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Neighbors News

Summer 2017

Win a Destination Dinner for Two at the 10th Annual Duck Races

Quack, quack! 2017 marks the 10th anniversary of the Great Neighbors' Duck Races and we've got a grand prize you won't want to miss. This year's big winner will get to choose from one of five pre-selected locations in the continental U.S. to have dinner!



Ducks are just \$5 each and all proceeds benefit the emergency and supportive services at Neighbors.

The fun begins at 11 a.m. on Saturday, October 7, during South St. Paul's On The Road Again festival, and the event will once again feature a variety of family-friendly activities. Additional details can be found at www.neighborsmn.org.

We're also still looking for volunteers for this year's races! If you're interested in helping out, contact Heidi Satre at 651.306.2154 or heidi@neighborsmn.org.

Reflections on my First Six Months

As I approach the midway point of my first year, I realize more and more the impact Neighbors has on our community. When I walk around our building, I witness the compassion volunteers and staff use to serve those in need. This compassion does not stop at our doors. It continues out into our community.

Each day I meet amazing individuals who want to do their part to make our community a better place. They want to help their neighbor so that they can put food on their table and clothes on their back. They want to help them to be mobile by providing transportation. They want to make certain they have a place to call home. This happens at Neighbors and throughout the communities we serve every day.

This happens, I am learning, because Neighbors and the communities we serve are one in the same. Neighbors is northern Dakota County and northern Dakota County is Neighbors. Forty-five years ago a group of concerned individuals got together because people needed help. Today, people still need help and their neighbors are here to provide it.

I am grateful to everyone that has welcomed me during these first six months. I look forward to working with all of you as we continue to find ways to reduce poverty, promote self-sufficiency and build community.

Charlie Thompson, President & CEO

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



A big thank you to everyone who joined us at Wabasha Brewing Company in July for our annual Taps & Apps event. We raised more than \$7,400 to help our neighbors when they need it most.

Special thanks to our sponsors: Albarella Design; Bremer Bank; CHS; Fratallone Companies; Jodee Paape & Associates, LLC; Krech, O'Brien, Mueller & Associates, Inc.; MidWestOne Bank; RBC Wealth Management; David Paton; Langer Real Estate Services; Rascher Plumbing & Heating; SSP/IGH Rotary Club; Royal Star Furniture; State Farm; Christopher Kisch Agency; and Volkswagen of Inver Grove.

Taps & Apps Raises More Than \$7,400

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.

Volunteers Needed

We are currently looking for volunteers to fill a few shifts in the Clothes Closet on Friday mornings (10 a.m. to 1 p.m.) and afternoons (1 to 4 p.m.). If you're interested, call 651.306.2145 or email volunteer@neighborsmn.org.



Love Your Neighbor this Holiday Season

My favorite way to describe coordinating Neighbors' Love Your Neighbor Holiday Program is that it's like working in Santa's workshop for two months. We're surrounded by toys and merry elves – our dedicated volunteers. We sit with grateful parents, shy seniors and grinning children as they fill out their gift wish lists. We get to see the beautifully wrapped packages come in from adopters, and the joy in recipients' eyes when they pick them up.

"I just wanted to call and thank you guys for all the blessings that you bestowed upon us with this Christmas program. I'm getting all teary eyed because I can't believe how generous you guys were," one mother said, her voice breaking. "I wasn't expecting a whole lot. I only have one kid. The clothing, especially, was such a blessing. She needed clothing so badly. She'd grown out of her clothing, and now I've got lots of clothing for her. I thank you from the bottom of my heart. All of the toys were so beautiful too. I know she's going to have a beautiful Christmas thanks to you."

This holiday season, we invite you to consider blessing local children and seniors in need by participating in Neighbors, Inc.'s Love Your Neighbor Holiday Program. If you're interested in adopting, we ask adopters to budget about \$100 per child or senior. Another way to support the program is to donate unwrapped, new toys and clothing, and gifts for seniors. Neighbors uses these donations to adopt any remaining applicants to the program, making sure that every family that applies receives gifts.

If you would like to participate this year, please call 651.306.2152 or email holiday@neighborsmn.org. I will be on leave until October 17, but messages and emails can be left, and I will reply to all requests as soon as possible upon my return.

Annie Nelson, Holiday Program Coordinator

Holiday Program's Most Needed Items

Toys/Gifts - AMC Movie gift cards, headphones, science kits, arts and crafts kits (especially for ages 10 and older), sketch books, Vikings team items, flat irons, blow dryers, curling irons, nerf guns, skateboards, superhero toys, Legos, scooters and sleds

Clothing - Insulated gloves and mittens youth sizes 4-7 and 8-16, snow pants, winter coats, snowsuits and warm clothing for sizes 9 months to 24 months, warm tops and pants for sizes 2T to 5T, hoodie sweatshirts boys sizes 8-18 and mens sizes small to XL, athletic and "jogger" style sweatpants boys sizes 8-18 and mens sizes small to XL, leggings girls sizes girls small to XL and juniors/misses small to XL, hoodie sweatshirts girls sizes small to XL and juniors/misses sizes small to XL, pajamas boys sizes 10-18 and girls sizes 8-16

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New Faces in the Neighborhood

We are thrilled to have some amazing interns with us this summer – two of which are working in intake and one who is helping with events. Read on to learn a bit more about each of them.

Hi my name is Alice Heeger, I'm an emergency intake intern here at Neighbors Inc. I am a senior at Macalester College in St. Paul with a Geography major and a concentration in Community and Global Health. I wanted to work for Neighbors because I am passionate about the goal to improve the health and quality of life for people in the community through partnerships.

Hello. My name is Lysie Stumbris and I'll be working in intake through December. I'm from Superior, Wis., and I transferred to the U of M last fall as a Psychology major. Being an intake intern at Neighbors means two things: I get the gift to be with folks on their worst day and the chance to make it just a little bit better.

My name is Cate Rosvold and I am this summer's events and promotions intern. I grew up in Inver Grove Heights and went to high school at South St. Paul Secondary. I am currently a student at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter MN. Interning this summer at Neighbors really has opened my eyes to the amazing work this organization does for northern Dakota County families. I am grateful that I have been a part of a great organization which has taught me so many skills that I can use in the future.

We also want to welcome the following volunteers who have picked up ongoing shifts recently:

Food Shelf - Tom Tongen, Gisel Suarez, Teresa Pfab
Tillie Monita, Pat Munoz, Mark Snoeyenbos
Clothes Closet - Natalie Lindh, Amy Horsfield,
Rayma Mueller
Donation pick-up - Jim and Nancy Entgelmeier
Dial-A-Ride driver - Bonnie Smith, Jonathan Roth
Farmers markets - Mai Xiong

Neighbors Helping Neighbors: Mike Running

As a lifelong member of the community, Mike Running has always known about Neighbors. His extended family supported the organization as volunteers, and he grew up knowing that it was a resource for people when they needed it.

When he joined the South St. Paul police department in 1997, he began giving through a direct withdrawal from his paycheck. He later decided that he wanted to be able to designate the full portion of his gifts to specific organizations, and began donating directly to Neighbors in January of 2017.

"The problem was, I would get the appeal letter and set it aside to take care of later, but then it would end up in a different pile or I'd forget about it – out of sight, out of mind," said Mike.

"When I realized I could set up an ongoing donation to charge directly to my credit card each month, it was the perfect solution."

"I give to organizations that I know are doing good work in the community where I live and work," he noted humbly. "Setting up a monthly contribution was an easy way to continue supporting an organization I believe in without having to worry about whether or not the check ever got sent in."



Introducing the 'Community Builder Circle'

Neighbors could not do the work that it does in the community without the generous support it receives from donors. Each gift makes a difference, providing basic needs and resources to our neighbors when they need it most. To help further this impact, we invite you to become a Community Builder! We currently have 91 recurring donors and hope to increase that to 125 by the end of the year.

Members of this group commit to making a recurring financial gift of any amount – either monthly or quarterly. These gifts provide Neighbors with a steady, predictable revenue stream, allowing the organization to serve even better. Plus, it's easy, convenient, flexible and you'll receive a discounted rate to attend Neighbors' fundraising events!

To join, simply visit www.neighborsmn.org/donate to set up your ongoing donation through iDonate. If you prefer to mail in a monthly or quarterly check, just contact Beth Skwira at 651.306.2148. Already giving to Neighbors on a monthly basis – either directly, through your employer and/or via the United Way? You're automatically part of the Community Builder Circle!

"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.

Save the Date

Mark your calendar now so that you don't miss out on the great Neighbors' events scheduled for the coming months:

Give to the Max Day – November 16

Walk to End Hunger – November 23 (Registration opens after Labor Day at www.walktoendhunger.org.)

It's A Wonderful Life: Live Radio Play – December 6

Thanks for Helping 'Stamp Out Hunger'

Once again, our community came together to help stock the shelves and we couldn't be more grateful. Neighbors received more than 26,000 pounds of food from the annual "Stamp Out Hunger" food drive, which has helped us continue providing food to local families this summer. Huge thanks to our letter carriers, Bester Brothers, IAMAW Airline Local 1833 Retirees and other volunteers who helped collect, deliver and unload all the donations.

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