



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

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**RESPECT
GENEROSITY
INCLUSION**

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neighborsnews

A NOTE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DAWN



I am thrilled to have the opportunity to connect with our tremendous network! First and foremost, I want to thank our community for your 51 years of support and partnership with Neighbors. I am truly humbled and inspired by the beautiful ways our community positively impacts our mission every day in profound and incredible ways—thank you! I began serving as the Executive Director with Neighbors on June 12, and I could not be more thrilled to be a part of Neighbors' amazing mission.

I would like to take this opportunity to provide a little background about myself. I have spent my 24-year career in the nonprofit sector, with an emphasis on providing economic empowerment services for diverse communities. My educational background includes a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Southwest Minnesota State University, and a Mini MBA in Nonprofit Management from the University of St. Thomas. I served as the Executive Director with Advance Opportunities (based in Marshall, Minnesota), providing employment training and community integration services for adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities for 11+ years. In the Twin Cities, I have directed a wide array of economic empowerment programming with Pillsbury United Communities, Emerge and CAPI USA.

I have enjoyed meeting many of you and for those that I have not yet met, I look forward to meeting you! Please feel free to reach out to me—I would love to connect: dawn@neighborsmn.org, 651-272-1133 or just stop by. Thank you again; I am honored to join Neighbors and to be a part of a tremendously supportive community.

DUCK RACE STRUCTURE GETS AN UPGRADE

More than a decade ago, the Great Neighbors' Duck Races transitioned from a race on the Mississippi River to a series of races during the On The Road Again festival in South St. Paul. During that time, a dedicated volunteer developed a way for us to take the races "on the road" as well by building a wooden tank and chute system. After much love and hundreds of races, our beloved duck chutes are in need of an upgrade. Thanks to another team of dedicated volunteers, donors and community support from South St. Paul Steel and Sierra Metals, we will have new chutes at this year's Duck Races. Come and check them out on Saturday, October 7th! Quack, quack!

HOLIDAY GIFT PROGRAM

Neighbors will once again be relying on the generosity of our community to provide gifts and toys for children and seniors in need this holiday season. Donors will be matched with a family and provided with a 'wish list' of items to purchase for each child or senior in that family. It is a wonderful way to spread holiday cheer! If you have not supported this program in the past and would like to get involved or have questions, please send us an email at: holiday@neighborsmn.org. If you sponsored a family last year, watch your inbox in late October for the link to sign-up again this year. Thank you!



DONATION MATCHES

Neighbors would like to say thank you to the following companies who provided matching donations to their employees' donations to Neighbors last year:

3M	AARP
Ameriprise	Andersen Corporation
Best Buy	Blue Cross Blue Shield of MN
Broadcom Limited	CHS Inc.
Ecolab	Genworth Financial
Jamf Software	Microsoft
RBC	Resolution Life
Securian	Tennant Company
Medtronic	Thomson Reuters
Travelers	United Health Group
US Bank	Vertex Pharmaceuticals
Wells Fargo	



FACTS ABOUT PAYROLL GIVING:

20.4% of individual donations made to Neighbors this year were made through payroll giving. Payroll giving is easy to set up and even easier to maintain. Contact your payroll administrator to find out how you can participate and if your company will match your donations.

NEIGHBORS PARTNERS WITH HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Neighbors' Financial Empowerment Program has been helping clients in our Financial Empowerment Center for the past year. As the program gains momentum, we continue to build partnerships with other helping organizations to add to the suite of services we offer. One of the newest organizations Neighbors has partnered with is Habitat for Humanity. Purchasing a Habitat Home allows a homeowner the opportunity of an affordable monthly mortgage payment. Eligibility for a Habitat Home is dependent upon income, credit score and savings. If someone wants to apply through this program but does not meet the established parameters, Neighbors is one of only 15 referral partners in the Twin Cities Metro who can help get the buyer "Habitat Ready." Through Neighbors' Financial Empowerment Program, participants are provided with quality homebuyer educational materials and given the tools, knowledge and encouragement to build healthy credit and savings.



Twin Cities
Habitat
for Humanity®

Interested participants can schedule an appointment with one of our financial counselors by calling Neighbors at 651-455-5000. We would be happy to discuss all Habitat for Humanity requirements and either assist with the application or create a plan to improve homebuyer eligibility.

Did you know.... Because of the food distributed through our Hunger Relief Program last year, 64,893 individuals in our community had access to a nutritious, balanced meal.



THANK YOU, AMERICORPS!



Through a partnership with Equal Hearts, Neighbors hosted four AmeriCorps members this Summer. We wanted to thank them for their hard work and dedication, and wish them the best in the future. To learn about the AmeriCorps program and its benefits, visit: equalhearts.org.



AmeriCorps



Members: Diane, Ronald, Evan & Emilio

BLUE WEDNESDAY

SALE IN THE CLOTHES CLOSET THRIFT STORE

You're heard of Black Friday sales the day after Thanksgiving and Cyber Monday deals, but have you heard of Blue Wednesday? Blue Wednesday is the Neighbors Clothes Closet Thrift Store's special annual sale day the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. Join us this year on Wednesday, November 22 for special deals, discounts, games and giveaways! Open to all to shop.

Proceeds from sales in the Clothes Closet support the programs and services at Neighbors. All store merchandise is donated by the community. People in need can apply for gift cards to shop for free for clothing and household items through the Neighbors' Financial Empowerment Program.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Great Neighbors' Duck Races Saturday, October 7 11AM—3PM

During South St. Paul's
"On The Road Again" Festival

Join us for a quack-tastic day! This event is open to the public. Ducks can be adopted for \$5 each and will compete in a series of races throughout the day for prizes. This year's Grand Prize is a Night On The Town (including dinner and a hotel stay) for two. All proceeds from duck adoptions benefit Neighbors.



Give to the Max Day Thursday, November 16

Minnesota's online day of giving! Neighbors will be taking donations to support our programs. More information can be found at: givemn.org.

It's A Wonderful Life: Benefit Performance Wednesday, December 6 7:30PM

The Saint Paul Hotel
Tickets: \$45 each / Tables available

Kick-off the holiday season with this heart-felt performance held at the enchanting Saint Paul Hotel. Group and individual tickets are available.

**Additional event information and ticket links
can be found at: neighborsmn.org.**

Neighbors, Inc.

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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 our website at: 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!

HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVES

Interested in supporting Neighbors with a food collection drive this holiday season? Contact Cody at: cody@neighborsmn.org or 651-306-2149 for a list of most-needed items and for assistance with other food drive resources such as collection containers, posters and promotion items. Thank you!



Giving has never been easier! Simply scan the QR code on the right to make a safe and secure online donation to support Neighbors, Inc. Thank you!

