The Neighbors’ Place started more than 30 years ago with a community that decided it was important to think of others. Without a doubt, our community still feels that way. We rely on the help of volunteers, donors, and partners. Our staff seeks to foster community connections, and our clients frequently make connections that help them to weather a challenging time in their lives.

As The Neighbors’ Place again moves from one year to the next, I want to acknowledge and thank our board members for the guidance they provided. I also want to thank Marcy Rau for her dedicated work as our Community Learning Center Coordinator and Joan Bouldin for her dedicated work as our Youth Program Coordinator. We wish them all the best in their well-deserved retirement; they will be missed.

It’s been one of my life’s honors to work with The Neighbors’ Place to help those in need in Wausau and Marathon County. As I look forward to my own retirement at the end of 2019, please join me in welcoming Donna Ambrose as the new executive director of The Neighbors’ Place. I am proud to know that Donna shares the values of our organization, and I know she’ll do a great job of serving those in need.

Tom Rau
Executive Director since 2001

2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lisa O’Flyng
Ruder Ware
President

Michelle Schaefer
Community Member
President-Elect

Erik Rajek
First Business Bank
Treasurer

Melinda Bartell
Presto Prints
Secretary

Beth Brinkmann
Greenheck Fan

Eileen Eckardt
Marathon County Health Dept.

Tracy Etten
Community Member

AyLee Her
Bridge Community Health Clinic

Rob Mentzer
Wisconsin Public Radio

Matthew Muzynoski
Intercity State Bank

Tamara Sillars
Domtar Paper Company

Scott Theiss
Country Fresh Products

Emily Voss
VOSStudios
The Neighbors’ Place’s community support for 2018 was $654,960 – not including donated food. Our funding comes primarily from the generosity of individuals, churches, organizations, and businesses. We are also a United Way partner and actively apply for grants from local and regional foundations.

In 2018, we received $1,156,905 worth of in-kind food donations and commodities (not included in the chart above).

Foundations from which we’ve received significant annual support:

- Dudley Foundation
- United Way of Marathon County
- Greenheck Foundation
- Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin

Rose & Walter John Chilsen Legacy Society

Walter John Chilsen was a longtime board member, and with his wife, Rose, was part of the founding of The Neighbors’ Place. Walter John passed away in December 2018; Rose followed him in April 2019. To honor their commitment to philanthropy, we’ve created a Legacy Society. The request is simple — make a planned gift by including The Neighbors’ Place in your will or estate plan.

“This is about seeing that there are people in need in our community, and choosing to do something to help. We can affect the lives of thousands of people by joining together to create a fund for the future.”

- Walter John Chilsen
The need for food assistance has increased every year since 2014. By working closely with the Marathon County Hunger Coalition, we increase food security in our community. We are the largest food bank in Marathon County, serving over 23 pantries in the area. Our work with multiple pantries helps those in need of food assistance who are unable to travel to Wausau.

**FOOD BANK**

1,965,084 Pounds of food distributed  
10,000+ Pounds of food donated each week by our community  
almost 30,000 Number of individuals served annually

**FOOD PANTRY**

We also have the county’s largest supplemental food pantry. We strive to make it a welcoming place to directly receive a variety of food.

6.5 Number of times the average client visits the food pantry each year  
almost 500 Requests for food each week from our clients alone. This does not include our work with other nonprofits, faith-based groups, schools and other pantries  
100’s Number of volunteer hours needed each week to run our food pantry
GARDENS

Hundreds of families were able to supplement their diets with fresh produce from our community gardens.

1000+ Pounds of food produced in our 800 Jefferson Street Garden in 2019

30 Number of families and local organizations tending to their plots in our 1009 Third Street Garden

200 Approximate number of volunteers that helped us plant, weed and harvest produce in 2019

FURNITURE BANK

We distribute donated furniture to families transitioning out of shelters, homelessness, or just doing their best to overcome life challenges.

200+ Number of families we assisted with furniture and basic need items in 2019

100’s Number of volunteer hours needed annually to help us in the furniture bank

WHEELS AGAIN

In 2019, we provided about 100 bicycles to help people obtain and maintain employment. Bicycles, lights, helmets and locks are donated by local individuals, groups and businesses.

Hundreds of volunteer hours are needed to refurbish donated bicycles annually.
COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER
People helping people stay connected, discover a sense of community and gain additional skills.

200+ Number of educational events we hosted in 2018 with community partners who taught about nutrition, cooking, public health, mending, and other fiber arts

2500+ Number of people we provided with access to free wifi and a computer lab to create resumes, use educational software, and apply for resources

YOUTH EDUCATION
Through Growing Great Minds, the after-school program for elementary school children, we worked with other agencies and the Wausau School District to provide safe, positive, and supervised activities for kids.

NEIGHBORHOOD OUTREACH

over 300 Number of children in need who received gifts through our Christmas Assistance program in 2018

150 & 76 Number of people we screened (150) and referred (75) in 2018 to Lenscrafters’ Gift of Sight Program, which provides eyeglasses to those who need them
VOLUNTEERS

Here at The Neighbors’ Place, we have a small staff and rely on over 100 volunteers each month to help us assist our community.

25,000 Volunteer hours logged in 2018

68 Average volunteer hours logged per day

630,000 Annual dollar value of the work of our volunteers

GET INVOLVED!

Our small staff depends on the help of 2,000 volunteers annually. We have opportunities for everyone and would be happy to give you a tour!

Visit http://neighborsplace.org/get-involved/volunteer/ or call 715-845-1966
2019 STAFF

Tom Rau  
Executive Director

Kathy Rubino  
Food Pantry & Food Bank Director

Marcy Rau  
Community Learning Center Coordinator

Mallory McGivern  
Volunteer & Community Garden Coordinator

David Phelps  
Community Outreach Manager

Susan Stanko  
Administrative Assistant

Joan Bouldin  
Youth Program Coordinator

Irene Robbins  
Food Bank Assistant

Paul Hillman  
Warehouse Assistant

Dave Kell  
Warehouse Assistant

Senior Aides
Charles Sanders, Ann Shnowske, Jack Petrowski and Kurt Schisel

2020 EVENTS

Save the date:  
Jan. 25 thru Feb. 2, 2020  
at Wausau Center Mall

Save the date:  
May 29, 2020 at  
Trapp River Golf Course

Save the date:  
November 2020 at  
Wausau West

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