

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
Chrissy Wills
David Wright
Honora Rodriguez
John Bennett
RJ Cetnarowski
Gloria Contreras Edin
Shari Hansen
Sandra Lee Perez

**RESPECT
GENEROSITY
INCLUSION**

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

neighborsnews

Celebrating 50 Years of Service



neighborsinc.

Fifty years ago, volunteers from six churches came together and were determined to help their neighbors through a local crisis. They set up shop in churches and homes. They gathered food and clothing and gave it away. They gave gifts at Christmas to children who otherwise would have none. They called their neighbors to check in and see how they were doing. Neighbors grew into a larger organization with a wider reach. We began expanding our services including providing rides to medical and other essential appointments. With the help of volunteers, we sponsored social events for people with disabilities. We celebrated together at events and luncheons. Neighbors grew some more and through it all exemplified one of the founding organizational principles: love thy neighbor as thy self.

Throughout its history, Neighbors has evolved to meet the needs of the day. While we are taking time to celebrate, it is also important to recognize that the need for Neighbors still exists. One of the ways we are currently mitigating the effects of poverty is by investing in our newest program, Financial Empowerment. This program will focus on improving the financial well-being of the people we serve by connecting them to safe financial resources. We continue to focus on hunger relief and providing essential items through our Clothes Closet Thrift Store.

You are invited to join us on September 16 from 4PM to 7PM and September 17 from 10AM to 3PM at an open house at our building located at 222 Grand Avenue West in South St. Paul. On Friday night, we will have live music, hot dogs and a beer garden. Saturday we will have food trucks, a fashion show and games for the kids (and adults). Both days there will be tours of our building where you will see our remodeled food shelf, new Financial Empowerment Center and the unveiling of a mural commemorating fifty years of Neighbors. It will be a community-wide celebration. I hope you can join us.
- Charlie Thompson, President & CEO

Neighbors' Impact

The Ramirez* family welcomed two daughters in two years! Both husband and wife are college educated. Even with a good salary and insurance, the family got behind on medical bill payments and went to collections. Working with our financial counselors, they learned their two children are eligible for both Medical Assistance and WIC. They set up a payment plan with the hospital and created a plan to pay off the existing debts. They now visit the food shelf monthly to create a little room in their budget to meet their debt reduction goals.

**Names and identifying information changed.*



Our remodeled Welcome Center has transformed into our new Financial Empowerment Center.

Saturday Food Distributions



The third Saturday of each month, our food shelf holds a free “bonus” food distribution event. These food distributions are a way the people we serve can access additional healthy food options. Last month, we served 222 individuals through this distribution. Distributions occur from 10AM—noon. The next distribution will be held on October 15. No advance sign-up is required. Distributions are open to people experiencing need in our community.

\$50K Donation Match Challenge

We are extremely grateful to have received commitments from a private donor and the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation to match up to \$50,000 in donations to secure Neighbors' future. To contribute, visit: neighborsmn.org/donate. Thank you!

JOIN US FOR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION EVENTS

FRIDAY, SEPT. 16 // 4PM—7PM

SATURDAY, SEPT. 17 // 10AM—3PM

You are invited to join the staff and board of directors from Neighbors, Inc. to celebrate our milestone anniversary together. Our generous community has supported Neighbors since the beginning and we want to gather together to say thank you.

Friday: live music, food & drinks

Saturday: family fun day activities

Tour our newly remodeled building

Participate in a volunteer project

Make a tie-dye t-shirt

For more information about our anniversary celebration events, Neighbors' history or opportunities to get involved, visit: neighborsmn.org/50th-anniversary.



All ages are welcome to attend. Events are free and open to the public. Events will be held at Neighbors. Additional parking options will be available.

Volunteers at Work Serving our Community



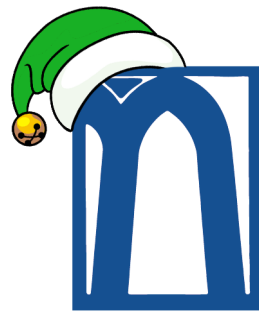
Packing groceries in the food shelf.



Working at the checkout in the Clothes Closet.



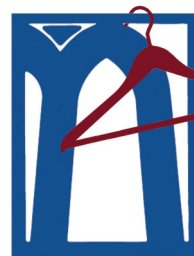
Group food drive.



Support the Holiday Gift Program

Thanks to generous donors, Neighbors has been distributing toys and gifts to families in need in our community for nearly 50 years. This year, along with your help, Neighbors is gearing up for another wonderful season of giving. If you are interested in sponsoring a family, there will be an online form to sign-up posted on our website in early October. If you have previously sponsored a family in the Holiday Gift Program, you will be receiving an email with the link to invite you to sign-up again this year.

More info about the program can be found at: neighborsmn.org/donate/holiday-donations. If you have any questions, please call 651-306-2148.



Clothes Closet Thrift Store New Hours

The Clothes Closet Thrift Store is now open Monday through Friday from 9am to 4pm for both shopping and donation drop-offs. The store is also open for a special sale the third Saturday of each month from 9am—noon.

The store features essential items at affordable prices such as:

- Clothing (all ages)
- Footwear
- Towels
- Pots, pans and other cooking tools
- Dishes and silverware
- Winter jackets and cold weather gear
- Accessories

In addition to providing affordably priced items, gift cards are given to people experiencing a need. For more information, call 651-455-5000.

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 651-306-2148 or email info@neighborsmn.org. Neighbors does not sell our mailing list to anyone.

Monthly E-Newsletter

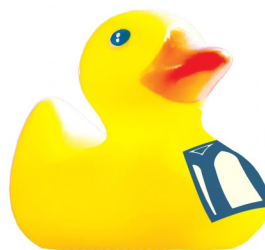
Sign-up for our monthly e-news blast! Keep in touch with what is happening at Neighbors each month. To subscribe, visit: neighborsmn.org/email-updates.

Alumni News

Calling all Alumni Volunteers—we'd like to hear from you! We want to stay connected, so if you have recently moved, please let us know. Email us at: info@neighborsmn.org. We'd love to keep in touch!

Neighbors, Inc.

222 Grand Avenue West
South St. Paul, MN 55075



Great Neighbors'
Duck Races

Join us for the Duck Races!

Saturday, October 1st

11AM—3PM

During *On The Road Again* Festival

GRAND PRIZE: \$500

Adopt a duck and support Neighbors! Ducks will compete in a series of races for prizes. Proceeds from this signature event benefit the emergency and supportive services at Neighbors. Ducks are \$5 each and can be purchased in advance or the day of the event. (No credit cards accepted.) For more information, visit:

neighborsmn.org/event/great-neighbors-duck-races

Recipient Name

Street Address

City, ST ZIP Code