



neighborsnews

Happy Holidays – Then and Now!

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

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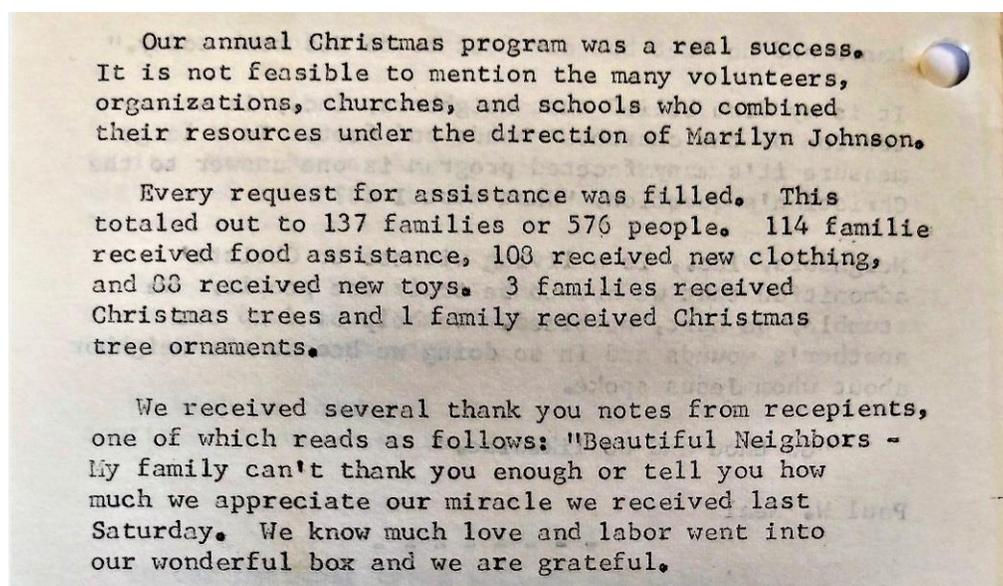
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Greater Twin Cities
 United Way

When an organization has been around for as long as Neighbors, you never know what you're going to find when you start going through old boxes. To our delight, we recently found a stash of Neighbors' newsletters going all the way back to April 1975! While perusing the treasure trove, this snippet by Bob Adams from the January 1976 newsletter jumped out. It is the first written mention of our Holiday Gift Program (then known as the Christmas Program).



It is amazing to see how much the program has grown – from 137 families in 1975 to 721 families in 2017! Applications have already been flowing in for 2018, and we are determined to fill every request for assistance, just as we did in 1975. That, of course, will not be possible without our generous and caring donors, community members and dedicated volunteers.

We are looking for volunteers (from now until December 6) to assist families in filling out the assistance application, to check and verify client information and answer questions in regards to the holiday program. Morning and afternoon shifts are available Monday – Thursday and you must be 18+ years old. We are also looking for people to organize, assemble and distribute gift donations for families that have applied. This role is group and youth friendly. Distribution dates are December 7 – December 14 (excluding Saturday and Sunday), and shifts are available in the morning and afternoon.

For more information, contact our Volunteer Services Manager at 651-272-1133 or dylan@neighborsmn.org.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors - Patti Nalipinski



Joy is the word that donor/volunteer extraordinaire, Patti Nalipinski, uses to describe the feeling she gets by giving. And, if you get the opportunity to meet her, you will get that same feeling! She is joyful!

As a lifelong resident of Inver Grove Heights, Patti has been a long-time supporter of Neighbors. About 10 years ago, her family started their annual tradition of adopting a family for the holiday program. They go shopping as a family and her nieces, aged 16 and 12, let her know what's "cool" and what is definitely "NOT cool." After all the shopping is done, she puts special care into wrapping the gifts and likes to imagine what the people will feel like when they open them. It has become a cherished part of her Christmas tradition.

It wasn't long before Patti decided she wanted to get more involved with Neighbors during the holidays. When her company offered their employees 16 hours out of the office to volunteer at the non-profit of their choice, she jumped at the opportunity. She signed up to work in the Love Your Neighbor program and helped pack gifts for the families that didn't get adopted. She was able to see, first hand, how excited and grateful families were when they came

to pick up their presents. It also gave her the opportunity to see what types of items were still needed. Not being one to sit back when there is a need, she put her thrifty shopper skills to work and went shopping for items to donate to the program. Her favorite thing to shop for? Pajamas! It is her firm belief each person, regardless of age, should get a pair of pajamas for Christmas.

Patti says she supports Neighbors because she thinks the mission is amazing and she realizes that there is such a need in her community, and because "it's the right thing to do." In addition to her work in the Holiday Gift Program and providing donations to the food shelf, she is also a financial donor to Neighbors. Through her employer, she gives a quarterly donation directly to Neighbors out of her paycheck. And her advice for others? "Share what you can, because it will make a difference for someone."

As Neighbors has changed and grown over the years, she stays up to date with the organization through Facebook to get the latest news. She feels strongly that, "Neighbors makes a significant difference in the lives of people through all of our programs. This is the place to send people when they need help." She also credits her cohort of volunteers that keeps her coming back. "They are good people who are welcoming and accepting. They make me want to be here." Overall, her experience with Neighbors has been "joyful."

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, or tell us about someone who should be featured, please contact Beth Skwira, Director of Mission Advancement, at 651-306-2148.

If you would like to adopt a family or senior for the Holiday Gift Program, please call 651-306-2140.

Walk to End Hunger



As we enter the season of Thanksgiving, we wanted to tell you how grateful we are for your support of Neighbors and your dedication to help us eliminate hunger in our community. Hunger continues to be a critical issue to those we serve and the demand for assistance is growing. Help us fight hunger by joining forces with other hunger relief agencies in Minnesota on Thanksgiving morning at the Mall of America for the annual Walk to End Hunger. Ways to get involved include:

- Walk with us! Visit walktoendhunger.org to register. Start your own team or join ours! Your \$25 registration will go directly to Neighbors.
- Make a donation to a designated Neighbors' Walk to End Hunger team. Money raised will go to support Neighbors' programs in our community.
- Share! We need your help to spread the word. Tell your friends and family why hunger is an important issue to you and encourage them to get involved.

We asked six-time walker Sue B. to share with us why she has made the Walk to End Hunger part of her yearly tradition:

I enjoy participating in the Walk to End Hunger. I have walked for about 6 years now and I am glad I can walk for a specific charity. Neighbors is in my

community and I have personally seen them giving back. The organization seems to be structured very well and seems small enough to be and feel local. And the Neighbors' people are fun. I walk with my friends and when we pass the corner of the mall dedicated to Neighbors I see lots of energy and enthusiasm. It feels good to give back on Thanksgiving morning.

Out of town on Thanksgiving? No problem! You can still get in on the action. If your plans don't allow you to be there on Thanksgiving morning, you can register as a "Sleep Walker." All registered Neighbors' Sleep Walkers will be given a free pass to walk at The Grove community fitness center in Inver Grove Heights during the month of November.

If you have any questions or would like more information on how to register, contact Heidi at 651-306-2154 or heidi@neighborsmn.org.

Give to the Max Day 2018

Save the date for Minnesota's annual day of online giving! Thursday, November 15, Neighbors will once again be one of the non-profit participants in Give to the Max Day. To make a donation, please visit: givemn.org. We appreciate your generosity!

give
TO THE
MAX 

NOV. 15, 2018

To celebrate Give to the Max Day, Neighbors has partnered with Wabasha Brewing Company in St. Paul for a special happy hour on November 15. Join us from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm at the brewery. For every pint purchased during this event, Wabasha Brewing Company will donate \$1 to Neighbors. Cheers!

It's A Wonderful Life Benefit Performance



Kick off your holiday season with a heartwarming performance of *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*, based on one of the most inspirational and best loved classic holiday movies. Set as if it were a live radio broadcast of the film from the 1940's, this performance is full of emotion, humor, sound effects and lots of classic holiday music. Performed in the historic ballroom at the The Saint Paul Hotel, this performance is truly one-of-a-kind.

This special performance on December 5 begins the cast's seasonal engagement at The Saint Paul Hotel. General admission seating. Bar service available.

6:30 pm Social Hour
7:00 pm Doors Open
7:30 pm Performance

Proceeds from ticket sales of this performance will benefit Neighbors, Inc. To purchase tickets, visit neighborsmn.org or call Heidi at 651-306-2154.



Holiday Schedule

Neighbors office will be closed the following days in the coming months:

Thursday, November 22
Friday, November 23
Monday, December 24
Tuesday, December 25
Monday, December 31
Tuesday, January 01

The Clothes Closet Thrift Store will be closed the following days (please note that with the recently implemented store hours, the store is also closed every Monday):

Thursday, November 22
Tuesday, December 25
Tuesday, January 01

Qualified Charitable Distributions



Help further Neighbors' mission through an IRA qualified charitable distribution.

- If you are 70 ½ or older, you can give directly from your IRA to charities such as ours.
- The transfer doesn't generate any taxable income.
- This may be especially beneficial now because of Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) changes that affect who can benefit from the itemized deduction for charitable donations.
- If you have not taken your required minimum distribution for the year, your qualified charitable distribution gift can satisfy all or part of that requirement.

To learn more, please contact your financial advisor. The gift needs to be made by December 31, 2018 if you want your gift to qualify this year.

Quack Quack – That’s a Wrap!

Thank you to everyone who came out to the 11th Annual Great Neighbors' Duck Races and made it one of our best events ever! Your support helped us raise more than \$22,000 to fund the emergency and supportive services provided by Neighbors, Inc. Your contribution will provide food, clothing and other necessities to members of our community when they need it most. Thank you!

One of our fabulous volunteers, Cari Skarstad, perfectly captured what makes volunteering at the Duck Races so special:

For the last four years I have volunteered for the Neighbors Duck Races. Providing Neighbors with a gift of time allows me to support and stand behind the amazing work Neighbors programs offer Dakota County residents. The Duck Races provide children, and adults as well, the opportunity to donate to a worthy cause in a fun, entertaining environment. Nothing is more fulfilling than watching the children react when the water floods and the ducks race to the finish line. The children are absorbed by the fun of the race while behind the scenes the fundraising efforts allow Neighbors to offer programs supporting our community members.

At the end of the day I volunteer for the Duck Races to fulfill and motivate me in knowing my few small hours spent were helping my neighbors and community members in their times of need.



Grand Prize Winner

Congratulations to the winner of a \$500 shopping trip to the Mall of America®, Bruce B! Happy shopping!



2018 Duck Race Sponsors

Thank you to all of our wonderful sponsors that helped make this event possible! We are truly blessed to have so much support from our business and community partners.

Great Neighbors'
Duck Races

S P O N S O R S


Thank You!

When Life Gives You Lemons...



We'd like to introduce you to two of our youngest supporters, 11-year-old Taylor and 9-year-old Leighton! In 2015, these two savvy entrepreneurs decided to open a summer lemonade stand so that they could raise money to support Neighbors. It has since become a yearly tradition, and this year their mom asked them what motivates them to do it. Taylor says she does it "because I think it's important to help others" and that doing so makes her feel "helpful and happy." Leighton said it's good because "we are giving to others that can't get it for themselves."

The family used the funds to purchase ducks to support the fundraising efforts of the Great Neighbors Duck Races. Thanks kids, and keep up the good work!

Welcome New Volunteers

Thank you and a warm welcome to our newest ongoing volunteers! We're thrilled you are sharing your time and talents with us.

Clothes Closet Thrift Store

Megan Bauer, Mary Del Angel, Su Kladstrup, Josabeth Merlos, Martha Modrynski, Rhonda Stadtfeld

Dial-A-Ride

Mary Charles, John Kemp

Food Shelf

Katie Bauer, Eileen Casey, Denise Gelderneck, Matthew Gelderneck, Thomas Gelderneck, Don Tzinski, Jan Tzinski, Jim Wagner

Front Desk

Deniz Kihtir

Groups

First Pace Credit Union, Northwest Area Foundation, Univ. of St Thomas Gamma Iota Sigma Beta Pi Chapter

Ongoing Volunteer Opportunities

Clothes Closet Thrift Store

Saturdays, 12:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Dial-a-Ride

Ongoing, Schedule is flexible and determined by the volunteer

Food Shelf

Mondays, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Front Desk

Tuesdays, 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Fridays, 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

For more information, contact our Volunteer Services Manager at 651-272-1133 or dylan@neighborsmn.org.

Recent Grants

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

- Cub Cares Community Fund
- Edina Reality Foundation
- SpartanNash Foundation
- Stevens Square Foundation
- Target Foundation
- Union Pacific Foundation

These funds will help us provide food, clothing and support to thousands of people. Thank you!

A Letter from Charlie Thompson, President and CEO

Dear Friends,

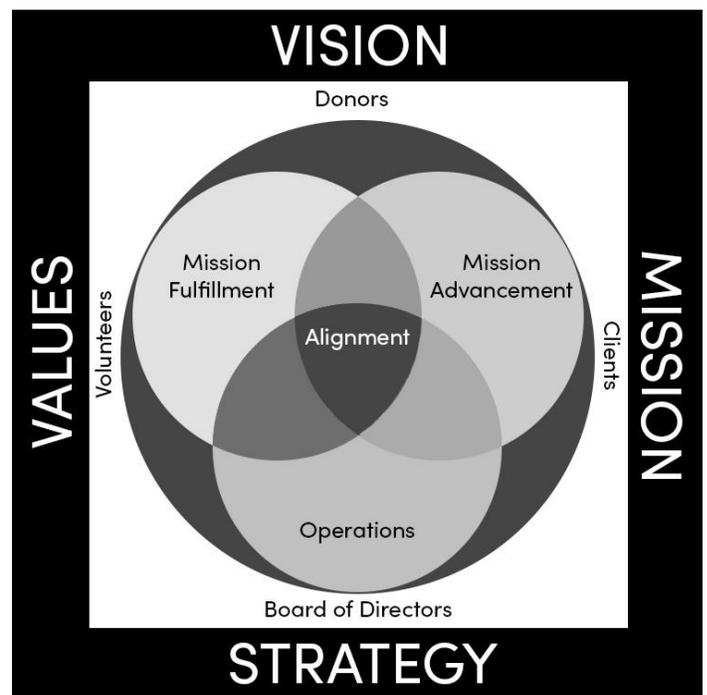
In our previous newsletter, you were introduced to Susan Schroeder, the new Director of Mission Fulfillment. But what, you may be asking, is “mission fulfillment”? Mission fulfillment is one component of Neighbors’ organizational structure represented by the below graphic. It refers to the programs, services and volunteers that are needed to fulfill our mission to reduce poverty, promote self-sufficiency and build community.

The other two components of the organizational structure are mission advancement and operations. Beth Skwira is our Director of Mission Advancement, and this department primarily focuses on fundraising, events, marketing, communications and community outreach. All of these efforts are geared toward moving the mission forward and providing the resources needed by the mission fulfillment department so that they can carry out their duties.

Operations is the third department and it is responsible for the back office support needed to operate Neighbors. This includes everything from financial management, human resources, building and grounds, the Clothes Closet and many other responsibilities.

When these three departments are operating in sync with one another, that is when we have alignment. You will notice in the graphic that surrounding the three departments is a larger circle. That circle consists of volunteers, donors, clients and the board of directors. These are the people that either support, govern or are served by Neighbors.

Finally, all the circles exist in a frame. The frame includes our vision, mission, values and strategy. All four of these items guide the work that we do. Together, this graphic illustrates how Neighbors will be organized moving forward, and it will no doubt be tweaked along the way. As it is, we will continue to focus on this alignment so that we can achieve the vision and mission of Neighbors.



In the coming weeks and months, I will be working with the board, staff and all of our stake holders to review our vision, mission, values and strategy. We will be conducting surveys, interviews and small group discussions to learn more about how Neighbors can best serve northern Dakota County today. As we approach our 50th anniversary in 2022, the information gathered will help shape our next 50 years of service.

Thank you for being a part of the Neighbors’ community. I look forward to learning more about how best we can provide for the needs of our community together.

In service,

Charlie

Clothes Closet Grand Reopening



After a week of painting, organizing, rearranging and refreshing, the Neighbors Clothes Closet thrift store officially reopened its doors with a ribbon cutting on September 11. If you haven't already checked out our new look, the holiday season is the perfect time to stop by and snag an amazing deal!

Clothes Closet Store Hours

Tuesday: 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday – Thursday: 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Friday – Saturday: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Sunday – Monday: CLOSED

The Clothes Closet Thrift Store is open to the public. Check out the Neighbors Clothes Closet – Thrift Store Facebook page for the latest sales and merchandise information.

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.

NEIGHBORS, INC.

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Recipient Name

Street Address

City, ST ZIP Code