Neighbors Express
Offering Daily Food Support

Neighbors recently created a new space and structure for the daily food distribution of fresh fruits, vegetables, bread and other items, called Neighbors Express. Neighbors Express offers a variety of food donated from retail and grocery partners as a way to help fill the gap for families experiencing food insecurity in our community. Visits can be made daily to Neighbors Express. On average, 145 individuals visit Neighbors Express each day.

A few weeks ago, a woman came to us who didn’t have an extra dollar to spend on food until the end of the week. She visited Neighbors Express every day and found something to eat for dinner each day. She was very appreciative for the support during this difficult week.

“Neighbors Express is a simple program that makes a big impact. Together with a small group of dedicated volunteers, we provide a great variety of fresh foods to thousands each month,” says Susan Schroeder, Director of Mission Fulfillment.

Neighbors Express is located on the lower level of the Neighbors building. Its hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. until noon and 1 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. It is open to the public. Volunteers are needed to help run the Neighbors Express program. If you are interested in finding out more about this service area, please contact Jenny at 651-272-1133.
Making the Holidays Brighter
Over the years, the Holiday Gift Program at Neighbors has helped hundreds of families in our community celebrate the holidays in spite of financial distress. In 2019 we gave this program an exciting new update and improved the overall experience. We streamlined the application process, designed a new office set-up and created a computerized dual-language wish list program for recipients. For donors we offered an online sign-up form, extended drop off hours and made gift wrapping optional. The changes worked wonderfully and enhanced the experience. The new processes maximized staff and volunteer time, reduced the impact of language barriers, increased the amount of donors and made everything operate more smoothly!

Each year recipients are given the opportunity to send a thank you note to the donors who have provided their gifts. This year’s printed thank you note featured the winning artwork of one of our guests who participated in our ‘Christmas in July’ youth coloring contest. As one recipient wrote in her card, “May you be blessed always, as your giving spirit will never be forgotten.”

Thank you to everyone who worked to make this season a success!

- Scott Andrews, Program Manager

MN FoodShare March Campaign
March 1 – April 12, 2020

Donations of food and funds during the month of March are important to keep the shelves stocked in our food shelf. “Food donations are investments in the health and well-being of our community,” said Susan Schroeder, Director of Mission Fulfillment. With your generous support, we can meet our increased goal of 350,000 pounds of food and dollars during this year’s campaign in order to keep up with the demand for food assistance in our community. In 2019, individual visits to our food shelf increased by 13%.

Why March? March is the designated month when food shelves from across the state engage in a friendly competition to see who can raise the most pounds of food and/or monetary donations. Additional grant money is allocated based on overall ranking.

We would love your help! Contact Darcy at 651-306-2149 for more information about organizing a food and/or fund drive, hosting a speaker at your next meeting or getting supplies like posters and donation collection barrels. Thank you for your support.
Volunteer Opportunities

NEW!
Neighbors’ Service Days

Designated dates for families, community groups, youth groups and others to come together to volunteer at Neighbors.

To register, visit neighborsmn.org/volunteers
Upcoming Service Day:
Saturday, March 28

Neighbors has ongoing volunteer opportunities in the following areas: Neighbors Express, Clothes Closet Thrift Store, Transportation Program, Food Rescue/Donation Pick Up, Food Shelf and Welcome Center.

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

Group Volunteer Work Station

Volunteer groups now have their own work station specifically designed for them at Neighbors. Also included in this reorganized space are service project kits that can be completed at home.

Clothes Closet Thrift Store
Winter Hours

Monday: Donations only
Tuesday through Thursday: 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Friday: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday: Closed

Stay up to date with the latest sales and promotions by following the Neighbors Clothes Closet Thrift Store on Facebook and Instagram!

Great Neighbors’ Food Fight
Burger Battle 2020

This year eight local restaurants are competing in our most delicious fundraiser of the year – the Great Neighbors’ Food Fight burger battle! You can purchase a Food Fight card from Neighbors and then try the highlighted burger at each of the participating restaurants between February 1 and March 31. Vote online for your favorite! All proceeds benefit Neighbors, Inc. Special thanks to our restaurant partners: B-52 Burgers and Brew, BLVD Bar + Grille, Cherokee Tavern, Hamburguesas El Gordo, Inver Grove Brewing, Jersey’s Bar & Grill, Kaposia Club and Mississippi Pub. For more information or to purchase a card, visit: neighborsmn.org/event/great-neighbors-food-fight/

Foundation Grant Support

Grants from foundations are vital to sustaining our ability to live out our mission each day. In the past quarter, we are grateful for the following grants:
Enterprise Holdings Northwest Area Foundation
Peace Shalom Slaggie Family Foundation
SpartanNash Foundation

Photo of the new group work station at Neighbors.
Mailing List Updates
Neighbors News is a publication of Neighbors, Inc. If you have any changes to your mailing address or wish to be removed from the list, please call 651-306-2149 or email darcy@neighborsmn.org. Neighbors does not sell our mailing list to anyone.

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.

Community Partners
Neighbors is currently accepting applications for Community Partners. If your business or organization is interested in supporting Neighbors through this sponsorship opportunity, please contact Heidi at 651-306-2154 or heidi@neighborsmn.org. Thank you!

New Office Hours
Monday – Friday
9:00 a.m. – noon
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

NEIGHBORS, INC.
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