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_____ I/We do not wish to receive further fundraising communications from Your Neighbors.

Our Volunteers: The Backbone of Your Neighbors, Inc. Spotlight on Grace Wu

My name is Grace Wu and I have been volunteering for Your Neighbors for over a year. My service began after I discovered an article highlighting Your Neighbors, Inc. in the local New Hartford magazine. At the time, I was looking for a place to volunteer and invest my time and energy helping others and I couldn't have picked a better place to volunteer!!

Your Neighbors has been one of the most fulfilling and enjoyable volunteer positions I have ever had. I love meeting and driving new friends to appointments. I have had the privilege of really getting to know Kay, Betty, Marie, Carmelita, Same and Celia. Meeting such wonderful and beautiful people has been a real blessing in my life. I must also comment that Your Neighbors and its clients are so blessed to have Sara Looman as a Program Coordinator; she is such a sweet, patient and giving person.

In addition to volunteering with Your Neighbors, I am a busy Mom to two children. My son, Caleb is 12, and my daughter, Carina is 9. I have a wonderfully supportive husband, Steve who works at Hamilton College as an Economics professor. My dear family always hears about my friends at Your Neighbors, Inc. and how much I enjoy driving them and spending time with them.

Your Neighbors News



A Neighbor's Independence is in Our Hands!!

Spring 2014

President's Message

Randy Wilson

Snowy winter greetings to all our Your Neighbors friends and volunteers. My wife and I had the pleasure of visiting the exotic country of India for 11 days in January and we stayed with several families with whom we had youth exchange connections over the past 25 years. The warm welcome at each home, the sharing of a meal and the gift of friendships renewed exemplified the Hindu practice that says "Honor Mother, Honor Father, Honor Teacher and Honor Guest."

I now realize that you, our volunteers who make meals, provide transportation, conduct friendly visits, etc. are living examples of that same caring practice in service to our elderly and homebound friends. By bringing that client a meal or transporting to an appointment, we are honoring that person and thanking them for being part of our lives.

Our clients honor and thank our volunteers by offering to make donations to YNI or by offering a cup of coffee or a glass of water to share during the time the volunteer is there. These simple interactions are what build and preserve community and friendship and bring the Your Neighbors mission statement to life!!

Funding for programs like Meals on Wheels is being cut dramatically and the waiting time is becoming longer for potential clients to qualify for the services that remain available, therefore, the need for the services of Your Neighbors is increasing and will continue to do so as more and more are impacted. Rest assured that each meal, every visit and every trip to the doctor means a great deal and life long friendships can and do develop between our volunteers and their client friends.

Before I close, I ask that you save the dates for upcoming Your Neighbors, Inc. events: **Annual Garage Sale on May 2 and 3** at Our Savior Lutheran Church and our **2nd Annual Grandparents/Grandfriends** event on **Sunday, September 14** at Harts Hill Inn.

Namaste ("I bow to you"),
Randy Wilson

Your Neighbors, Inc.
108 Utica Rd
Clinton, NY 13323
315.235.7149

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- President's Message
- Program Coordinator's Report
- Treasurer's Comments
- Garage Sale

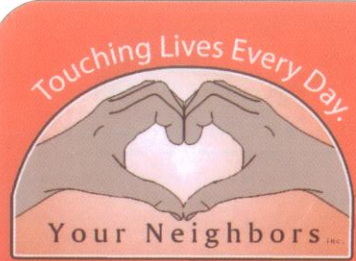
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YNI is an affiliate of
Lutheran Home of CNY



Your Neighbors is community volunteers dedicated to serving the frail, elderly and those with limited independence in the greater Utica area.

Our volunteers offer: Welcome companionship, medical & personal transportation, friendly assistance, healthy home-cooked meals and so much more.

YNI is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Your contributions are very much appreciated and tax deductible.

Please call us at 315.235.7149 to learn more about our services or to volunteer.

Program Coordinators Message

Sara Looman

Its that time of year again...time to start your spring cleaning. As you go about sprucing up your homes, please keep Your Neighbors in mind. Our Annual Garage Sale will be coming up May 2 & 3 and we can put your lightly used items to good use. Please see the insert in this newsletter for more information.

Should you have items that you would like to donate but can't get them to us, please give me a call so I can schedule a pick up for you at 315.235.7149.

Save The Date

The Annual Chicken Bar-B-Q to benefit Your Neighbors, Inc. Saturday, June 28, 2014 Zion Lutheran Church, corner of French & Burrstone Roads, New Hartford Noon until sold out

Home-cooked Meals Urgently Needed

Over the past several months, Your Neighbors has experienced a sharp increase in the requests for supplemental frozen meals. Many of our individual and group cooks have made an effort to produce extra meals in order to keep pace with the demand.

If you are able to pitch in by preparing meals at home or by gathering a group who can prepare and package a quantity of meals for us, please contact our Meal Coordinator, Carole Grove at 315.737.8947. YNI will provide all the necessary packaging materials and Carole will be happy to explain the procedure.

Thank you!!

A Special Thanks to our Contributors

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- William and Esther McCarthy Ed and Barb Paparella Edith Paterson Ruth Pelletier Jacquelyn Restie Beatrice Watters Linda Weatherup Carol and William Bandyh Alan Frederick Philip Clement Richard and Priscilla Dygert David L.& Jenette Sanders Palma DeSarro Dolores DelMedico Jan and Karen Barendse Donna Falzarine Elizabeth Olenik

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In Honor Of

- Shirley and Karyn Carlson

A full-time program cannot operate successfully without year-round support. The following lists of contributors demonstrate how dedicated friends make it possible.



Additional Donors

- Josephine DeAngelo Patricia Douglas Floyd Ennis Janice George Richard & Barbara Handel Celia James Mary Kempton Marie MacMaster Carol Owens Julio Pereira Sallene Reich Carmelita Scotellaro Florence Shumway Marianne Turczyn

Treasurer's Comments

Roger Williams

As you may or may not be aware, Your Neighbors, Inc. is an affiliate of the Lutheran Home of Central New York. Just one of the many benefits of this affiliation is that we are fortunate to be able to utilize its Finance Department in order to maintain our financial records. This year, Your Neighbors has begun use of QuickBooks as our accounting program. I wish to thank Cathy Mackin, Staff Accountant at Lutheran Care for her diligence in providing our financial reports each month.

Roger S. Williams, Treasurer

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

JEFFREY W. GORNICK

Jeff, a Vice President of M. Griffith, has spent more than 25 years helping clients address their financial concerns and developing sound strategies by focusing on each individual's specific needs. With extensive experience throughout major shifts in the markets, he has dedicated his career to delivering the personalized investment planning services his clients deserve.



Jeff began his career as a Financial Advisor with Invest at Albany Savings Bank in 1983. He joined M.Griffith, Inc. in 1985 and in 1993 he received his CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ (CFP®) designation. Jeff also has his Life Insurance license and is a Registered Investment Advisor, allowing him to offer the full range of investment and financial planning.

Jeff has always believed in giving back to his community and helping those in need. He has spent several years with the New Hartford Rotary Club, acting as President and Treasurer, and received the Paul Harris Designation from his fellow Rotarians as acknowledgement of his many years of service to the community. He has served on the board of the Neighborhood Center of Utica for several years, including time as President and Vice President. He enjoys being the Master of Ceremonies for their annual Holiday Auction.

DONNA H. SWEENEY

Donna Sweeney was born and raised in Central New York. She attended Herkimer County Community College, majoring in Paralegal studies. As a founding Partner of ElderNet, opening in January 2013, Donna is proud to have realized a long term goal to assist in meeting the changing needs of the elderly and disabled, negotiating the services and programs available in our community.



Prior to the creation of ElderNet, Donna joined the Estate Planning Law Center, David J. Zumpano CPA/Esq. in 2007, working in the areas of Chronic Care and Community Medicaid, with over 20 years of experience in estate planning and elder law from her work in local law firms.

Donna sits on the NYS Surrogates Decision Making Committee, is the President of the Board of Directors of Stevens-Swan Humane Society of Oneida County, Inc. and is a past advisor to the Herkimer County Community College Paralegal Association.



Annual Garage Sale

to benefit the Your Neighbors program

Friday & Saturday, May 2 & 3, 2014

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Our Saviour Lutheran Church Gymnasium
1640 Genesee Street, Utica

Donations of household items, lawn & garden equipment, furniture in good working condition books, games, etc. are very much appreciated.

Donations can be dropped off at the Church on
Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday, April 28, 29 & 30 **between** 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. To
schedule a pick-up, please call 315.235.7149

-- Please, no clothing, luggage, sporting goods, computers or damaged merchandise



Funded in part by
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