

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

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neighborsnews

Results Are in for Minnesota FoodShare

Thanks to the generosity of our community, Neighbors received an amazing **422,330 pounds/dollars** during the 2021 Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign! You helped us exceed our goal of 400,000 pounds/dollars, which will enable us to provide even more support to our neighbors in need.

A message from Darcy, our Minnesota FoodShare Campaign Coordinator:
We are so grateful to our partners in the faith community, corporate partners, grocery store partners, and thousands of individuals who provided gifts that will be proportionally matched later in the year. We enjoyed seeing and hearing about the creative ideas you came up with for your food and fund drives. From having the Mayor on the Roof fundraiser to 'buying' a picture of a paper bag filled with food, to a Pastor being dunked in a dunk tank, to neighborhood food drives - we are very thankful for the involvement of our community. It's neighbors helping neighbors that make a difference!

Our Food Programs Manager, Scott, shares how important your donations are:
What does all that food and money mean for Neighbors? More help for our community! Because of your donations, we are able to provide a generous amount of healthy food to those who need it. The food goes directly to families and seniors being served in our food programs – including curbside to-go pick-up, home delivery or at one of our Neighbors Express food distribution sites. The funds allow us to purchase food at discounted rates from food banks. Depending on the item, we can purchase up to ten times what you might be able to buy in the grocery store for the same amount. We are grateful for everything we received and are overwhelmed by your support!



Mayor Francis' fundraiser



Darcy with Pre-Packed Donation Bags

Non-Profit 101 Class

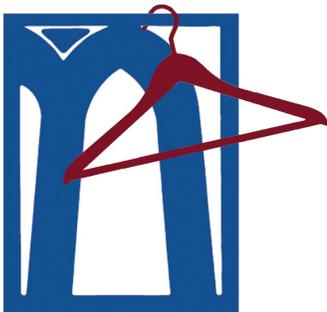
This spring Neighbors welcomed three high school seniors to participate in a 16-week internship to learn about a variety of career opportunities in the non-profit sector. The students spent time with staff members to learn about their roles and got hands-on experience meeting the needs of the community. They made positive impacts for our neighbors in need.



Photos of food drive donation barrels and students.

“Our final project in Non-Profit 101 was to plan, create and execute a food drive. Within the process of this we learned about the vision and technicalities that would go into our food drive. We picked a target audience, decided on dates and themes, created posters and flyers and set a goal. Overall, we had a lot of fun here at Neighbors, Inc. learning about and experiencing the world of non-profits.” – Janessa, Lucia and Diana

Providing Clothing and Household Items



Since re-opening in mid-March, more than 50 families have received certificates for free clothing and household items in the Clothes Closet. For more info about this program, call 651-455-5000.

Neighbors Offers Legal Kiosk

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many components of our legal system were moved online, creating a digital divide that has disproportionately impacted communities across Minnesota. Access to receiving legal assistance has become limited for individuals with barriers to transportation and technology. To help address this issue, the Minnesota Legal Services Coalition launched its “Legal Kiosk” program. This program consists of a network of computer stations set-up within community locations and non-profit organizations. The kiosks are designed to connect users to civil legal information, self-help services and promote safe interactions with civil legal aid experts. (For more information on this program and its services, visit www.legalkiosk.org)

Neighbors is one of the locations for a Legal Kiosk station. It is available by appointment on Tuesdays and Thursdays. To schedule an appointment, please call 651-455-5000.



New Refrigerated Cargo Van

Be on the lookout for a new van driving around town! Thanks to grant funding from Hunger Solutions and the Minnesota Department of Human Services, Neighbors was able to purchase a new refrigerated van for our food delivery programs.



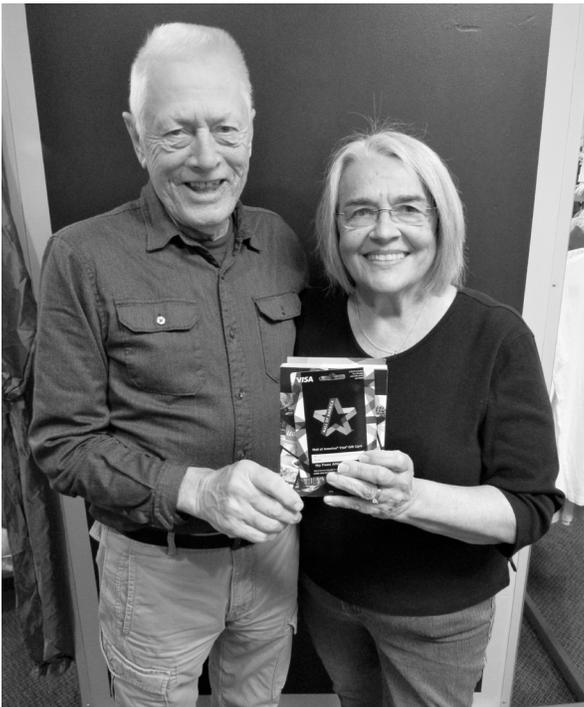
Donor Highlight: The Bentsons

For the past 31 years, the Bentsons have been volunteering for and donating financially to our work at Neighbors. They are a dual force of good and demonstrate compassion and cheer in all they do!

When you ask Solveig and Bruce Bentson what it is about Neighbors that makes them want to be involved, they always say ‘the people.’ Solveig says she likes improving the “probability for possibilities” for people who are struggling. The Bentsons share in Neighbors’ value of generosity and serve with a passion to help their neighbors thrive.

This past year, Solveig was chosen as the recipient of the Service to Others Humanitarian Recognition (SOHR) award from the SSP / IGH Rotary. This award highlights her work on behalf of others in our community. Congratulations Solveig and thank you both for your unwavering support for your neighbors and Neighbors, Inc.

Pictured below: Bruce & Solveig Bentson



What Volunteers Are Saying...

We asked volunteers how the events of this past year have affected Neighbors:

“Neighbors is doing a good job at keeping up services.”

“It is the sincere effort (of) the Neighbors team to keep Neighbors running. On top of that all the effort to reimagine space use.”

“The new look throughout the building. Much more open and inviting.”

A Note from Charlie

Hello friends,
Welcome to the summer newsletter!

We have learned a lot in the past year and are using that knowledge to shape our future. As we move forward, we will continue to innovate and adapt. Please continue to watch for more information on how we will thrive in our “new normal.”

As always, I want to hear your comments and concerns. Feel free to contact me directly at charlie@neighborsmn.org.

In service,
Charlie Thompson, President & CEO

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.

Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting will be held on Monday, June 14. For more information, please visit: www.neighborsmn.org/annualmeeting

Thank You Volunteers!

We recently celebrated our volunteers during National Volunteer Appreciation Week in April by creating a heart-shaped photo mural using individual photos of volunteers to highlight their service. It is a great visual to showcase the dedication of our volunteers. For those that have not yet returned, we miss you and look forward to welcoming you back when you are ready. For volunteers who are interested in retiring from service, we invite you to become a Neighbors Alumni. For more information, please call us at 651-272-1133 or send us a note at volunteer@neighborsmn.org.



NEIGHBORS, INC.

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