

neighborsnews

Neighbors Express is on the Move!

When COVID-19 hit almost a year ago, we had to re-evaluate our popular Neighbors Express daily drop-in food support program. What at first seemed like an unfortunate situation quickly turned into an opportunity for us to share our resources with local housing complexes whose residents struggle with low income and transportation barriers. We first partnered with an apartment complex in West St. Paul and because of the dedication of the apartment staff, organization of Neighbors' staff and support from volunteer drivers, we were able to make it an official Neighbors Express satellite food shelf location within a few short months. Currently, we transport food to this location three times a week and, in December, over 300 visits were made for food assistance. We are excited to be expanding Neighbors Express in the near future to two more sites at housing communities in South St. Paul. We are proud of our new Express locations and the positive benefits of providing smaller food access sites, such as: decreasing the risk of infection spread, improving access to nutritious food and fostering a sense of community between neighbors. Thank you to everyone who has supported the transition of Neighbors Express!

Mission:

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

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Phone: 651-455-5000
www.neighborsmn.org



Clothes Closet Thrift Store Re-Opening Dates:

In-Store Shopping: March 17
 Initial Store Hours: Wednesdays & Fridays
 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
 Donations: April 7

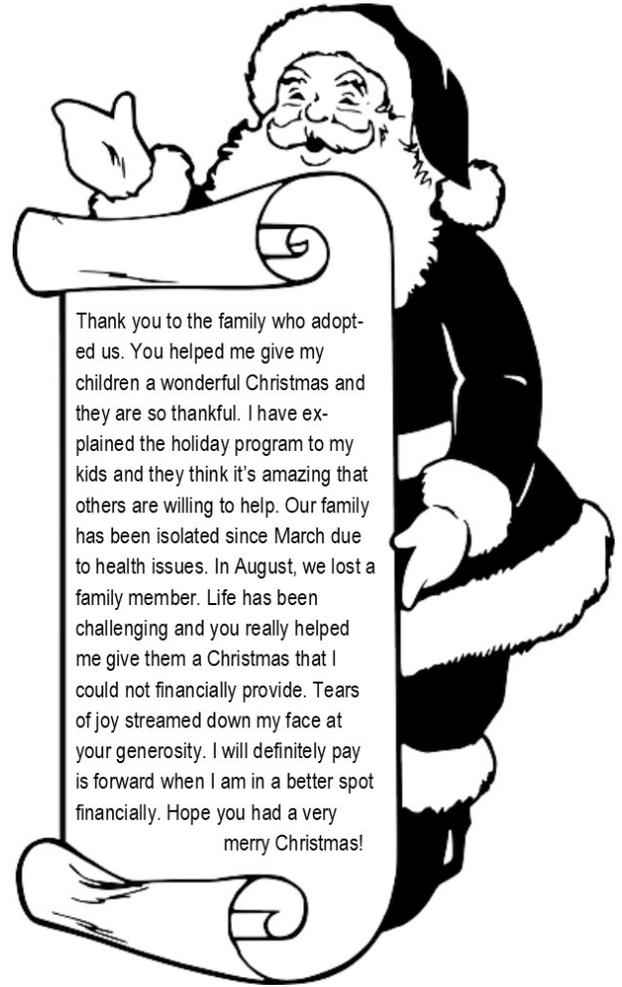
For an updated list of accepted donation items, please visit: neighborsclothescloset.org.

If you are interested in volunteering at the Clothes Closet, contact Jenny at jsanford@neighborsmn.org.

Watch for additional store hours in the coming months.

Holiday Gift Program Wraps Up Christmas Season

Thank you to everyone who supported the Neighbors Holiday Gift Program in 2020! With your help, we provided gifts to 1,625 children and seniors. Many alterations were made to safely accommodate the program during COVID. Recipients were able to sign up and complete their wish lists online or over the phone. Appointments were scheduled for both dropping off and picking up gifts to reduce crowding in our building. We were even able to deliver gifts to some homes (just like Santa) when access to reliable transportation was a barrier. It was great to help bring joy into people's lives this holiday season.



Thank you to the family who adopted us. You helped me give my children a wonderful Christmas and they are so thankful. I have explained the holiday program to my kids and they think it's amazing that others are willing to help. Our family has been isolated since March due to health issues. In August, we lost a family member. Life has been challenging and you really helped me give them a Christmas that I could not financially provide. Tears of joy streamed down my face at your generosity. I will definitely pay is forward when I am in a better spot financially. Hope you had a very merry Christmas!

Latest Round of Remodeling at Neighbors

Neighbors continues to find ways to use our space more safely, efficiently and productively. Check out the improvements below to some of the areas in our food shelf.



New food marking area.



Former Neighbors Express room conversion.

MN FoodShare March Campaign

March 1 – April 11, 2021



Minnesota FoodShare is the largest food and fund drive of the year for Neighbors. Donations during the month of March are essential to help us keep our shelves stocked throughout the year. “During the pandemic we have adapted our food support programs to meet emerging needs. In addition to our food shelf, we have added a food delivery service and a satellite food shelf location in West St. Paul. In order to continue these innovative services, we need the support of the community now more than ever,” said Charlie Thompson, Neighbors’ President and CEO. With your generous support, we can meet our combined goal of 400,000 pounds of food and dollars during this year’s campaign in order to keep up with the demand for food assistance.

We would love your help! Contact Darcy at 651-306-2149 for more information about organizing a donation drive or getting supplies like posters, videos and donation collection barrels. Safe and secure financial donations can be made on our website at: neighborsmn.org/donate. Thank you in advance for your support!

This is the 40th anniversary of Minnesota FoodShare and 39th year Neighbors has participated.

Volunteer Alumni Program

The last year has been quite a rollercoaster for our volunteers! For safety reasons, Neighbors paused all onsite volunteering twice, and while we have welcomed many volunteers back after our pauses, there are friends we continue to miss.

For those who do not plan to return to volunteer with us, we would still like to stay in touch. To do so, we have created a new Neighbors Alumni Program. We would like to invite our retiring volunteers to be part of this new group. Being a Neighbors Alumni will enable you to keep up-to-date with our communications, be eligible for discounts offered to volunteers and be invited to events as they resume. Let us know if you would like to join this group of fellow volunteer alumni. To sign up, send Jenny an email at jsanford@neighborsmn.org or call her at 651-272-1133.

Thank you all for your service to help your neighbors in need. Volunteers truly are the heart of Neighbors.



New Volunteer Opportunity: Mission Boosters

A variety of at-home projects are posted for active volunteers on our online scheduling platform. Volunteers who sign up arrange to pick-up directions and supplies at Neighbors and complete these mission boosting activities from home.

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! Keep in touch with what is happening at Neighbors each month. If you are interested in signing up, email us at: info@neighborsmn.org.

Contact Us

Our building may be unavailable to the public, but we continue to help and serve our community. The best way to reach us is to call us at: 651-455-5000.

Share Your Neighbors Memories

In 2022, Neighbors will commemorate 50 years of service. We are so grateful to the community for their continued support and we'd love to gather as many stories, photos and artifacts as we can to help us celebrate together. If you, a friend or family member have been involved with Neighbors, send us a note and tell us about it. We'd love to hear from you! A link has been set-up on our website to share your stories with us. Visit www.neighborsmn.org to share. Artifacts and other items can be mailed to: Attn: Neighbors 50th Anniversary, 222 Grand Avenue West, South St. Paul, MN 55075.



NEIGHBORS, INC.

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

Recipient Name

Street Address

City, ST ZIP Code