



## **2020 ANNUAL REPORT**

**January saw the annual meeting for Bethlehem Neighbors, which was held at the town library. New board members were identified and voted on – Gail Myers as president, Francine Greenfield as treasurer, and Sylvia Wheelless as secretary. Several award recognitions were given out to people who were instrumental in the success and development of Bethlehem Neighbors during 2019. The new board agreed to meet monthly during this year to accomplish the goals of expanding our membership, developing plans for fundraising, updating our by-laws, and developing policies and procedures for the organization.**

**We continued with our scheduled Coffee Chats at local venues through March until the threats posed by the pandemic necessitated moving these and other activities to Zoom. We've labeled this necessity as "on pause."**

**With the support of Albany Guardian Society, we were able to join the Village to Village network, a national organization that supports programs such as ours. That also enabled us to purchase a software program called Run My Village, which was specifically designed to assist villages in managing their membership, communications, and services. Luckily, we also have a member who is more skilled in technology than the rest of us who assumed the task of developing our new web site and continues to maintain it.**



**Later in the spring, we met Dee Levy, a new member who was eager to be of help. She became our vice president in May and we are so glad to have her expertise.**

**Throughout the spring, summer, and fall our focus on developing interesting topics for Zoom events which would involve more people. We also heard from members that they missed the human interaction and wanted a way to be together in safe ways. Thanks to our volunteers who identified parks and other areas where we could be together in person and safely distanced, as well as to Harriet who invited everyone to sit in her lovely garden during the warmer weather.**

**The following is a list of other accomplishments during the year:**

- Volunteers completed the Community Services Navigator training which was begun in 2019. Materials from that training are being organized.**
- Volunteers also completed a Medical Note-taking course so that we can be available to our members who wish to have someone assist during medical appointments.**
- We were able to suspend our liability insurance coverage during the period when we are not providing direct services without penalty in order to cut our expenses.**



- **Two newsletters (Summer & Winter) were developed and sent to our members and friends, as well as posted on our web site.**
- **A survey of interests was sent to our members and friends soliciting opinions as to what more they would like to see provided by Bethlehem Neighbors. (The results of the survey were discussed in our Winter Newsletter.)**
- **Several fundraising opportunities were explored, including a second Panera dinner (first one in 2019) but take-out this time, a holiday plant and wreath sale which featured home delivery, and participation in the Boscov's community charitable event.**
- **Local media sources were approached and were open to providing information about Bethlehem Neighbors. Thanks to both Spotlight and Our Towne for your support.**
- **We applied for and received a grant from Albany Guardian Society to develop and expand "best practices" to help reduce social isolation and loneliness among seniors. (Grant period is from October, 2020 to September, 2021.)**
- **Wellness check-ins were developed – goodie bags filled with basic items as well as some "cozy" things were delivered by our volunteers to our members in December.**



- Zoom chat groups were expanded to include Hygge, with several more topics being implemented in early 2021. An in-person “Walk and Talk” was also developed.

**2020 Budget: (Actual – revised down due to “pause”)**

Revenue		Expenses	
Donations/savings	\$1665	Liability Insurance	\$357
Membership	\$1275	Promotions	\$424
Fundraising	\$329	P.O. Box Rental	\$106
		Run My Village	
		Initial year	\$150
		Monthly fee	\$192
		Domain name	\$200
		SSL certificate	\$45
AGS grant	\$2000	Supplies (copies, postage)	\$110
		Misc.	\$15
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$5578</b>	<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$1,599</b>