

## Senior Neighbors and Gerontology Network merge

The past year was filled with many changes at Senior Neighbors including a historic merger that took place over the summer. As of July 1, 2015, four Older Adult Volunteer Programs, formerly of Gerontology Network, officially merged with Senior Neighbors. These programs provide a variety of volunteer opportunities for seniors to make a direct impact in their community by utilizing their time and talents for the greater good.

To continue serving the needs of those who benefit from these programs, Porter Hills (formerly the sponsor of these programs) and Gerontology Network decided a different partner would be better suited to fulfill the mission of the Gerontology Network's programs. After a diligent search, they selected Senior Neighbors as a partner that would be an excellent fit to continue providing adult volunteer opportunities.

Three of the new programs offer mentoring and tutoring services that match and place seniors in schools to work one-on-one with students. These senior volunteers provide guidance and act as an academic support system for



**"We are very pleased to work closely with our new staff members to provide an excellent array of volunteer programs that serve older adults and children. It was important to us that these programs continued serving the children and older adults in our community."**

**-Robert Barnes, President of Senior Neighbors**

local youth. Services include reading and math assistance to role modeling for at-risk children. Volunteering seniors impact the students in life-changing ways.

The fourth program now part of Senior Neighbors is the Senior Companions Program. Seniors who are mobile and outgoing provide companionship for

isolated or lonely older adults. Through regular communication and visits, isolated seniors remain connected to the community and experience a higher quality of life.

These wonderful programs join RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) at Senior Neighbors to form a comprehensive offering of volunteer opportunities across Kent County. If seniors seek to give back to our community, Senior Neighbors will surely be able to find the right opportunity for their skill set and desired focus area.

New programs formerly of Gerontology Network:

- **AARP Experience Corps**  
Tutoring children in reading and math. Grades K-3.
- **Foster Grandparents**  
Tutoring for special needs children. Birth to age 10.
- **Traveling Grannies & Grandpas**  
Mentoring and role modeling for at-risk children. Ages 11-21.
- **Senior Companions**  
Providing companionship for isolated/lonely older adults.

### Thank you Twilight Shines sponsors and donors

Thank you to all the sponsors and donors who contributed to the success of our annual fundraising event Twilight Shines held October 22nd at Thousand Oaks Golf Club. The stars shone brightly that evening! In particular, we would like to extend a special thank you to our Gold Star and Silver Star sponsors. We are truly thankful for their financial support which enables Senior Neighbors to enhance the lives of seniors in Kent County.

#### GOLD STAR SPONSOR

David & Carol Van Andel Family Foundation

#### SILVER STAR SPONSORS

Car City

John & Nancy Kennedy

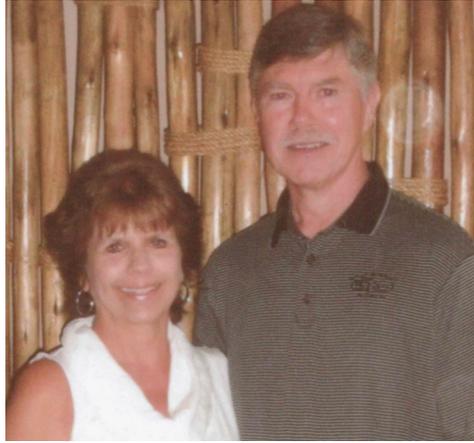
Klopcic Family Foundation

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# Supporter Spotlight

Rich and Mary Blodgett have been supporting Senior Neighbors in a variety of ways for many years, from delivering canned goods for distribution when Rich first became involved in the 80's to contributing financial support and being a trusted friend of the organization. Rich is a retired autoworker and Mary previously worked with seniors as a Nursing Assistant for 11 years. They enjoy spending time doing a variety of activities including gardening, biking, and spending time with their eight grandchildren. As a couple, they truly feel passionate about supporting seniors and children: two vulnerable populations that often need the support of a community to thrive. This passion is what led them to Senior Neighbors and keeps them engaged to this day.



**"I believe Senior Neighbors offers the services seniors need most."**

-Rich Blodgett

Senior Neighbors offers a variety of services to seniors, many more than when Rich and Mary first became supporters. They believe "Senior Neighbors offers the services seniors need most." Along with the services offered in our community, they appreciate Senior Neighbors' good record of accomplishment and reputation in Kent County as evidenced by the confidence of Kent County voters passing a Senior

Millage. With all of this in mind, they feel confident their gifts are being put to good use and changing the lives of seniors for the better.

Rich and Mary represent two of the many caring individuals, companies, and foundations that make our work possible. We are truly thankful for everyone who has supported our programs over the years and would love to hear your story as well.



**For more information about supporting Senior Neighbors, please contact:**

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**Thank you for your generous support!**

Senior Neighbors Inc. is funded in part by

- Individual Donations
- Heart of West Michigan United Way
- Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan
- Senior Meals Program
- Kent County Senior Millage
- Townships of Sparta, Lowell, Tyrone, Algoma, and Vergennes
- Villages of Sparta and Kent City
- City of Grandville
- Michigan Department of Transportation
- Michigan Aging and Adult Services Agency
- Corp. for National Community Service
- Emergency Food and Shelter Program
- Older Americans Act

## By the numbers

With your support, Senior Neighbors has been able to provide the following in FY2014:



**39,020**  
MEALS SERVED



**32,188 hours**  
of health promotion

**46,273 rides**



**1,625**  
HOME REPAIR HOURS



**65,924**  
VOLUNTEER HOURS  
AT 127 SITES



**8,003 hours**  
of case management

**Donate today!**  
[www.seniorneighbors.org](http://www.seniorneighbors.org)

