

# NORTHAMPTON NEIGHBORS NEWSLETTER

HOLIDAYS 2017



**Because Northampton Neighbors is committed to offering volunteer services to all the older adults in all the neighborhoods of the City, we don't charge a membership fee. That's why donations are so important!**

## Northampton Neighbors Is Launched!

After recruiting and training nearly 40 of our members as volunteers, NN began providing free volunteer services to members starting November 1, 2017. We began with a "soft" launch in order to test our on-line systems and will officially celebrate our opening at a big event in early 2018. In the meantime, if you need a service, please don't hesitate to call 413-341-0160. Leave a message and we will return your call. Whether you need a ride, help with computers, have errands or need someone to walk your dog, our volunteers stand ready to serve!



## Stories from Our Volunteers..

These are our members. An 80 year old in subsidized housing is unsteady on her feet. She needs help cleaning out her closets. A woman who lost her mother wants to help others to live independently. A single woman says, "Even with Meals on Wheels, I sometimes go hungry because I have no one to help me carry my groceries up to my apartment." Facing a second knee surgery, one member worries that she might run out of pain medication because she has no one to go to the pharmacy for her. One volunteer reported back about his afternoon chopping wood for a member: "I stopped to take a break because she offered me some cider. I remembered that NN was also about social contact, so I accepted the offer and we chatted." It is easy to be excited about the potential of Northampton Neighbors when you hear these stories.

**NN Handbooks Are Finalized**  
Our Member Handbook and Volunteer Handbook are both finalized and printed. Electronic copies of the Member Handbook are available for download via our website under the "Member Handbook" tab (you must be logged in).



## NN Interest Groups

The Hiking Group has been meeting regularly and scaling local peaks.

*Thank You, Thank You, Northampton!*

None of this could have come about in such a short time without the incredible support of our Northampton community.

We would like to give thanks to our nearly 300 members, volunteers and donors, our mayor and city councilors, ward leaders, and strategic partners, including the Senior Center and the YMCA. We have received financial and in-kind support from Pat Goggins of Goggins Real Estate and the *Daily Hampshire Gazette*. We are working with local professional service providers including Highland Valley Elder Services, Cooley Dickinson Hospital, and VNA & Hospiceto help seniors stay independent. In addition, our wonderful legal and financial advisers have provided invaluable guidance.

Together, all of you have made it possible for NN to achieve its mission to provide access to support services and programs to seniors wishing to live independent, engaged lives at home as they age.

Visit us online at [www.northamptonneighbors.org](http://www.northamptonneighbors.org), email [info@northamptonneighbors.org](mailto:info@northamptonneighbors.org), or call (413) 341-0160

### Report from the Village to Village Convention

From November 5-8, NN Board members Leigh Bailey and Sara Lennox attended the Village to Village Network’s convention in Baltimore. Founded in 2010, the VtVNetwork is a national organization that collaborates to maximize the growth, impact and sustainability of individual villages (200 open villages and over 150 in development) and the village movement. At the convention, almost 400 participants heard speakers on “The Digital Evolution,” “Mental Wellness,” “Aging Throughout the Lifespan,” “Regional Village Organizations,” and “The Neuroscience of Loneliness” and attended concurrent workshops on topics like strategic partnerships with non-profits, fundraising, reducing social isolation, emergency preparedness plans for villages, diversity outreach, village marketing, needs of vulnerable members, and board development. A high point was a screening of the film *Maggie Grows*, about Maggie Kuhn, the founder of the Gray Panthers. Leigh and Sara agree that the very greatest benefit of attending this conference was the contacts they were able to make with other villages, outside service providers, and supporting organizations.



### Report from the Treasurer: Back to the Future – Where We Stand Financially, and Where We Are Going

Thanks to donations from our board, from the community, and from our other members, contributions have covered our expenses to date, with a small reserve. We have paid our 501(3)(c) start-up fees, the cost of insurance for our volunteers and members, the costs for printing member and volunteer handbooks, our website and software fees, and the cost of a part-time administrator. (See our previous newsletter, on our NN website, for a “report from the treasurer”).

We are now entering a new phase of our development. We have launched, and we are providing services. However, we are also pursuing outreach to all neighborhoods in Northampton, to assure that we have an economically diverse membership, not just a virtual gated community. In order to fulfill this mission, we need our members who can afford it to contribute financially. Even without that outreach, our projected expenses would exceed the rate of 2017 donations from members.

Membership must remain free, so that all may join. Now is the time for members who can do so to become donors so that we may fulfill our mission of helping us all live fulfilled lives while aging in place. Please visit our website [www.northamptonneighbors.org](http://www.northamptonneighbors.org) to make a donation.

Gerard Paquin, treasurer  
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### Do You Use Amazon? Contribute to NN by Using AmazonSmile

One way you can contribute to Northampton Neighbors is by doing your Amazon shopping via AmazonSmile. Here’s all you have to do: go to <https://smile.amazon.com>. Indicate that your preferred charitable organization is Northampton Neighbors. After that just do your regular shopping on Amazon, and .5% of whatever you spend will go to Northampton Neighbors. If all of our members use AmazonSmile, NN will definitely benefit. Thank you in advance for trying AmazonSmile.



### November 28<sup>th</sup> is Giving Tuesday

In the next week you will receive a letter from Northampton Neighbors asking you to donate on Giving Tuesday. #GivingTuesday was founded on the heels of BlackFridayand CyberMonday- two days that are focused on consumption and spending. Please consider making a donation on this special day.

### Check It Out: Our list of Member-Recommended Service Providers is Online!

As a member of Northampton Neighbors, you have access to recommendations from fellow members to help you find the best people to work with. We will continue to expand and add to this list.

You can access the list through the website by clicking on the Tab called “Service Providers” (you must be logged in). Please send us your recommendations! And if you've used someone on the list, let us know how it went. Email [services@northamptonneighbors.org](mailto:services@northamptonneighbors.org)

### Home Maintenance & Repair

- Art Framing
- Floor Refinishing
- Auto Mechanic
- Furniture Repair
- Carpet Cleaning
- Garage Doors
- Carpet Sales
- Gardener
- Chimney Sweep
- Gutter Cleaning
- Computer & Technology
- Gutter Installation
- Construction & Carpentry
- Handyman/Home Improvement
- Driveway Sealing
- House Cleaning