



neighborsinc.

ANNUAL REPORT | 2024-2025

Restoring Hope and Rewriting Futures Since 1972



LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP

As we reflect on this past fiscal year at Neighbors, Inc., we do so with deep pride, gratitude, and optimism for what lies ahead. This year represented a period of thoughtful growth, renewed momentum, and strengthened commitment to serving our community with compassion, dignity, and respect.

Guided by our mission and informed by the evolving needs of our neighbors, we expanded both our programs and our capacity to serve. A key part of this growth has been the expansion of Neighbors' staff to 17 team members, allowing us to respond more effectively, build stronger relationships with guests, businesses, and community members, and ensure our services are delivered with care and consistency. With the additional, dedicated team members, we are better equipped to meet people where they are and walk alongside them with empathy and understanding.

Through our Hunger Relief initiatives, we served more individuals and families than ever before, ensuring access to nutritious food and essential resources during a time of continued uncertainty and rising need. At the same time, our Financial Empowerment Center (FEC) continued to be a vital pathway towards stability, offering the tools to empower and support individuals to build confidence, resilience, and long-term security. Together, these programs reflect Neighbors' holistic approach to addressing both the immediate needs and long-term well being of all our neighbors who walk through our doors.

None of this progress would have been possible without the incredible response from our community. The generosity, advocacy, and trust of our donors, volunteers, and community partners has been instrumental in helping Neighbors grow in ways that truly matter. Your belief in our mission has allowed us to strengthen our services and move closer to fully meeting our neighbors' needs with dignity, compassion, and hope.

This year also marks an important leadership transition for our organization. We are pleased to welcome Dave Wright as Neighbors' new Board Chair for our 2025-2026 fiscal year and look forward to his leadership as we continue to grow and evolve. At the same time, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to Anne Johnson for her two years of dedication and service as Neighbors' Board Chair and are grateful she will remain on the Board for two years as our Immediate Past Board Chair. Anne's steady leadership, vision, and commitment have played a significant role in guiding Neighbors through a period of expansive growth and impact.

As we look ahead, we do so with clarity, confidence, and hope. With a strong team, engaged leadership, and a supportive community behind us, we are excited to deepen partnerships, enhance our programs, and continue building a future where every neighbor feels supported, valued, and empowered.

Thank you for being a part of this journey with us. Together, we are making a meaningful difference in our community.

With our deepest appreciation,

Dave Wright,
Incoming Board Chair



Anne Johnson,
Immediate Past Board Chair



Dawn Wambeke,
Executive Director



Anne Johnson, Board Chair
Dave Wright, Vice Chair
Beth Baumann, Immediate Past Chair
Connie Walker, Treasurer
Robert (Bob) Arnold, Secretary
Shannon Ahern
John Bennett
Eugenio (Mario) Fuentes

Shari Hansen
Ken Krick
Raquel Lundberg
Nicole Rademaker
Honora Rodriguez
Dennis Van Norman
BettyJo Zepeda Zimmerman

Neighbors' Hunger Programs

1,282,392 lbs.

Food Distributed to our Community

7 Satellite Sites



35,655 Children,
59,493 Adults, &
15,403 Seniors



573,803 lbs.

Food Rescued through 9 Partners



Extended Hours

Open in the evening to better serve working families and individuals

\$12,792

Value of clothes given through Virginia's Closet Program



Neighbors' Thrift Store

Neighbors' Financial Empowerment Center

\$26.77

Average Wage Increase for FEC Client



\$450,000

Awarded in grant money through Minnesota's Department of Employment and Economic Development to increase staff capacity and provide funds for job training and placement assistance

Over 300+

Active volunteers who bring our mission to life across all programs and services

27,574

Total amount of volunteer hours given towards our mission



Neighbors' Volunteering



SERVICES

I want to thank Neighbors as well as all of the volunteers for the beautiful blessings they provide.

- Elizabeth, Food Market Guest



I appreciate you regularly acknowledging that mental health is part of the job search process. [...] this says 'someone who cares made this for you!' and I think that's great.

- Charlie, FEC Guest



My voucher helped me get some much needed business clothes for my interview. I feel like I am going to nail it!

- Maggie, Virginia's Closet Guest





**MEET VERONICA
& NAHUEL**

**“NEIGHBORS
GAVE US HOPE”**

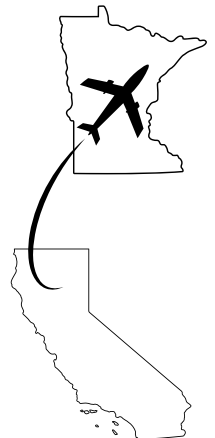


The move from California to Minnesota was born out of necessity and hope. As costs in California continued to rise, Veronica and her family faced mounting pressure just to stay afloat. At the same time, Nahuel was recovering from a burn injury in 2020, and family members traveled from Argentina to help care for him during that critical moment. What started as a practical decision to find a more affordable place to live became a turning point, one rooted in survival, healing, and the search for stability after several years of uncertainty.

Minnesota offered relief from the financial strain, but the transition was far from easy. In the years following the move, the family experienced profound loss, including the death of Veronica's husband from cancer and later, the tragic passing of her other son. Grief started to combine with existing challenges, leaving Veronica as a widow trying to manage bills, housing, and daily life while supporting her children. Despite these challenges, Minnesota slowly became a place where the family could pause, breathe, and begin to rebuild after feeling paralyzed by loss and fear.

Over time, what started as a move to escape the high cost of living became a pathway toward renewal. In Minnesota, Veronica and Nahuel found not only affordability, but also community, opportunity, and the belief in their potential. Through Neighbors, Inc.'s support, encouragement, and resources, Veronica began training for a new career, and Nahuel found meaningful employment and stability.

“
We moved to Minnesota because California was too expensive. And unfortunately, the years after that, it was just tragedy after tragedy in our family. My mom was on her own, just trying to juggle the bills and everything. I couldn't get a job, and it was very, very tough for our family. - Nahuel”





Veronica and Nahuel first came to Neighbors for the Hunger Program services after facing food insecurity. The Food Market offered more than groceries for them, it provided dignity and a sense that they were not alone. As Nahuel shared, **“My first interaction with Neighbors was coming for food support, which helped so much. Not having a job, there were just so many things happening.”** That initial support eased immediate stress and opened the door to a deeper connection with Neighbors’ programs and team members.

▶ 500%

The increase in people served through Neighbors’ Hunger Relief programs and services since 2019.

In Fiscal Year 25 (FY25), Neighbors welcomed 1,346 new households consisting of 4,010 individuals to our Hunger Relief initiatives.

In total, Neighbors’ Hunger Relief programs and services served over 110,000+ individuals.

According to a statewide hunger study conducted by Second Harvest Heartland and the Wilder Foundation, 1 out of every 5 Minnesotans are experiencing food insecurity. Additionally, food shelf visits in Minnesota increased to nearly 9 million in 2024, a 1.4 million increase from 2023.



◆ 24%

Neighbors’ year-over-year increase in food being distributed back into the community from FY24 to FY25.

Nahuel found himself wanting to give back in a meaningful way, marking a full-circle moment in his journey. What began as a place he once turned to for help became a space where he could now support others with the same dignity and care he received. Volunteering in the Financial Empowerment Center and Hunger Relief programs allowed him to reconnect with a sense of community and purpose that had been missing. Reflecting on the experience, Nahuel shared, **“When I came here to volunteer for the first time, it was just a full circle moment, [...] seeing everybody’s faces smiling and all the volunteers, it gave me that warm feeling I felt when I was a kid. Love.”**



Volunteers: Neighbors’ Superpower

Since 1972, Neighbors, Inc. continues to operate each day through the generosity of time donated by our volunteers. In the 2024-2025 fiscal year, Neighbors, Inc. had more than **350+ active volunteers** who ensured that all our programs and services could run efficiently, with dignity, and with a welcoming smile that all our guests could be greeted with. In total, our volunteers gave **more than 27,574 hours towards our mission**. This work was further strengthened by the

leadership and commitment of our 15 Board of Directors, who generously contributed their time, expertise, and guidance in support of Neighbors’ mission and growth.

► **\$1,052,224**

The total value of volunteer hours contributed to Neighbors, calculated using the Independent Sector’s established valuation methodology.

In Minnesota, each hour of volunteer service is valued at \$38.16. This generous investment of time allows Neighbors to significantly reduce operational costs while strengthening day-to-day programs and services, ensuring more resources are directed toward meeting our community's needs.



For Veronica, the Financial Empowerment Center became a turning point. Through 1-on-1 guidance and encouragement, she was able to reconnect with a sense of purpose and begin envisioning a career path that aligned with her compassion and lived experience. The support she received went beyond employment assistance. As Veronica shared about her path into healthcare, **“When I was young, I wanted to become a pediatrician [...] and Rebecca touched my heart again. She reminded me who I was when I was young.”** Veronica is now pursuing training and a career in healthcare.

NEIGHBORS' FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT CENTER: DISRUPTING POVERTY

Neighbors, Inc. was one of 28 organizations to be awarded the Transformative Career Pathways grant through the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED). Neighbors, Inc.'s Financial Empowerment Center engages community members through integrated employment and financial coaching coupled with industry recognized credentials earned through Minnesota of Higher Education certified training partners, targeting family-sustaining wages in a variety of high demand fields including Manufacturing, Trades, Healthcare, and Information Technology.

This \$450,000 DEED grant is restricted to the Financial Empowerment Center and increases staff capacity, provides funds for training and job placement assistance, and enhances the quality and reach of services and programs provided for Financial Empowerment Center guests.



► **\$26.77**

The average increase in wages for Neighbors' Financial Empowerment Center's participants who obtained employment in FY25.

Neighbors, Inc. successfully renewed Minnesota DEED funding and expanded it to include three additional career pathways, with a strategic focus on high-demand fields such as IT, CDL and logistics, and banking. These grants make it possible for us to help individuals achieve meaningful, long-term stability.



The Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines (FHLB Des Moines) has awarded \$20 million through its Member Impact Fund, a matching grant program designed to amplify FHLB Des Moines member financial institutions' charitable contributions that support affordable housing and community development initiatives across Minnesota.

Through this program, Neighbors, Inc. received \$90,000 in combined funding made possible by member financial institutions' contributions, matched by FHLB Des Moines. Six partner institutions, Affinity Plus Federal Credit Union, Gateway Bank, Heartland Credit Union, Key Community Bank, Think Bank, and Vermillion State Bank, generously supported Neighbors' initiative. On the following pages, you can learn more about each of these institutions and read in their own words why they chose to support Neighbors, Inc. and invest in its work in the community.

With 798 applications awarded, FHLB Des Moines matched \$3 for every \$1 contributed by a member institution, resulting in grants ranging from \$10,000 to \$1,000,000 for eligible not-for-profit and government organizations.



The Affinity Plus Foundation proudly awarded a \$10,000 Food Security Grant to Neighbors, Inc. in 2025, recognizing their commitment to addressing food insecurity in local communities. Neighbors, Inc. has consistently demonstrated their impactful work in ensuring families have dependable access to nutritious food, which made them a deserving recipient of this grant.

With the support of this grant, Neighbors, Inc. expanded the reach of their food shelf, The Nook, enabling them to serve 10,000 additional families in need. This increased capacity not only strengthens their ability to fight hunger but also reinforces their mission of providing essential needs services to low-income community members. The Affinity Plus Foundation is honored to partner with Neighbors, Inc. in this vital work.



We selected Neighbors, Inc. as our charity of choice because of the significant and positive impact they have on our local community. Their programs provide essential support to individuals and families in need, including food assistance, clothing, and emergency services. We greatly value their mission of promoting dignity and self-sufficiency, which aligns with our commitment to helping others thrive during challenging times.

Supporting Neighbors, Inc. reflects Gateway Bank's longstanding dedication to strengthening the communities we serve. For over two decades, we have partnered with organizations that make a tangible difference, demonstrating that our role in the community extends beyond banking. We are proud to contribute to a cause that brings hope and vital resources to those who need them most.



We've proudly partnered with Neighbors, Inc. for many years, united by a shared passion for serving our community. From personal care and winter coat drives to holiday gift-giving programs and Thanksgiving meal packing, we've been grateful for the opportunity to work alongside Neighbors, Inc. to support those in need. We were honored to select Neighbors, Inc. as our charity of choice for the Federal Home Loan Bank Impact Fund grant program. This donation is a small but meaningful way to recognize and support the vital work they do—meeting immediate needs while helping families build long-term stability.

At Heartland Credit Union, we live by the credit union philosophy of People Helping People. Each October, we join credit unions across the state for CUForward Day, a day dedicated to giving back. Through this initiative, our team has volunteered at Neighbors, Inc., supporting their behind-the-scenes efforts so they can continue focusing on the incredible work they do every day. Thank you, Neighbors, Inc., for strengthening the lives of our neighbors and our community.



Key Community Bank was proud to choose Neighbors, Inc. as one of the recipients of the FHLB Member Impact Fund grants, where our direct contribution was amplified by FHLB's matching grant program. For more than two years, Key Community Bank employees have donated their time on a weekly basis to support one of Neighbors, Inc.'s food distribution programs. Our two organizations share a dedication to supporting local families and strengthening the communities we serve. Neighbors, Inc.'s mission aligns closely with our values of compassion, integrity, and service, making it a natural partner in our community outreach efforts.

At Key Community Bank, community commitment is more than a statement—it is at the heart of everything we do. From sponsoring local programs to volunteering our time, we believe in helping our neighbors thrive. By supporting Neighbors, Inc. through the FHLB Member Impact Fund, we reaffirm our promise to give back where it matters most: right here at home. Together, we are investing in a stronger, more connected community.



Neighbors, Inc. is a valued community partner, and it was a joy to watch our donation triple with the support of Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines Community Impact Fund. Our gift was an investment in the strength of our community. We believe in your commitment to ensuring that families and individuals have access to financial empowerment support to help build brighter and better futures.



It was an easy choice to help Neighbor's, Inc. through the Member Impact Fund of FHLB of Des Moines! We appreciate how the organization has been so consistent in creating strong foundations for opportunity in the community.

We look forward to seeing this gift play a key role in the advancement of the financial empowerment center where Neighbors, Inc. will help develop such an invaluable skill for those in the community.

FOOD RESCUE & EXPRESS



Neighbors, Inc. receives a significant portion of its food through partnerships with local Food Rescue organizations. In FY25 alone, our Food Market received **573,803 pounds of donated food** that would have otherwise gone to waste.

We are deeply grateful to the Food Rescue partners who help ensure our Food Market appointments and express site distributions consistently offer a wide variety of nutritious options. Special recognition goes to: **Cub Foods in West St. Paul; Knowlan's Fresh Foods; Kwik Trip in Eagan; Kwik Trip in South St. Paul; Mexatlan Supermercado; Oxendale's Market in West St. Paul; Target in Inver Grove Heights; Target in West St. Paul; and Walmart in West St. Paul.**

Their commitment helps reduce food waste while nourishing our neighbors and strengthening the foundation of our community.

Community food drives also played a pivotal role in supporting Neighbors' Hunger Relief efforts by providing a total of **219,144 lbs of food** donated to our organization.



In addition to providing more than **8,500 Food Market appointments annually**, Neighbors, Inc. extends its reach through satellite sites and express food distributions. These programs ensure flexible, accessible food support and allow us to meet neighbors where they are, literally, across our service area.

- Neighbors currently supports **seven satellite sites** through weekly food deliveries that provide reliable, dignified food access for residents in senior and low-income housing, helping reduce barriers for those with limited mobility, transportation, or fixed incomes.
- The Nook, Neighbors' on-site express distribution, operates twice a week as a **low-barrier, no-appointment-needed food access point**. This program provides essential items to stabilize households and bridge the gap between Food Market appointments.



THRIFT STORE



The Neighbors' Thrift Store had a year of meaningful growth, shaped by a simple goal: make it easier for the community to shop, support, and feel connected to a larger mission.

Through updated outreach and messaging, the store reinforced that it is open to everyone. It is a welcoming place where thrifters, families, and everyday shoppers can find affordable clothing and household essentials, knowing their purchases make a difference close to home. To better meet the needs of busy schedules, the store expanded into evening hours and added Saturday shopping.

Every purchase carries a deeper impact. Revenue from the Neighbors' Thrift Store helps provide free clothing for individuals and families, supports access to our Hunger Relief programs and services, and strengthens Neighbors' Financial Empowerment Center.

The Neighbors' Thrift Store continues to grow as a community touchpoint. It is a place where shopping and support come together, and where every dollar spent helps extend resources and opportunity to neighbors across the community.



Named in memory of Neighbor's longest-serving volunteer, Virginia Milbert, the Virginia's Closet program was launched. Through this program, guests can receive a voucher to shop at Neighbors' Thrift Store at no cost, allowing them to select clothing that fits their size, style, and circumstances. This program has proven beneficial for those navigating unemployment, housing insecurity, Minnesota's harsh winter, or unexpected life transitions. Appropriate clothing can remove a critical barrier, and this voucher is often paired with Neighbors' broader wraparound services.

▶ **\$12,792**

The total value of clothing received through the Virginia's Closet Program benefitting a total of 321 households.



Financial Statement

Year Ending on 6/30/25

Revenue & Support

Support and Revenue: \$4,187,501

Support

Contribution, Cash, and Securities	\$ 702,679
Contributions, In-Kind	\$ 2,512,643
Foundation and Corporate Grants	\$ 709,117
Total Support	\$ 3,924,439

Revenue

Investment Income	\$ 143,747
Sales to Public	\$ 119,315
Total Revenue	\$ 263,062

Total Support and Revenue \$ 4,187,501

Expenses

Program Services	\$ 3,867,733
Management and General	\$ 202,552
Fundraising	\$ 101,278
Total Expenses	\$ 4,171,563

Assets

Current Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 324,611
Prepaid Equipment	\$ 20,272
Prepaid Expenses	\$ 15,015
Inventory	\$ 274,395

Total Current Assets \$ 634,293

Other

Other Investments	\$ 136,004
Endowment investments	\$ 957,967

Total Other Assets \$ 1,093,971

Property & Equipment \$ 1,662,671

TOTAL ASSETS \$ 3,390,935

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Account Payable	\$ 4,222
Accrued Salaries & Vacation	\$ 58,226

Total Current Liabilities \$ 62,448

Net Assets

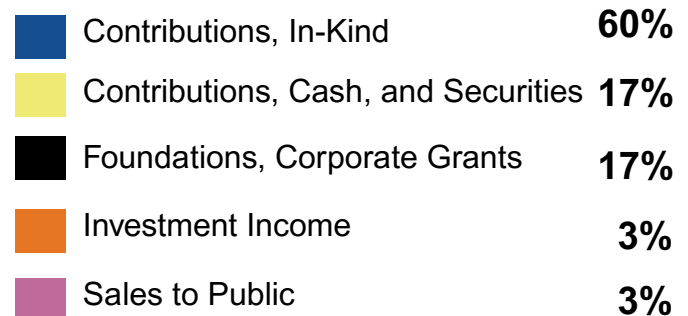
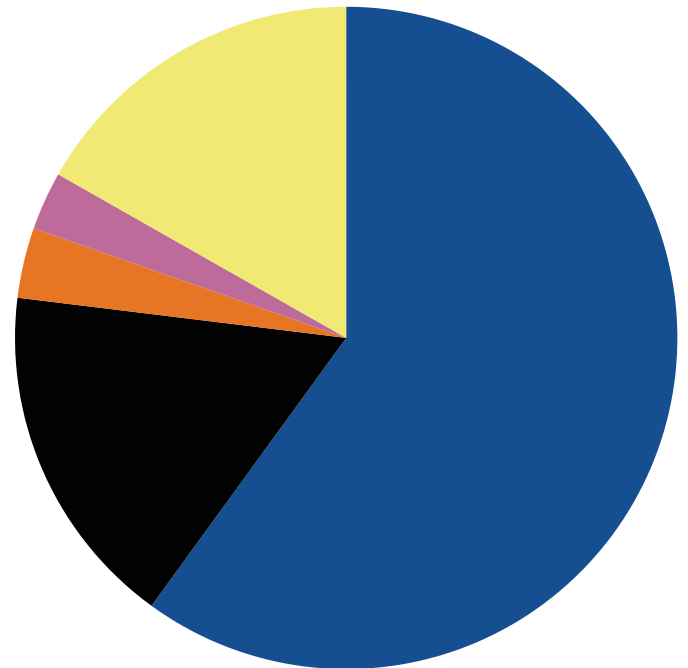
Without Donor Restrictions

Operating Reserve	\$ 136,004
Endowment Fund	\$ 738,354
Undesignated	\$ 2,234,516

Total Net Assets w/o Restriction \$ 3,108,874

Net Assets w/ Restrictions \$ 219,613

Total Net Assets \$ 3,328,487



Financials exclude \$1,052,224 as valued by the Independent Sector for 27,574 volunteer hours at \$38.16 per hour.



VOLUNTEERS

Neighbors, Inc. would not be able to operate at the capacity in which it does without our volunteers giving generously of their time. We would like to give a huge thank you to those who volunteered with us at Neighbors, Inc. in 2024-2025.



Aaron Stricker
Adriana Ferraz-Souza
Ahmad Rasheed
Akshath Deepak
Aline Kies
Allan Schwietz
Alvera Willhite
Andrew Fenske
Andrew Pliml
Andy Van Houten
Angela Hinz
Angela LaMotte
Angie Martin
Ann Galatowitsch
Ann Klein
Anne Johnson
Anne Ness
Annette Jensen
Anwar Lynch
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Gabe Grundtner
Gary Oleson
Gayle Cedergren
George Brown
Geri Bares
Gil Kinnunen
Gloria Clausen
Graciela Ibarra
Greg Malecha

VOLUNTEERS



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Gretchen Michienzi
Heidi Dzieweczynski
Heidi Hunt
Helen Hatlevig
Helen McDonough
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Irene Goldberg
Irma Villalon
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VOLUNTEERS



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Mark Vanden Heuvel
Marlon Barrow
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Sue Herzog
Sue Taylor
Theresa Ware
Thomas Hoppenstedt
Tim Schultz
Tom Reitter
Travis Chevre
Travis Glasrud
Troy Hanson
Virginia Nelson

SUSTAINING DONORS



During the 2025 fiscal year, Neighbors, Inc. witnessed the incredible impact that occurs when a community comes together to care for one another. From ensuring families have food on the table to expanding services through our Financial Empowerment Center, your support made a meaningful difference in the lives of our guests each and every day.

Our mission is made possible, in part, by generous donors who choose to give on a recurring basis. Monthly giving is simple, affordable, and a powerful way to create lasting impact. Whether \$10, \$25, or \$100, we are deeply grateful to the compassionate individuals who made sustaining gifts throughout the 2025 fiscal year. Your ongoing support helps ensure Neighbors can continue meeting urgent needs today while building a stronger tomorrow.

SCAN



Scan the QR code to become a sustaining donor today!

Anonymous (5)
Michelle Allen
Andres Alvarez
Alison & Michael Alvear
Art & Darlene Anderson
Marc & Patricia Angell
Kim Arps
Kathryn Aslakson
Timothy Bambenek
Beth Baumann
Beth & Dale Beckmann
Ann & Thomas Begich
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Lisa Claybomb
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Karen & Howard Cronin
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Mary Grady
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Joseph McBride
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Paul & Nancy Monson
Yudi Montes
Michael Morrissey
Patti Nalipinski
Scott & Lesa Nugent
Terri O'Donnell
Jesse & Jenny Osvold
Stacey Pangborn
Sandra Perron

Bea & George Potter
Sharon Radman
Darren & Kim Reisig
Franklin Rekow
Barbara & Tim Roberts
Alexandra Rosati
Mary Jo & Kurt Roth
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