



neighborsnews

A Vision for the Future at Neighbors, Inc. *Refreshed Mission and Vision Statements*

Providing opportunities for our neighbors to thrive by connecting volunteers to people in need.

From time to time, it is important to take an introspective look at who you are and what you do. That is what Neighbors has been doing during the past year. As we prepare to mark our golden anniversary in a few short years, we have been reflecting on our organizational mission statement, vision and core values. These three pillars guide the work we do on a daily basis. After many discussions, surveys and meetings, it was determined to refresh these pillars to help carry us into the future. Below are the results.

Board Members

Gloria Contreras Edin, Chair
Scott Nugent, Vice Chair
Juliette Francis, Past Chair
Holly Ekwochi
Katie Estes
Stacia Hamilton
Gwendolyn Labovitch
Dave Paton
Sandra Lee Perez
Leesa Soderlind
Jaime Witte

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neighborsinc.

Mission:

Providing opportunities for our neighbors to thrive by connecting volunteers to people in need.

Vision:

Transformed communities where all are nourished.

Core Values:

Respect

We value all people. Every story matters.

Generosity

Everybody benefits when time, talent and treasure are shared.

Inclusion

Diversity makes communities stronger.

Serving the community since 1972

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*A Vision for the Future at Neighbors, Inc.
Continued from previous page.*

The new mission statement honors the foundation on which Neighbors was established while still guiding our current and future work. It affirms we are an organization created by the community to help one another in times of need and that we will take responsibility to provide opportunities. Finally, it reminds us all that we are in communion with one another and we must work together as neighbors to see that everyone thrives.

When our mission is accomplished, it will fulfill our vision to have “transformed communities where all are nourished.” We have reasons every day to celebrate the communities we live in. We also see people who are not able to celebrate due to a financial crisis, homelessness, hunger, addiction, un-employment or underemployment and many other challenges that prevent them from thriving. If all our neighbors are to be nourished, we must come together to resolve the most difficult of societal challenges.

The core values Neighbors staff, volunteers and supporters put into practice are: respect, generosity and inclusion. These core values support the updated mission statement and vision in our daily practice.

While the words that make up these statements are new, the meaning and spirit have been there since a small group of volunteers gathered together on a cold December night in 1971. They set out to provide opportunities for their struggling neighbors. They wrestled with how to connect with people in need.

They did so with respect, generosity and inclusion. Now, it is up to us to continue the work they started. However long it takes, Neighbors will be here to see to it that our communities are transformed and all are nourished.

Charlie Thompson, President & CEO



Holiday Gift Program

“Are we gonna have Christmas this year?”

Imagine your son, seeing you struggling to stretch your wages to make ends meet, asking this with a mix of doubt and hope in his voice. That is what Jennifer*, a parent in our Holiday Gift Program, experienced last year. Her response to her son was that she would try, but in the back of her mind she wasn't sure how she was going to provide any form of a gift or celebration until she heard about the Holiday Gift Program at Neighbors. She was so grateful and moved by the gifts her son received. Being able to provide them to him was a gift to her, too.

Really, being able to provide holiday presents to children is a gift for all of us. The holiday spirit seems to amplify its warmth as we all pitch in to make the magic happen. Neighbors is thrilled to be able to offer this joyful program once again this holiday season.



This year we have some enhancements to the program that we are very excited about. We are making the process easier for our generous donors by creating an online adoption form (neighborsmn.org/holiday-donations/). We are also extending hours for both applicants and donors who struggle to make it to Neighbors during our regular workday.

Scott Andrews, Program Manager

Holiday Gift Program Volunteers Needed

As always, we need the help of generous “elves” to make the magic happen. Please consider adopting one or more children or seniors, or volunteering to help. We are looking for volunteers who are merry, organized and willing to help recipients learn about the program, complete their wish lists and receive and distribute packages. Can you think of a better way to spread cheer this holiday season?

If you are interested in signing up for a volunteer shift for the Holiday Gift Program, please contact Jenny at jsanford@neighborsmn.org or at 651-272-1133.



Holiday Gift Program Office Hours

October 28 – December 6

Monday through Friday

(Closed Nov. 28 and 29)

Morning: 8:45 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Afternoon: 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Location: Lower Level at Neighbors, Inc.

(Applicants should begin the application process upstairs.)



Clothes Closet News

Check out the brand new Instagram account for the Neighbors Clothes Closet Thrift Store. Follow us and help spread the word!

www.instagram.com/ccthriftstore/

Menu Makers 5th Anniversary



This December, the Neighbors recipe sharing program, Menu Makers, will celebrate its 5th anniversary. Originally born out of a desire to highlight healthy ways to cook some of our abundant food shelf items, this monthly recipe sharing program has turned into so much more! Each month a team of volunteers, led by Sue Hanebuth (program creator, photographer, cook, food critic and food shelf volunteer), determines six recipes to display along with the food item in the food shelf for shoppers to enjoy. The goal of the program is to provide recipes that are simple, affordable and healthy for shoppers to prepare. Our hope is if people eat well, they will go out and do good things. A special thank you to Sue, Jan, MaryJean & Sharon as well as the volunteers in the food shelf for all of your hard work and dedication to this program!

give TO THE **MAX** 
NOV. 14, 2019

Save the Date – Give to the Max Day 2019

Minnesota's day of online giving!

For more information, visit: givemn.org.

Food and Sustainability Intern



Intern Claire working on a new compost bin.

As I reflect on my summer as the Food and Sustainability Intern, I can't help but smile. It exceeded all my expectations. My experience was divided between the food shelf, Neighbors' gardens and the Inver Grove Heights Farmer's Market. You might not realize it, but Neighbors has three garden beds where, with the help of a volunteer master gardener, a variety of vegetables are grown for the food shelf. One of the highlights from my internship was building a second compost bin for organic materials. Prior to this opportunity, I knew very little about gardening (my mom would say I had a brown thumb), but with help, my thumb turned green and I was even able to compile what I learned into a comprehensive "Garden Guidebook" to equip others to successfully grow vegetables and learn to compost. Thank you for the opportunity. – Claire R.

Reduce. Reuse. Recycle. Thrift.

It is easy to forget the amount of water used in creating new clothes. Every t-shirt or pair of pants purchased from the Neighbors Clothes Closet Thrift Store can save 714 gallons of water in comparison to a newly produced shirt!

Welcome To Our New Volunteers

A big thank you and a warm welcome to the following individuals and groups who started volunteering this summer.

Food Shelf

Ashton, Matt, Angela, Logan, Benjamin, Brandon, Kyle

Clothes Closet Thrift Store

Melesio, Caycee, Chloe, Esther, Carson, Evelyn, Sammy, Brooke, Macy, Joan, Veronica

Welcome Center

Jeanne, Ashley

Donation Pick Up

Chris, Bridget, Carol, Doug, Susan

Groups

St. Thomas Cadets, Blum Family, Fargon, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Collegiate UMC, Saint Patrick's

Summer Interns

Haley, Tony, Claire

Multiple Programs

Barb, Ian, Heidi, Sydney, Lily, Charles, Michael, Evan, Chandler, Isabella, Ellie, Joyce, Ryan, Susan, Pat, Jessica, Lauren



Volunteer Opportunities



Clothes Closet Thrift Store

Receive and sort incoming donations, help families shop with free clothing vouchers and help raise money for our emergency services.

Transportation Program

Enjoy flexible scheduling options and build 1-on-1 relationships with residents of northern Dakota County while transporting them to basic needs appointments.

Food Rescue

Collect food donations from local grocery stores and transport them to the food shelf.

Food Shelf

Assist families as they select food from the shelves; unload, label and sort incoming donations; and keep shelves stocked.

Welcome Center Assistance

Help families register for services; welcome visitors and complete office tasks such as filing, photocopying and answering the phone.

Board of Directors

Currently seeking applications for people interested in serving on the Board of Directors. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, contact Charlie at charlie@neighborsmn.org.

For more information about volunteering at Neighbors, visit neighborsmn.org/volunteers/ or contact Volunteer Services Manager Jenny at jsanford@neighborsmn.org or at 651-272-1133.

Summer Meals Program Recap

A NOTE OF THANKS

August 9, 2019

Dear Ms. Julie,

Thank you and your helpers for cooking all those scrumptious meals.

Your friend,

Sofia (Somerset student)

Volunteers at Somerset Elementary School were cheered this year by a stack of colorful cards and notes that children had written to thank them for working so hard in the cafeteria this summer. We'd like to extend that gratitude to everyone who was part of the program this year.

This summer, over 200 Neighbors volunteers served 44,000 meals at five different locations! All five sites are open to anyone aged 18 and under to receive free breakfast and lunch. This is the tenth year that Neighbors has worked to help serve free meals to children in our community. The program itself has grown a lot in those ten years. Originally, meals were only offered at two school sites within our community.

The Summer Meals Program is made possible by USDA funds through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). School District 197 (West St. Paul) and Special School District 6 (South St. Paul) provide staff support and expert cafeteria leadership to our volunteers.



Thank you to all of the Summer Meals Program volunteers!

Foundation Grants Awarded

Neighbors has recently been awarded grants from the following foundations and organizations:

American Veterans Mendota Post 1

MidWestOne Foundation

Otto Bremer Trust

Sam's Club Eagan

Target Foundation

The Richard M Schulze Family Foundation

Thank you to these amazing partners for your continued support of the work Neighbors does in our community.

Happy Birthday, Virginia!

In June, volunteer extraordinaire and one of the original founding volunteers at Neighbors, Virginia (Ginger) Milbert, turned 102 years young. To celebrate, we threw a special "\$1.02 sale" in the Clothes Closet Thrift Store, where she continues to volunteer twice a week, and symbolically re-named the store "Virginia's Closet" for the day.



Upcoming Events

A Fun Way to Support Neighbors!



Great Neighbors' Duck Races

Join us during On The Road Again in South St. Paul on Saturday, October 5 from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. for the annual Great Neighbors' Duck Races fundraising event. Cheer on hundreds of rubber ducks as they compete in a series of races throughout the day. Ducks can be "adopted" for \$5 each. Prizes for each race. This year's grand prize is a \$500 shopping trip! Download a duck adoption certificate today at neighborsmn.org/neighbors-events/



Walk to End Hunger

Give back before giving thanks.

Walk with hunger fighters from across Minnesota on Thanksgiving morning at the Mall of America. Money raised at this event is used to help eliminate hunger throughout our community. Walk with Team Neighbors or start your own team! Can't make it? Become a "Sleep Walker!" For more information and to register, visit walktoendhunger.org



It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play Benefit Night

Thursday, December 5 at 7 p.m. at The Saint Paul Hotel

There's no better way to kick off the holiday season than watching this beloved classic holiday tale come to life in a way you've never experienced before! Thanks to the generosity of the cast, crew and hotel, all proceeds from this performance will benefit Neighbors. Tickets on sale soon.

If you have any questions about an event or have a benefit event you'd like to tell us about, contact Heidi at 651-306-2154 or heidi@neighborsmn.org. Event sponsorship opportunities also available. For information about all Neighbors events and community partner events, visit: neighborsmn.org/neighbors-events/.



Great Neighbors' Duck Races



Walk to End Hunger



It's A Wonderful Life

Mailing List Updates

Neighbors News is a 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 651-306-2149 or email darcy@neighborsmn.org.

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

Monthly E-Newsletter

Sign-up for our monthly e-news blast! In an effort to be more environmentally friendly and to continue to stay in touch with you about what is happening at Neighbors, we are reducing the number of newsletters we mail out each year and have launched a new electronic newsletter via email. If you are interested in signing up for it, please email us at: info@neighborsmn.org.

Neighbors Turns 50 in 2022

In 2022, Neighbors will celebrate its 50th anniversary. To prepare for this milestone anniversary, we are looking for help from the community. We'd love to collect any photos, memories or stories you have to share with us. Items can be brought to Neighbors or sent to Heidi at heidi@neighborsmn.org. Interested in helping organize anniversary celebrations? We are currently forming a volunteer committee.

Call 651-306-2154 for more information.

NEIGHBORS, INC.

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

Recipient Name

Street Address

City, ST ZIP Code