local families put food on their tables. Thank you for making a difference every day in your neighborhoods.

The "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" column features members of the community who give of their resources 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.

Thanks for Making March Matter

Once again, we are humbled and grateful by the support you have shown for your neighbors in need during the Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign. Your generosity during this annual food and fund drive brought in a combined total of more than 317,000 pounds/dollars.

These donations will help ensure that we can continue to provide food to those who need it – especially during the busy summer months ahead. Thank you!

A special thanks to everyone who planned a drive, collected and delivered donations and/or volunteered to sort and mark items. We literally could not do this without you!



Neighbors Receives 4-Star Rating

Neighbors is excited to announce that it has again received a 4-star rating from non-profit evaluator Charity Navigator! The highest rating possible, it means that Neighbors demonstrates strong financial health and a commitment to accountability and transparency.

We are so grateful to everyone who gives to us to support our work, and we know how important it is that we use those donations wisely.

To learn more about Neighbors' rating, visit www.charitynavigator.org.



Save the Date for Taps & Apps

Neighbors' annual Taps & Apps happy hour benefit event is back for another round!



Mark your calendar and join us at Wabasha Brewing Company on Tuesday, June 26, from 6 to 9 p.m. Keep an eye on our website (www.neighborsmn.org) for additional details in the coming weeks.



The 26th annual Letter Carriers Stamp Out Hunger® Food Drive is on Saturday, May 12



Get Ready to Stamp Out Hunger

For the past 26 years, the National Association of Letter Carriers has collected food for local food shelves across the country during its annual Stamp Out Hunger® Food Drive. This year's drive is scheduled for Saturday, May 12, and we are grateful to again be the recipient for donations from South St. Paul, West St. Paul and Inver Grove Heights.

We hope you'll mark your calendar and help spread the word to your friends and family. It's easy to participate – just put non-perishable donations in a bag by your mailbox before your mail is delivered. Your letter carrier will pick it up when dropping off your correspondence and deliver any donations to Neighbors.





Volunteer Opportunities

Looking for a hands-on way to help your community? Neighbors has a wide range of volunteer opportunities. From ongoing shifts in the Clothes Closet to group projects in the food shelf, flexible options through the Dial A Ride program and donation pick up from local businesses, there's a little something for everyone.

Currently, we are especially in need of people who want to join the team in the Clothes Closet thrift store during the following shifts:

- Tuesdays from 1 to 4 p.m.
- Wednesdays from 4 to 7 p.m.
- Thursdays from 1 to 4 p.m.

Tasks include donation processing, merchandising, customer service and cashiering.

We are also looking for people to provide rides to medical appointments, and help with the summer Farmers Markets. Scheduling is flexible!

For more information, contact the Volunteer Department at 651-306-2145 or volunteer@neighborsmn.org.

Welcome to our New Volunteers

A big thank you to the following individuals who have started as ongoing volunteers in the past few months:

- Lori Frye – Clothes Closet
- Carol Mladek – Clothes Closet
- Val Seals – Clothes Closet
- Ginny Wessel Nelson – Clothes Closet
- Brandon LeClair – Clothes Closet

New Board Members

Please join us in welcoming our new board members that were voted in at our annual meeting on April 19:

- Stacia Hamilton
- Sandra Lee Perez
- Scott Nugent
- Jaime Witte

And a heartfelt thank you to our outgoing board members. Thank you Brian Counihan, Tom Leonard, Ed Nelson and Greg Kuntz for your years of service and compassion for those in need.

Mark your Calendar

The Volunteer Department is excited to share information about Neighbors' next continuing education offering with you!

Please join us on Tuesday, May 15, for an extended session that will review Neighbors' Emergency Action Plan and bystander CPR. Specific information about each section is included below and you're welcome to attend one or both. All we ask is that you RSVP with your selection(s) to Dylan at 651-272-1133 or dylan@neighborsmn.org so that we can plan accordingly.

Emergency Action Plan Review

*May 15 from 11 a.m. to noon
Neighbors' conference room*

Bystander CPR

*May 15 from noon to 1 p.m.
Neighbors' conference room*

Congratulations!

Each year, Neighbors recognizes volunteers who live out the organization's core values of respect, fairness, compassion and empowerment. The following individuals were recognized for their contributions at our annual volunteer luncheon.



Kymn Paulson – Respect

Kymn is a natural leader. Conscious of everything she does, nothing slips past her due to her strong attention to detail. She approaches every task with enthusiasm, innovation and dedication, and has a genuine appreciation for her fellow volunteers and their commitments to the organization.

Pat Derks – Fairness

As a volunteer in the holiday program, Pat believes that all children should receive clothing that meets their needs. She is especially conscious of the clothing requests for the “hard to fit” child and puts in extra effort, to ensure that these children receive age appropriate clothing in their size range.

Jenny Landon – Compassion

As a volunteer in the holiday program, Jenny talks with clients who are applying for holiday gifts with great warmth, makes them feel comfortable, and relates to them by speaking of the hardships she's suffered in her own life. She really hears people when they speak of their pain and respects what they've been through.

Marilyn Erickson – Empowerment

Marilyn's power is her heart, and with that, she has taken on quite a bit of responsibility. Apart from her empowering hugs, this is seen through the smiles she creates in the food shelf, the impact she has at community events, and the inspiration she is as a Church Representative.

Michaela Vondrum – Outstanding Youth

Michaela has quickly become a role model for many. Known for her enthusiasm and positivity, she is quick to do anything and everything with a smile, regardless of how many potatoes she has to sort through.

Kody McCollam – Rookie of the Year

Kody came to Neighbors because he had seen a documentary about food waste and was appalled to see how much people throw out. He sees his role as a donation pick-up volunteer as a way to be part of the solution. He is a reminder to us all that when we feel helpless in a flawed world, there is something we can do about it.

Albarella Design – Community Partner

Albarella Design is versatile, reliable and wonderful to work with, and everything they make is a masterpiece! Whether it's through their event sponsorships, in-kind donations or yearly volunteering, we greatly appreciate their support and enjoy having them as a partner in the community.

Bea Van Zyl – Neighbors Legacy Award

The Neighbors Legacy Award is a new award this year and it recognizes the longstanding and deep commitment of a volunteer who represents all four of Neighbors' core values. It recognizes that we have continued to operate for 46 years because of the ongoing dedication of our volunteers. Bea has given years of service by volunteering with Neighbors' holiday program. She always arrives for each shift with a positive attitude, and patiently helps families. Her delight in helping others and her dedication inspire us all.

Donation Pick-up – Program of the Year

In 2017, the donation pick-up volunteers picked up 643,656 pounds of food. This was 75 percent of Neighbors' food donations. Most food shelves purchase more of their food than they get in donations, but Neighbors is the opposite, so the work of this program is especially crucial. This team is the reason Neighbors is able to offer such a high quantity of fresh food.

Garden Goodness

It's that time of year again – when the temperature climbs and local gardeners begin preparing their plots for a fruitful harvest in the fall.

The Neighbors' gardens are no exception, and will soon be tilled and planted to help provide fresh, healthy produce for our clients in the coming months. If you find yourself with some extra space in your garden – or some extra produce later in the year – we hope you'll consider your neighbors in need. These items are always popular and tend to fly off the shelves. You can rest assured that the time and effort you put into tending your crops will be fully appreciated!



Neighbors' Furniture Match Program

Did you know that Neighbors operates a furniture match program for clients in need of larger items such as couches, dressers, tables and even beds?

While we don't have room to store these items at our office, we keep a list of available donations and when a client has a need, we work to connect them with the donor to arrange pick up.

If you are planning to discard some furniture that's still in good condition, we'd love to help ensure it goes to a good home. To donate, just call Jenny at 651-306-2143.



neighborsinc.
Clothes Closet

50% OFF

Clothing and Shoes

Valid through 05/31/2018

Limit one coupon per customer. Offer does not apply to white tag items.

This offer is not redeemable for cash or gift cards, nor is it valid toward previous purchases. Offer may not be combined with any other coupons, discounts, offers or promotions. Coupon must be surrendered at time of purchase. Valid in-store only.

Mailing List Updates

Neighbors News is a quarterly publication of Neighbors, Inc.

If you are receiving duplicate copies of our newsletter, would like more copies or would like to be removed from the list, please call 651-306-2155 or email brigid@neighborsmn.org.

Note that Neighbors does not sell our mailing list to anyone or any organizations.

Hours of Operation

Office: 8:15 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.*

Food Shelf: 8:45 – 11:30 a.m. & 1:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Clothes Closet: Mon - Thur: 10:00 a.m. – 7:00p.m.

Fri: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Sat: 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

*We close daily from 12:15 – 1:00 p.m. Food shelf and office are open Mon – Fri.

Connect with Neighbors

Want to stay up-to-date with everything that's going on at Neighbors? If you're on social media, like us on Facebook ([/NeighborsInc](#)) and follow us on Twitter ([@NeighborsInc](#)).

Curious about what's going on in the Clothes Closet? The store posts sale and merchandise information on its social sites, too. Just visit the Neighbors Clothes Closet – Thrift Store on Facebook or follow [@NBClothesCloset](#) on Twitter.



Upcoming Holiday Schedule

The Neighbors, Inc. office and Clothes Closet thrift store will be closed on the following dates:

- May 28 – Memorial Day
- Jul 4 – Fourth of July

NEIGHBORS, INC.

222 Grand Ave. W
South St. Paul, MN 55075

Recipient Name

Street Address

City, ST ZIP Code