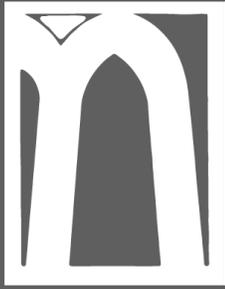


Winter 2022

neighborsnews

Neighbors Turns 50 in 2022!



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
Gwendolyn Labovitch, Secretary

John Bennett
RJ Cetnarowski
Gloria Contreras Edin
Shari Hansen
Sandra Lee Perez



Visit neighborsmn.org for additional 50th anniversary information.



**RESPECT
GENEROSITY
INCLUSION**

Phone: 651-455-5000
Fax: 651-455-1319
www.neighborsmn.org



Brief History of Neighbors

January 1972

First meeting of founding church partners
St. John Vianney first food shelf location

February 1972

Neighbors was selected as official name
Helpline phone number established

June 1972

Clothes Closet opens

December 1974

First distribution of Christmas gifts at West St. Paul Armory (170 families)

Fall 1975

Two additional food shelf locations opened at Church of St. Patrick and Augustana Lutheran

March 1983

Fourth food shelf location at St. Augustine's
First Minnesota FoodShare campaign

Fall 1984

Food shelf, offices and Clothes Closet move into Globe Publishing building making it the first time all three are at same location

April 1987

Neighbors becomes charter member of Minnesota Council of Nonprofits

Spring 1988

Neighbors moves into 13th Avenue location

August 1998

Creation of endowment fund in memory of Burt Seeker

September 2008

First Great Neighbors' Duck Races held

December 2009

Neighbors records more than 1,000 volunteers

Spring 2013

Moved into current Grand Avenue W location

December 2015

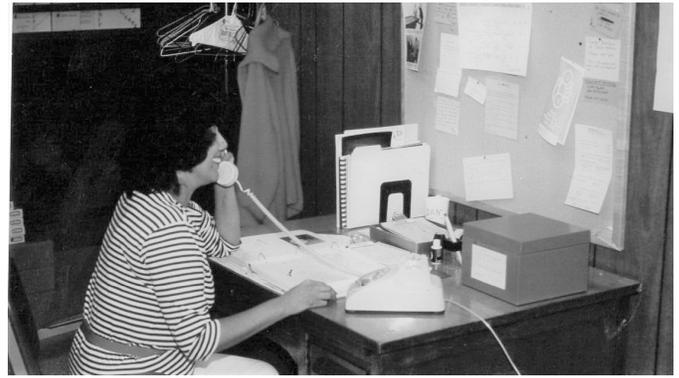
Food donations exceed 1 million pounds

Spring / Summer 2020

COVID pandemic affects operations
Food delivery program begins

Summer / Fall 2021

Neighbors Express satellite food shelves open



Volunteers answered phones installed in local homes, businesses and churches.



Globe Publishing building in South St. Paul



Food shelf & Clothes Closet location on 13th Avenue



Staff and volunteers pictured at "new" location on Grand Avenue West

Holiday Gift Program

More than 1,600 kids + 100 seniors
were given gifts in 2021

A note of thanks from one of the many gift recipients:
Thank you so much for your loving heart and making my kids' wishes possible this Christmas. As a family, we have gone through a lot of things in the past six months, and now thanks to your generosity, my kids will continue to receive beautiful presents this year. Thanks for being a wonderful neighbor. May God bless you always. Merry Christmas

Financial Empowerment Staff



Meet the staff members (L to R: Antonia, Susan & Jenny) who are leading the way to financial wellbeing with our new Financial Empowerment program. For more information about the resources and tools provided in this program, call us at: 651-455-5000.



Foundation Support

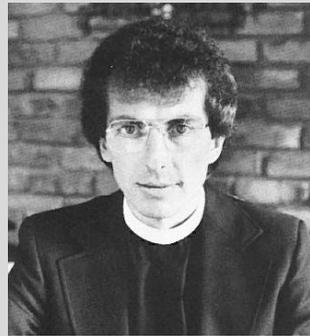
Thank you to the following foundations for their recent support of Neighbors and our programs and services:

Peace Shalom Foundation

Enterprise Holdings Foundation

Otto Bremer Trust

Neighbors Reflections Gary Langness, Retired Pastor



Pastor Gary Langness served at Augustana Lutheran Church in West St. Paul in the early 1970s when Neighbors Director Bob Adams approached the church about becoming a mission partner. Bob specifically asked if Augustana would be interested in supporting Neighbors financially as

well as organizing food collection drives. Pastor Langness recalls being excited for this opportunity to become more involved and said it was "an easy yes." That was just the beginning. As the mission partnership developed and Neighbors became more established, Augustana housed one of the Neighbors food shelf sites at the church and held food collections drives multiple times a year. Augustana enjoyed getting involved in the food drives and connecting with Neighbors. According to Gary, helping others in need is "part of what the gospel is all about!"

Gary grew up as the youngest of four children raised by a widowed mother in a low-income household. Because of his upbringing, Gary said he developed "a heart for people and families who are struggling." Gary believes Neighbors does, too. "Neighbors jumps in and asks how to best serve those who need it most instead of abandoning them. This also comes back to the gospel, where it is important to love your neighbor as yourself. Neighbors exemplifies this in our community," he says. He went on to recognize Neighbors' consistency in serving the community as its biggest milestone in the past 50 years. "It is a significant part of our (Augustana's) ministry and (Neighbors) is a gift everyone should know about."

Gary has been retired from Augustana for 20 years, but the church still supports Neighbors annually through its benevolent giving, involvement in the annual Minnesota FoodShare food and fundraising campaign and various other service projects. "Neighbors and the people involved should be very proud of their work. The leadership and volunteers should take a big bow. They have changed lives and touched so many people. That is something to be proud of. Neighbors is important to the community."

Since retiring, Gary continues to give back in other ways. He and his wife travel to Tanzania each year for three months as part of the Lutheran church's global partnership program with congregations and organizations in Africa. Thank you, Gary!

If you have a memory or story you'd like to share, please visit: neighborsmn.org/anniversary-memories



Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign February 28—April 10, 2022

Each Spring, Neighbors participates in Minnesota FoodShare's March Campaign. This important event helps secure funding and food supplies for food shelves to use throughout the year during times of need AND donations during this campaign go further thanks to proportionately matched funding from the organizing agency, Greater Minneapolis Community Connections. We couldn't do it without YOU! Neighbors relies on the generous support of churches, individuals, schools and businesses to help stock our shelves. For more information about how you can get involved or to request resources for a food drive, please contact Darcy at: darcy@neighborsmn.org / 651-306-2149.

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 subscribing, please visit: neighborsmn.org/email-updates.

Neighbors, Inc.

222 Grand Avenue West
South St. Paul, MN 55075

Recipient Name
Street Address
City, ST ZIP Code