The Neighbors’ Place was born and lives in a very special place. For over 30 years we have grown, changed, and thrived because of the values of this wonderful community. There have been challenges, but they have always been met because of you. Volunteers, donors, other community organizations; you are all a part of our story. As you read this report, I hope you are pleased with what we have done together.

I think they say “Change is the one constant in life”. Again as we move from 2017 through 2018, The Neighbors’ Place has experienced change. I want to acknowledge and thank The Neighbors’ Place board members for the work and guidance they provided. I also want to thank Evan Harrison Cass for his dedicated work as our Events and Volunteer Coordinator. Evan will be pursuing a long held dream of becoming a local small business owner. We wish him success as he follows this new path in his life.

Again, our sincere thanks to all. This started with a community that decided it was important to think of others. It is nice to know that you still feel that way.

Tom Rau
Executive Director since 2001

**2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- **Dawn Follendorf**
  President
  River Valley Bank

- **Lisa O’Flyng**
  President-Elect
  Ruder Ware

- **Walter John Chilsen**
  Vice President
  Community Member

- **Erik Rajek**
  Treasurer
  First Business Bank

- **Melinda Bartell**
  Secretary
  Presto Prints

- **Beth Brinkmann**
  Greenheck Fan

- **Calvin Dexter**
  Daubert Law Firm

- **Eileen Eckhardt**
  Marathon County Health Department

- **Tracy Etten**
  Community Member

- **Libby Heidmann**
  Northcentral Technical College

- **AyLee Her**
  Bridge Community Health Clinic

- **Robert Mentzer**
  USA TODAY NETWORK - Wisconsin

- **Michelle Schaefer**
  Community Member

- **Tamara Sillars**
  Domtar Paper Company

- **Scott Theiss**
  Ghidorzi
The Neighbors’ Place’s community support for 2017 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.

We received $826,540 worth of in-kind food donations and commodities. (not included in the chart above)

Foundations from which we’ve received significant annual support:

Rose & Walter John Chilsen Legacy Society

Our esteemed board member, Walter John Chilsen, has long extolled the benefits of creating an easy way for people to make Legacy Gifts to The Neighbors’ Place. 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
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.

1,847,303 lbs. of food was distributed.

Our community donates an average of 13,541 lbs. of food each week.

FOOD PANTRY

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

The need for food assistance has increased every year since 2014.

76% of families use the food pantry fewer than 7x a year.

there are over 951 requests each week.

a minimum of 75 volunteer shifts are needed each week to successfully serve guests.
In 2017, we helped thousands of families with furniture and basic needs items. 9 to 14 volunteers help us each day in the furniture bank.

FURNITURE BANK

We recycle donated furniture to families transitioning out of shelters, homelessness, or just doing their best to overcome life challenges. We encourage referrals from human service agencies to ensure household items go to those with a true need.

DID YOU KNOW:

In 2017, our WHEELS AGAIN bicycle refurbishing program provided over 100 bicycles to help people obtain and maintain employment by providing them with transportation. Bicycles, lights, helmets, and locks are donated by local individuals, groups, and businesses.

GARDENS

Hundreds of families supplemented their diets with fresh produce from our 2017 community gardens.

800 JEFFERSON STREET GARDEN had a successful 6th year growing over 800 lbs. of produce for our food pantry. All seeds and compost were donated by local businesses, and we proudly keep this garden 100% organic!

1009 3RD STREET GARDEN is a partnership with the Marathon County Historical Society. Over 40 plots were tended by local organizations and individuals.

The number of Community Garden plots increased more than 30% in 2017.
This program uses more than 40 volunteer tutors to teach more than 125 students. We hosted over 140 workshops in 2017.

**COMPUTER LAB**

In 2017, more than 1,150 people used our 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 in early evening hours.

**COOKING DEMONSTRATIONS**

**KNITTING CIRCLE**

In 2017, more than 300 children in need received gifts through this matching program.

Our **GIFT OF SIGHT** program partnered with the LensCrafters Foundation to provide a one-time examination and pair of glasses. In 2017, we provided 79 pairs of eyeglasses!

**NEIGHBORHOOD OUTREACH**

**CHRISTMAS ASSISTANCE**

In 2017, more than 300 children in need received gifts through this matching program.

Our **GIFT OF SIGHT** program partnered with the LensCrafters Foundation to provide a one-time examination and pair of glasses. In 2017, we provided 79 pairs of eyeglasses!
What follows is an example of how dedicated volunteers impact the work and mission of The Neighbors’ Place:

Volunteers help fuel the work The Neighbors’ Place does in the community. They stock shelves in our food pantry, help our events to run smoothly, and connect people with help they need. This year volunteers made possible a transformation in how we use our building’s storage space. We’ve focused our furniture bank on high-need items that can help those who wouldn’t have them otherwise, and we had a lot of organizing to do. A group of dedicated volunteers (specifically Kathy, Susie, BJ, Linda, Eileen, Dottie, and Marcy) logged nearly 300 volunteer hours over three months as we cleared out old stock and organized what we have. Thanks to these volunteers, we held a total of 12 free market days, with more than 270 very thankful recipients of household items. Thanks, volunteers!

Total volunteer hours logged in 2017 was over **27,000**
(that’s an average of 74 hours of volunteer work each day!)

Our volunteers’ work can be valued at **$650,000**

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/

CALL  715-845-1966
2018 STAFF
Executive Director – Tom Rau
Administrative Assistant – Susan Stanko
Director of Food, Furniture & Basic Needs – Kathy Rubino
Community Learning Center Director – Marcy Rau
Volunteer & Events Coordinator – Evan Harrison Cass
Youth Program Director – Joan Bouldin
Food Bank Assistant – Irene Robbins
Furniture Bank/Garden Assistant – Francis Altman
Warehouse Assistant – Dave Kell

Senior Aides
James Culshaw, Clyde Marquardt, Charles Sanders, Ann Shnowske,
and Christine Bachar

2018 EVENTS

Par - Tee for our Neighbors:
Goofy Golf For a Cause
Our second annual golf outing was a success at the Trapp River Golf Course.

Save the date: May 17, 2019

EMPTY BOWLS
Over 35 different soups & quick lines made for a successful event at Wausau West.

Save the date: November 23, 2019

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