



The Neighbors' Place

"People Helping People"

2016 - 2017
Annual Report



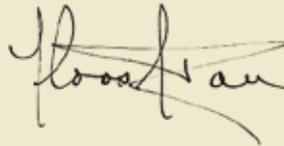
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S LETTER

At The Neighbors' Place we know the work we do could not be done without the generosity of our volunteers. Later in the report, you'll read about a volunteer experience. What is interesting is how often we hear the benefit involved in this interaction runs both ways. Our volunteers speak of the magic of kindness or reaching out to someone in need.

The last year was a good year at The Neighbors' Place. As needs in our community grew, we were able to do our part in meeting the challenges. We have you and our volunteers to thank for this accomplishment. As you read through this report, I hope you take a moment to feel a sense of pride in what we have done together.

As we moved from 2016 to 2017, The Neighbors' Place experienced change as all organizations do. I want to acknowledge and thank the The Neighbors' Place board members for the work and guidance they provided. I also want to thank Fernando Soto, retired director of our Food Bank and Food Pantry, and Ashley Zelenka, former director of marketing and development, for their work. We wish them all things good as they follow new paths in life. Finally, it is my pleasure to welcome Susan Stanko, our new administrative assistant. If you have not yet met Susan, please take a moment to say hello.

Again, thank you. This all started with a community that decided it was important to think of others. It is nice to know that some things do not change.



Tom Rau
Executive Director
since 2001

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Robert Mentzer
President
USA TODAY NETWORK - Wisconsin



Dawn Follendorf
President-Elect
River Valley Bank



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Community Member



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Lisa O'Flynn
Ruder Ware



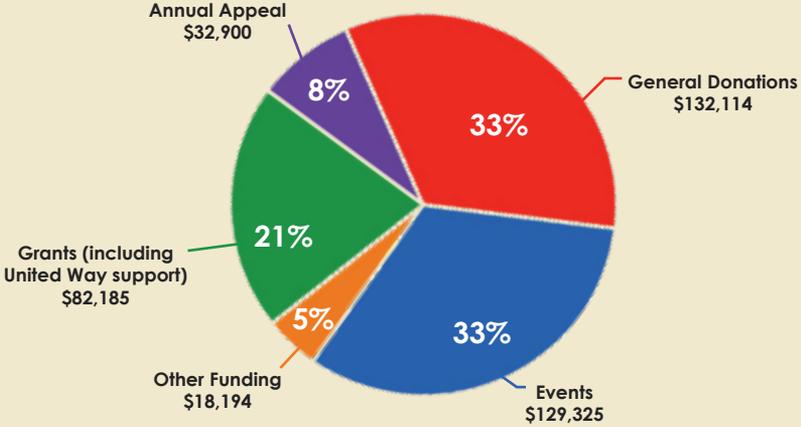
Tamara Sillars
Domtar Paper Company



Scott Theiss
Ghidorzi

2016 FINANCIALS

The Neighbors' Place annual support for 2016 was \$394,718 – 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 **\$1,163,830** worth of in-kind food donations and commodities. (not included in the chart above)

Foundations from which we 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. Walter John, and his wife, Rose, are philanthropists of the first order and we are, therefore, in the process of creating 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 impact the lives of thousands of people by joining together to create a fund for the future. ”

- Walter John

Watch for your invitation to join!

FOOD BANK



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 25 pantries in the area. Working with multiple pantries helps those in need of food assistance who are unable to travel to Wausau.

1,503,272 lbs. of food was distributed.

Our community donates an average of **13,893** 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.

need for food assistance increased by **15.3%** since 2014

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

there are over **945** requests each week

a minimum of **75** volunteer shifts are needed each week to successfully serve guests



GARDENS



families supplemented their diets with fresh produce from their own plots in 2016

800 JEFFERSON STREET GARDEN had a successful 5th 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 30 plots were tended by local organizations and individuals providing hundreds of pounds of fresh vegetables for area pantries.



FURNITURE & BASIC NEEDS BANK

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

DID YOU KNOW:

In 2016, we provided over **4,200** families with furniture, clothing and basic needs items.

9 to 14 volunteers help us each day in the furniture bank.

In 2016, our **WHEELS AGAIN** bicycle refurbishing program provided **190 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.

COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER



This program utilizes over **40 volunteer tutors** to teach over **125 students**. We hosted over **130 workshops** in 2016.

COMPUTER LAB

In 2016, over **1,100** 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



NEIGHBORHOOD OUTREACH

CHRISTMAS ASSISTANCE

In 2016, 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 2016, we provided **68** pairs of eyeglasses!

VOLUNTEERS



“I began volunteering in The Neighbors' Place food pantry with the encouragement of my employer. After each volunteer session, I found myself feeling more thankful and appreciative of my own circumstances and became much more aware that we can't take even our basic needs for granted. Any one of us may have a need to receive help as well as give help at some point, and it's good to know that The Neighbors' Place can provide that opportunity. ”

—Gail Klay



total volunteer hours logged
in 2016 was over **30,000**

(that's an average of 76 hours
of volunteer work each day!)



our volunteers' work can
be valued at **\$750,000**

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/>

EMAIL evan@neighborsplace.org

CALL 715-845-1966



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 & Basic Needs Bank Assistant – Francis Altman
Warehouse Assistant – Seng Chanthavong
Custodian – Lorri Mayo

Senior Aides

James Culshaw, Louise Lentz, Clyde Marquardt, Roy E. Nowak,
Charles Sanders, and Warren Terry



2017 EVENTS



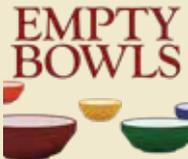
ICE TEE CLASSIC

We celebrated our 21st annual mini-golf in the snow!



Par - Tee for our Neighbors: Goofy Golf For a Cause

Our rainy golf outing was still a success at the Trapp River Golf Course!



EMPTY BOWLS

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

www.neighborsplace.org

facebook.com/neighborsplace

@TNPTweet

