Home ownership can be a blessing and a burden; especially for seniors. In 1975, Mary purchased and moved into a two-story house. Even though she moved during a blizzard, the snow didn’t diminish Mary’s excitement. More than 40 years later, Mary, now a senior with a disability who walks with a cane, still lives in the same house; unfortunately, the roof recently collapsed. Rain poured into Mary’s home through the open roof into a bedroom upstairs and, also, into the kitchen, bathroom, and living room downstairs. Buckets and pails were scattered on both floors of the house to capture the rain. Mary was feeling stressed and hopeless as she didn’t have enough money to repair the roof. She was very close to giving up. Then, Mary called Senior Neighbors.

Senior Neighbors case manager, Unthainia, acted as the bridge Mary needed between her desperate situation and the resources available to repair her roof. The case manager made an appointment to meet Mary and tour her home to evaluate the situation. Case managers strive to visit clients where they live so they can evaluate the client’s whole situation. Often, when a case manager visits a client regarding one need, the

"It takes both sides to build a bridge.”
- Fredrik Nael

continued on page 3
CASE MANAGEMENT SUPPORT AND REFERRAL

100% accessed one or more services to address their needs

100% stabilized or improved the safety and livability of their housing

100% living independently in their current residence due to housing assistance

95% felt safer living in their home

96% increased or maintained their independence

99% increased access to medical services

84% increased access to nutrition services
Senior Neighbors Achieves Four Star Charity Status

Senior Neighbors is pleased to announce that for the first time in its history our organization has been rated as a 4 star charity by Charity Navigator. As America’s largest and most-utilized independent evaluator of charities, it is an important step to be recognized as a leader in the non-profit sector by such a prominent organization. Many donors refer to Charity Navigators’ ratings before they decide how to spend their charity dollars.

Charity Navigator’s ratings measure the financial health and accountability and transparency of charities. Four stars is the highest rating a non-profit can be assigned by Charity Navigator. The ratings indicate how well a charity meets industry-accepted standards and how well it compares with the other charities evaluated by Charity Navigator.

In large part, this achievement was possible through the efforts of Senior Neighbors to merge with another local non-profit, Gerontology Network. This merger, which created efficiencies in fundraising, administrative staffing, and promotion within the community, took place in July 2015 and has been highly successful for the agency and the health of the new programs formerly of Gerontology Network.

Not all Michigan charities meet the criteria to receive a 4 star rating by Charity Navigator. In fact, of the 1000 Michigan charities listed on the Charity Navigator website, only 74 of them have been rated with 4 stars. Moreover, Senior Neighbors is one of only 12 non-profits in Kent County that have received 4 star ratings. Senior Neighbors is honored to be one of these highly-rated charities.

*www.charitynavigator.org, 1-18-2017

“...to coordinate with Home Repair Services. Fixing the roof was a burden lifted from my heart.” —Mary

case manager discovers the client has other needs as well. It was obvious to the case manager during the home visit that the most important first step in working with Mary was to make arrangements for her to live in a dry and safe place.

Since the repair of the roof was beyond the scope of Senior Neighbors’ home repair program, the case manager coordinated with another local non-profit, Home Repair Services. Mary agreed to make copayments, as required, and the case manager diligently worked with the organization to begin the work soon as rain and lots of it was on the way. As a result of the case manager’s efforts, the roof was repaired before the next rainstorm.

Amazingly, now when the case manager visits Mary, the buckets of water are gone and they can discuss the next step that involves repairing the rain damage inside Mary’s home.

Your generosity enables seniors like Mary to work with Senior Neighbors case managers, who act as a bridge between seniors and resources, helping them remain living independently as long as possible. Mary now lives again in a safe and dry home, thanks to you. And her contagious smile has returned!
Like many seniors, Claude was vulnerable and, unfortunately, others took advantage of his circumstances. Claude’s story begins when he and his wife escaped from the war in the Democratic Republic of Congo and moved to the United States as refugees in 2000. In 2010, Claude proudly became a U.S. citizen.

Over time, Claude went from being self-supporting to becoming vulnerable. He had been a veterinarian in the Congo and worked as a butcher in the United States until he cut himself due to his poor eyesight and had to quit his job. Claude, now legally blind, has degenerative glaucoma and is on disability. He also receives a small survivor’s pension since his wife passed away in 2012.

After Claude’s wife died, a couple who spoke his native language took advantage of his circumstances. They offered him a room in their home, although Claude’s excitement about this new opportunity did not last long. The couple took all of Claude’s income. He was confined to a room where he had to sleep on the floor and was only fed one daily meal. Additionally, Claude was denied access to the medical care and prescriptions he needed to slow down his degenerative eye disease. Claude was depressed and could not imagine how to escape his living situation. The only activity Claude was allowed to do was attend English classes.

As a result of your donations, Senior Neighbors’ refugee program was the bridge Claude needed between his unfortunate circumstances and a safe and caring living situation. After Claude’s English teacher contacted Senior Neighbors to obtain help for Claude, his Case Manager Ruth, immediately took action and reported the situation to Adult Protective Services. The next step involved finding Claude a new home with a caregiver, signing him up for Senior Meals, and arranging for Claude to receive medical care and prescriptions. The action taken by Claude’s case manager put him on the road to recovery.

Claude said it better than we ever could. “I feel like I’m no longer alone.” You gave Claude hope and put a smile back on his face. Your donations have given Claude a safe and caring living environment with a compassionate caregiver, plenty of nutritious food resulting in a gain of 31 pounds, and medical treatment that has slowed the progression of his degenerative eye disease.
COMMUNITY OF CARING

Members of our Community of Caring play a key role in providing essential services that help seniors remain healthy and independent into their later years. These donors, who have contributed $600 or more in Fiscal Year 2016, make it possible for us to enhance the lives of seniors who are most in need throughout Kent County. Please refer to pages 8 and 9 for a list of all other Senior Neighbors donors.

Alles Law
American House Foundation
American House Senior Living
Amway
Anonymous (2)
Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan
Baldwin Foundation
Bob and Luanne Barnes
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*Legacy Society Member | *Fiscal Year 2016 Board Member | * Deceased

FISCAL YEAR 2016 REVENUE
October 1, 2015 - September 30, 2016

FISCAL YEAR 2016 EXPENSES
October 1, 2015 - September 30, 2016
SENIOR NEIGHBORS
FISCAL YEAR 2016
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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* Deceased

SENIOR NEIGHBORS INC.
IS FUNDED IN PART BY:
Donations from Individuals
and Foundations
Aging and Adult Services Agency
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Area Agency on Aging of
Western Michigan
City of Grandville
Corporation for National and
Community Service
Heart of West Michigan United Way
Kent County Senior Millage
Michigan Department of Health
and Human Services
Michigan Department of Transportation
Older Americans Act
Meals on Wheels Western Michigan
State of Michigan
Townships of Algoma, Lowell, Sparta,
Tyrone, and Vergennes
Villages of Kent City and Sparta

95% SOCIALIZED MORE
90% BECAME MORE ACTIVE
87% IMPROVED OR MAINTAINED THEIR HEALTH
VOLUNTEERS

93% INCREASED FRIENDSHIPS THROUGH VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCES

83% BELIEVE THEY MADE A DIFFERENCE IN THE COMMUNITY THEY SERVED

HEALTH & WELLNESS

100% IMPROVED THEIR PHYSICAL ABILITIES THROUGH TAI CHI CLASSES

98% LEARNED NEW WAYS TO IMPROVE THEIR HEALTH THROUGH ENHANCEFITNESS CLASSES

97% LINKED PARTICIPATION IN ARTHRITIS EXERCISE CLASSES TO MAINTAINING THEIR INDEPENDENCE

Tai Chi for Arthritis (Or just for the fun of it!)

Hosted by Hospice of Michigan in partnership with Senior Neighbors

Tai Chi is a controlled method of gentle physical exercise and stretching done in a slow and safe manner.

You may benefit from this class if:

• You have balance issues
• You want to improve your endurance
• You want to strengthen your core
• You want to improve your flexibility
• You want to reduce stress

This class requires no equipment and no special skills!

Join others in improving your health, plus enjoy the company of others as you exercise!

Open to any Kent County resident age 60 or older.

Info Session Sept. 13 at 1pm

Classes: Tues & Thurs. from 1-2 pm

Hospice of Michigan
989 Spaulding Ave SE, Ada, MI 49301

For more information contact Julie Lake, 616-233-0283 or jlake@seniorneighbors.org

RSVP: Clair Fisher, cfisher@hom.org

$3 per class suggested donation

100% IMPROVED THEIR PHYSICAL ABILITIES THROUGH TAI CHI CLASSES
Thank you to the following individuals, organizations, and businesses for partnering with us during Fiscal Year 2016. The following list includes contributions received between October 1, 2015 and September 30, 2016. Please accept our apologies if your name was inadvertently omitted and contact us with corrections for future publications. Please refer to page 5 for a list of donors in our Community of Caring who contributed $600 or more during Fiscal Year 2016.

Aberdeen Reformed Church
Airway Oxygen, Inc.
Amy Albertson
Gladys Alexander
Dr. and Mrs. Lawrence W. Allaben
Amy L. Anderson
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The Parish of St. Dominic
Geraldyn Pasi
Carolyn Peck
Gretchen L. Pemberton
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Get Involved!

For more information about any of these upcoming events, please contact Brian Clark, Director of Development and Donor Care at 616.233.0738 or bclark@seniorneighbors.org.

LUNCH & LEARNS

Learn about one of our five Senior Centers and sit down for lunch to meet seniors who utilize our services. Senior lunches take place Monday-Friday throughout the year and a Lunch and Learn can also be coordinated for a date that works with your schedule.

Wednesday, April 12
Grand Rapids Center | 11:45am

Wednesday, June 7
Sparta Center | 11:30am

Wednesday, September 13
Lowell Center | 11:45am

Wednesday, November 8 | Breakfast
Grand Rapids Center | 9:00am

Wednesday, December 13
Walker Firehouse Café | 11:45pm

OTHER EVENTS

Senior Odyssey Competition
May 20 | Grandville Middle School

Senior Neighbors sponsors this competition where teams of seniors work together to solve a “problem” and present scenarios to address that “problem” in a skit. There’s also a spontaneous problem solving segment that requires quick, on-your-feet thinking. It’s an entertaining way to use lifelong skills and knowledge in a creative way to keep minds active and engaged. Consider participating or volunteering!

Annual Senior Picnic
August 4 | Grandville High School

All five centers come together for an agency-wide lunch, entertainment, and senior services vendor fair which is annually attended by more than 300 seniors. Volunteer opportunities are available as well as many opportunities to interact with our clients.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Wednesday, May 3
Meet Your Neighbors
Fundraising Luncheon
New Vintage Place

This event brings together guests for a light lunch and an opportunity to learn more about Senior Neighbors.

Wednesday, November 15
Twilight Shines 10th Anniversary Fundraising Gala

Honoring the past and celebrating the future - We will recognize the impact of Twilight Shines over the past 10 years and the important role our honorees have played in our mission. Past honorees include the following:

2008: Hy and Greta Berkowitz
2009: Peter M. Wege
2010: Ralph Hauenstein
2011: Chuck and Stella Royce
2012: David and Carol Van Andel
2013: Don and Nancy Lubbers
2014: Donald Maine
2015: John Canepa
2016: Pat White with Varnum LLP
2017: Diana Sieger

Physiotherapy Associates
Kathleen Picard
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Pilgrim Manor
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Nora Poquette
Anna W. Porter
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Mary Vonc
Vytualas Aid Society
Mark and Sue Walkotten
Maribeth and John Wardrop
Elizabeth M. Welch
Anne Weldon
Wolfgang and Loretta Welter
Herman Westrate Jr.
Herman Westrate Sr.
Marion Wheat
Pat and Julie White*
“Senior Neighbors has long been on the list of organizations we like to assist because we believe in its mission...”
— Lynn Afendoulis, Universal Forest Products

MEMORIAL DONATIONS
During our 2016 fiscal year, Senior Neighbors received gifts in honor of or in memory of the following people.

**IN HONOR OF**
- John Canepa
- Dorothy Bookins
- Marlene Byrne
- Margaret Couture
- Ollie Dean
- June DeBoer
- Eleanor Dintaman
- Marie Farrington
- Rudolph Klaven
- Bruce Langlois
- Harold Marsman
- Vonnie Miller
- Ray Peck
- Irma Porter
- Aileen Roelofs
- LaVern Roelofs
- Pearl Valentine

**IN MEMORY OF**
- Jack H. Anderson
- Ron Ayers
- Bill Bok
- Dorothy Bookins
- Marlene Byrne
- Margaret Couture
- Ollie Dean
- June DeBoer
- Eleanor Dintaman
- Marie Farrington
- Rudolph Klaven
- Bruce Langlois
- Harold Marsman
- Vonnie Miller
- Ray Peck
- Irma Porter
- Aileen Roelofs
- LaVern Roelofs
- Pearl Valentine

LEGACY SOCIETY

LIFETIME PARTNERS IN PHILANTHROPY
Individuals or families who are Lifetime Partners in Philanthropy have dedicated a lifetime of resources to advancing the cause of Senior Neighbors and the welfare of seniors in our community. Individuals whose lifetime gifts total $5,000 or more to Senior Neighbors are eligible for membership.

- Anonymous*
- Baldwin Foundation
- Robert W. and Lynn Browne
- LeRoy* and Anita Carter
- Greg and Marriilee Chamberlain
- Carole and Brian Chisholm
- Bill and Marilyn Crawford
- Bill and Janice Currie
- Jim and Judy DeLapa
- John and Marilyn Drake
- Else A. Fierens
- Tom and Mickie Fox
- Ralph W. Hauenstein*
- Russell* and Barbara Hohn
- J.C. Huizenga
- Hy and Greta Berkowitz Foundation
- Robert and Paulette Israels
- Mike and Sue Jan dermoa
- John and Nancy Kennedy
- Koff Foundation
- Grace T. Nowak
- Evelyn Oosterbaan-Young
- Brent and Diane Slay
- Steelcase Foundation
- Steele A. Taylor
- Wege Foundation
- Pat and Julie White
- Dick and Barbara Young

LEGACY PARTNERS IN PHILANTHROPY
Individuals or families who are Legacy Partners in Philanthropy have made the decision to leave a gift to Senior Neighbors in their will to support programs and services for seniors well into the future. Individuals including a permanent gift of $5,000 or more in their will are eligible for membership.

- Anonymous
- Robert and Luanne Barnes
- Richard F. Blodgett
- Gilbert R. and Patricia K. Davis
- Dorothy L. Teesdale*
- Stephen and Christel Hickey
- Greg and Joy Hulst
- Judy A. Morris
- Mr. and Mrs. Clarence and Zita Harris*
- Robert N. Forman Estate
- Samuel D. and Evelyn Wingeier Estate

* Legacy Society Member | * Deceased

UNIVERSAL FOREST PRODUCTS SUPPORTS SENIOR NEIGHBORS
Partnerships and a supportive community are the true lifeblood of the services provided to older adults through Senior Neighbors. The caring and generosity of individuals, corporations, and foundations make each one of these important programs possible. One such partner is Universal Forest Products and its special connection to the Grandville Senior Center.

Each year before the holiday season, employees from Universal Forest Products decorate the Center in Grandville, a practice the corporate office has been doing for many years. The group provides a festive atmosphere and spends time with members of the center. Not only do the volunteers provide a welcoming, decorated center, they also present a financial contribution to the Advisory Council at the Center. This gift helps to fund the activities that take place throughout the year such as birthday parties, holiday celebrations, and the musical entertainment that so many members look forward to hearing.

According to Lynn Afendoulis, Director of Corporate Communications at Universal Forest Products, “Senior Neighbors has long been on the list of organizations we like to assist because we believe in its mission, we believe it’s a responsibly led and managed organization, and because it provides critical services. We are honored to be in a position to provide assistance to Senior Neighbors, and grateful that it exists and is among the many organizations that make West Michigan such a great place to work and call home.”

This wonderful partnership, that our Grandville Senior Center members look forward to each year, is only one of far too many to mention. Each one of our partners, supporters, and volunteers are a bridge to services for older adults and help to enhance more than 4,000 lives with their contributions.
Join us in our mission to ensure seniors are no longer alone!

Consider making a donation at seniornighbors.org or sending a check in the enclosed envelope. Making a memorial donation is also a great way to honor the memory of a loved one.

Like us on Facebook and stay up-to-date regarding Senior Neighbors news!

Volunteering is a great way to directly serve seniors and support our programming. We have numerous opportunities to serve within our five centers located throughout Kent County or on an organizational committee. For more information, please contact Brian Clark, Director of Development and Donor Care, at 616.233.0738.

Leaving Senior Neighbors in your will is a great way to ensure our services are provided for years to come. Estate gifts help to grow our endowment and provide the financial stability we need on an annual basis.

Tell a friend about our great work! We appreciate referrals and recommendations shared with others highlighting the services we provide to seniors in our community.
OUR IMPACT | FISCAL YEAR 2016
October 1, 2015 - September 30, 2016

4,264 SENIORS SERVED

GENDER OF CLIENTS
Female 68% | Male 32%

47% OF OUR CLIENTS HAVE A DISABILITY
54% OF OUR CLIENTS LIVE ALONE

AGE OF CLIENTS
60 to 69 49% 80 to 89 17%
70 to 79 31% 90+ 3%

84% of our clients live on LESS THAN $2,000 per month

CENTRAL OFFICE
678 Front Ave NW #205
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
P 616.459.6019

GRANDVILLE SENIOR CENTER
3380 Division Ave
Grandville, MI 49418
P 616.531.5250

LOWELL SENIOR CENTER
314 South Hudson
Lowell, MI 49331
P 616.897.5949

SPARTA SENIOR CENTER
Harvest Way, 100 Ida Red
Sparta, MI 49345
P 616.887.1273

WALKER FIREHOUSE CAFE
4101 Lake Michigan Drive
Walker, MI 49534
P 616.735.3240