

# neighborsnews

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

## Board Members

Beth Baumann, Chair  
 Scott Nugent, Past Chair  
 Anne S. Johnson, Vice Chair  
 Bill Flatley, Treasurer  
 Gwendoln Labovitch, Secretary  
 John Bennett  
 Holly Brannan  
 RJ Cetnarowski  
 Gloria Contreras Edin  
 Shari Hansen  
 Sandra Lee Perez  
 Jaime Witte

Phone: 651-455-5000  
 Fax: 651-455-1319  
[www.neighborsmn.org](http://www.neighborsmn.org)



*L to R: Harv Bartz, John Kemp & Charlie Thompson*

Recently, I had the opportunity to spend time with two of my predecessors and former Neighbors' Executive Directors Harv Bartz and John Kemp. We got together to record an interview for Neighbors' upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2022.

We each shared stories about our time at Neighbors through the years—including some of the challenging times we have been through as an organization. Throughout its existence, one thing has remained constant: Neighbors has continued to provide opportunities for our neighbors to thrive by connecting volunteers to people in need. The common reason for that survival has been and will always be the support we receive from the community.

On February 10, 1972, without much fanfare, a name was chosen for this organization. The meeting minutes state: "Various names for the organization were proposed and the name 'Neighbors' was the unanimous choice." Nearly fifty years later, we continue to live up to that name as you continue to support us with generosity and kindness to help our neighbors in need.

As we continue to serve through the latest crisis, I recognize all that has come before this time and all that will come after it. The past volunteers and leaders prepared us for the present. We continue to serve no matter what comes our way. And, even now, in the midst of a pandemic, we are planning for the future.

In Service, Charlie

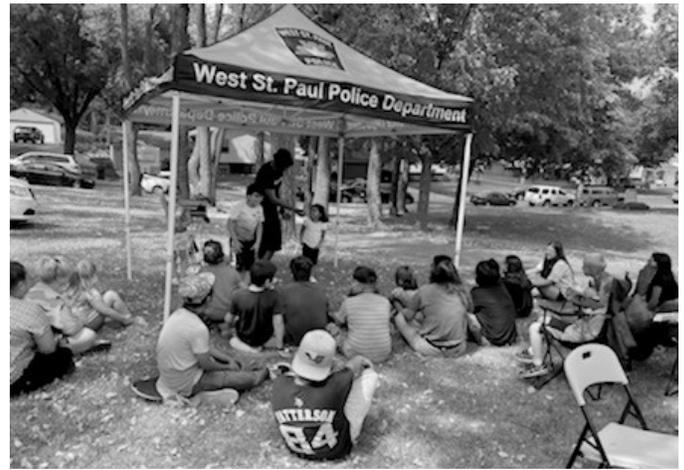
## Partner Highlight: West St. Paul Police Department

Neighbors is proud to partner with a variety of local organizations, agencies, faith communities and schools to help provide resources for our neighbors to thrive. One of the agencies we partner with is the West St. Paul Police Department. Throughout the summer months, Neighbors was invited to be part of the police department's weekly Garlough / Moreland Collaborative at Southview Park, where we distributed healthy food to West St. Paul residents. Neighbors also attended the end-of-the-summer "Cops in the Park" event to offer food and resources to community members. Laura Vaughn, Crime Prevention Specialist with the West St. Paul Police Department, said, "Nonprofit organizations like Neighbors play a vital role in building healthy communities."

The West St. Paul Police Department places an important emphasis on their community outreach efforts. "Community outreach is the first step in creating a positive working relationship with our community members," Vaughn said. "Community partnership is what makes a community. It would be very difficult for a community to thrive without partnerships. The relationships created between organizations is what builds the trust in the community. In law enforcement, we rely on those partnerships to help us build trust among residents in our communities. I like to think community partnership is like one piece of the puzzle. We get all the right pieces together and we can make a community that will thrive together and where everyone will feel welcome and safe."

Neighbors shares the philosophy that community collaboration is important. Neighbors welcomes ways to increase access to food and other resources within the community we serve. Many times it is through community partnerships and collaborations that we are able to expand our reach and provide access to food and essential services. Thank you, West St. Paul Police Department for all you do to help our community thrive!

Photo credit: West St. Paul Police Department



This year, Neighbors has been chosen as the benefitting non-profit agency for the annual "Hold the Line Charity Hockey Game" between local fire and police departments. Event highlights include watching local heroes compete on the ice, a 50/50 raffle, and a Chuck-A-Duck competition. Concessions available thanks to the South St. Paul Lions Club. Game entry also gets you in to the after party at Dunhams in West St. Paul where there will be a free taco bar, live music and raffle prizes. See you there!

## Fundraising Events Return

Neighbors events are back! As with many things over the past 18 months, planning for events has had its challenges (to say the least). We've learned a lot about technology and new ways to deliver event experiences. We are so grateful to our community for continuing to support us through it all. Going forward, you will notice that many of our traditional in-person events will include a virtual component to them. We want to make sure everyone who wants to be involved feels included and comfortable – whether or not they are able to attend in person. We hope you will join us for one or more of our incredible upcoming events.

- Heidi Satre, Marketing & Events Manager

### Great Neighbors' Duck Races

The ducks are back racing on Southview Blvd during *On The Road Again* on Saturday, October 2. Reserve your ducks in advance by returning the certificate included in this newsletter or get them at the event. Lots of great prizes including the grand prize—a Weber Smokefire Grill.

### Give to the Max Day

Join us online for Minnesota's annual day of giving on Thursday, November 18! More information can be found at: [givemn.org](http://givemn.org).

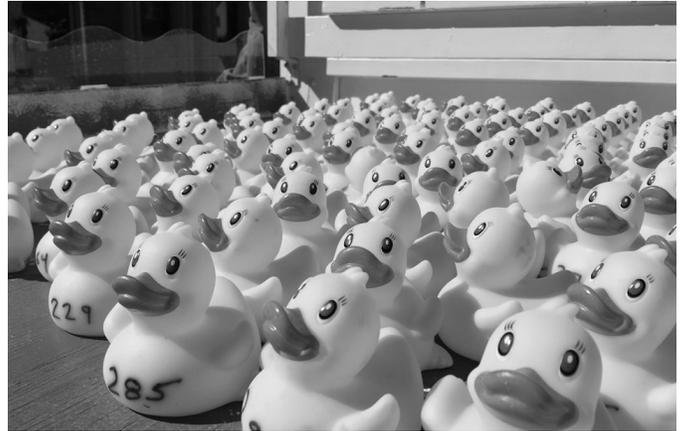
### No Hunger November / Walk to End Hunger

Help us stock the shelves during the month of November. The holidays can be a stressful time for those in need of food. You can make a difference by walking to help end hunger in our community. Online and in-person event opportunities available. For more information, visit: [walktoendhunger.org](http://walktoendhunger.org).

### It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play

Neighbors will once again be the beneficiary of a charity performance of *It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play* at The Saint Paul Hotel on Tuesday, November 30. Tickets on sale soon.

## Upcoming Neighbors Events



TO THE  
**give** **MAX**  
Nov. 18, 2021



*For up-to-date information on any of our events, please visit [neighborsmn.org/neighbors-events](http://neighborsmn.org/neighbors-events) or call Heidi at 651-306-2154.*

## Holiday Gift Program

*It's beginning to feel a lot like Christmas!*

Neighbors is gearing up for the 2021 Holiday Gift Program. With the help of our gift sponsors, 1,600 children and 100 seniors experiencing poverty in our community will have a brighter Christmas. Many of the changes made last year in response to COVID-19 will continue. For everyone's safety, applicants will sign up over the phone and create their wish lists online. Gift drop-offs and pick-ups will continue to be scheduled to reduce crowding and promote social distancing. Neighbors is committed to do our best to provide a safe, organized and festive experience for participants, sponsors and volunteers. We are ready to bring on the Christmas spirit!



## Holiday Food & Fund Drives

**Ways to support Neighbors' hunger relief programs during the holiday season:**

- **Organize a food collection drive.**  
Neighbors welcomes donations of non-perishable food items to distribute in our food programs. For more information and resources, please contact Darcy at 651-306-2149.
- **Donate online.**  
Financial donations can be made securely online at: [neighborsmn.org/donate](https://neighborsmn.org/donate)
- **Purchase a pre-packaged grocery bag.**  
Grocery store partners (including Knowlan's, Oxendale's and Cub Foods) have pre-packed donation bags available to purchase.



### Holiday Gift Program Dates

- Sept. 14th:** Applications for assistance open  
Call 651-455-5000 to apply
- Oct. 1st:** Gift sponsor sign-up  
Online sponsor form available at:  
[neighborsmn.org/holiday-donations](https://neighborsmn.org/holiday-donations)

Gift drop-offs and pick-ups will be scheduled directly with recipients and sponsors. For more information, visit: [neighborsmn.org/holiday-gift-program](https://neighborsmn.org/holiday-gift-program).

### Holiday Volunteers Needed

If you are interested in volunteering with the Holiday Gift Program, log-on to our Volunteer Portal to sign-up or send us an email at: [volunteer@neighborsmn.org](mailto:volunteer@neighborsmn.org).

## Introducing ... Our Newest Program: Financial Empowerment



Neighbors's Financial Empowerment Program was created to address the complex needs of people experiencing financial problems. Our mission for helping to create thriving communities inspired us to develop services to help clients whose financial issues are an obstacle to their wellbeing.

Program services include financial counseling, coaching and education. Participants gain the knowledge and skills they need to reach their goals. The program also provides access to important tools and information like credit reports and scores, safe and affordable banking products, asset building supports and ways to manage and decrease debt.

Program staff include trained financial counselors with human services backgrounds. If you or someone you know would like to find out more or access our financial empowerment services, call 651-455-5000 to make an appointment.

Watch for more updates and news about our Financial Empowerment program and services in upcoming newsletters and publications.

### Program Participant Benefits:

- FREE and confidential
- Bilingual (Spanish & English options)
- Access to credit score report
- Certified notary onsite

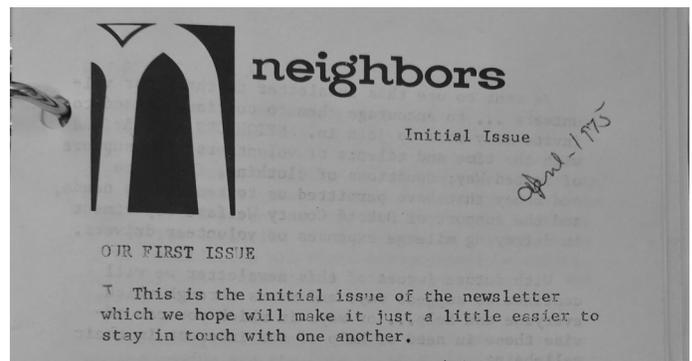
## A Logo That Lasts

*Originally printed in "The Story of Neighbors, Inc." for our 30th Anniversary*

Lyndon Lockrem became involved with Neighbors not long after his church, Good Shepherd Lutheran in Inver Grove Heights, joined the roster of member congregations in 1972.

A graphic designer by profession, Lyn volunteered to produce Neighbors first brochure in January 1975. He described it to the board as a "silent salesman" that would spread the word about services available and let people know how to volunteer.

As part of the project, Lyn met with Bob Adams, Bob's wife Ginnie, who was an artist, Burt Seeker, a Neighbors volunteer who was in marketing at 3M, and Joan Rhodes from Neighbors. Together they brainstormed about an image that would represent all that Neighbors was. Lyn Lockrem recently described it as reflecting a church window, but also serving as the letter "N" in Neighbors. Others think of it as an open doorway or arch to all the things that Neighbors provides. Whatever one sees in the image, it is a powerful, and now instantly recognizable, symbol that has served Neighbors well for nearly thirty years.



neighborsinc.

*Images: Top—first logo printed on the initial issue of the newsletter (1975); Left—logo used on an annual report in 1980's; Right—present day logo*

## Donor Survey

Thank you to everyone who was able to complete the online donor survey that was recently shared in our electronic newsletter. We received some wonderful feedback so far and would love to hear from anyone who has not yet had the opportunity to share with us their donor experience.

Here is an example of several of the top answers responders gave when asked:

*“What inspires you to give to Neighbors, Inc?”*

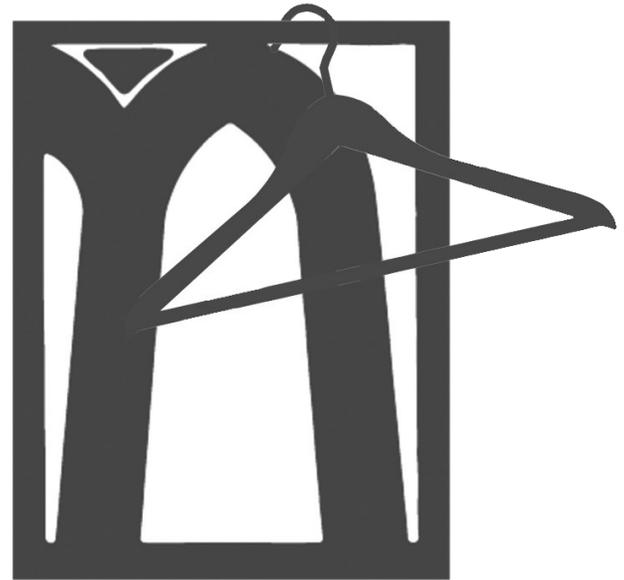
service  
Proud  
Stays Local  
Food  
Volunteer  
Neighbors  
community  
basic SUPPORT  
donate  
Staff Programs

If you have donated to Neighbors, we invite you to complete the survey to help us continue to improve. The survey can be accessed with the following link: <https://forms.office.com/r/y3KqNN1Nzb>

Thank you for your feedback!



Augustana Lutheran Church in West St. Paul's Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign theme was "Hit the Mark." If their donation goal of 45,000 pounds and/or dollars was reached, Senior Pastor Mark Aune would sit in a dunk tank and let donors try their best to sink him. They exceeded their goal and Rev. Aune was true to his word (and a good sport!) Thank you, Augustana for your generosity!



## Clothes Closet Thrift Store: Providing Essential Items

Sarah\* received a clothing gift card this morning to help prepare for the arrival of her new baby and assist with getting her son outfitted to start kindergarten. Preparing for a new baby at the same time as back to school shopping can be stressful and expensive. Neighbors was able to lighten this load for Sarah and her family. In addition to using her gift cards in the Clothes Closet, the food shelf team took extra care to send home newborn and size one diapers because "you never know how big the baby will be."

Gift cards to the Clothes Closet are provided to people in our community experiencing need. Last month, 29 families were helped with store gift cards.

Donations of clothing and household items can be made during store hours. The Clothes Closet is in need of children's clothing / shoe donations. For more information, visit: [neighborsclothescloset.org](http://neighborsclothescloset.org).

The Clothes Closet is open to the public for shopping.

*\*Names and identifying information changed for privacy.*



Special thanks to the Richard M Schulze Family Foundation for their support! Neighbors received a grant from their organization in July.

Thank you to the following organizations for their support:

# THANK YOU TO OUR 2021 COMMUNITY PARTNERS



AMVETS #1



invitation homes



## 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](mailto: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 subscribing, please visit: [neighborsmn.org/email-updates](http://neighborsmn.org/email-updates).

## Submit a Memory

Share your memories! Neighbors will be commemorating our 50th anniversary soon and we want to hear from you. Share your stories, photos and memories with us. Hop online at [neighborsmn.org/anniversary-memories](http://neighborsmn.org/anniversary-memories) to share or you can mail your items to us. We are excited to hear from you!

## Neighbors, Inc.

222 Grand Avenue West  
South St. Paul, MN 55075



### 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.

#### Recipient Name

Street Address

City, ST ZIP Code