

We Are Who You Are



Northampton
Neighbors

YEAR IN REVIEW
JULY 2022-JUNE 2023

NN Fifth Anniversary Picnic

With a fast-growing membership and a wide range of services and programs to keep us connected, independent, and living vibrant lives, NN had a lot to celebrate at the fifth anniversary picnic held at Look Park. Together, we are truly “aging and engaging in place!”



DENNIS LEE



DENNIS LEE



DENNIS LEE



DENNIS LEE



DENNIS LEE



DENNIS LEE

A Message from NN's Board President and Director



AS A FOUNDING MEMBER AND NOW PRESIDENT OF NORTHAMPTON Neighbors, I am thankful to have been a part of its growth over these last six years. The first five were remarkable, filled with developing services and programs to meet the needs of Northampton's older citizens as we all age in place. Even in the face of COVID-19, our membership steadily grew as people recognized what we were working to accomplish, while steadfastly remaining fee-free and inclusive. By the end of our fifth year, we had become one of the national Village-to-Village Network's largest Villages for older people.

In our sixth year, we contemplated how to reopen safely as the threat of COVID, while still present, diminished. We worked hard to figure out how to resume and grow in-person services, expand volunteer opportunities, and provide and increase safe settings for socializing. The result: our offerings and community are stronger than ever.

With all of this growth, we thought it was time to promote Diane Porcella, who has been with us since 2018, to full-time executive director. We are excited about her vision for the future of Northampton Neighbors.

With thanks for your interest and support,

LORAINA MILLMAN
Board President



NORTHAMPTON NEIGHBORS IS BUILT ON CONNECTION: SEEING, hearing, and caring for each other, our community. Now that we've got our feet under us, we are ready to take our next steps to explore, challenge, and champion what aging—and engaging—in place means for us all. As we age, we can feel left out or left behind. Northampton Neighbors is committed to working together to change that. Join us. We want to hear from you. Together, we will refine and create programs and services that reflect who we are. Together, we will thrive.

I invite you to learn more about Northampton Neighbors on the pages that follow and look forward to this next year together.

DIANE PORCELLA
Executive Director

Northampton Neighbors: We Are Who You Are

NN'S *YEAR IN REVIEW* IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR us to share the who, what, when, why, and how of our activities and accomplishments over the past 12 months. In preparing this year's publication, we realized: this is actually not about sharing who we are as an organization; it's about sharing who you are.

Though much has changed in the five-plus years since our founding, we have always and steadfastly been about meeting and adapting to the needs of our community. This year, as we continued to move further away from the acute phase of the pandemic, our membership grew by nearly 30 percent, we resumed much-needed services to our 55+ community, new programs emerged, existing programs were enlivened, and we continued to share and build upon stories and connections.

We are Northampton Neighbors. And in all that we do, we are you.

We are . . . MEMBERS

NN is 1,533 members strong and growing. We receive and volunteer services each month, from errands to rides to small repairs to technical assistance and so much more. We come together for speakers on subjects of interest, guided conversations on topics of members' own choosing, mixing and mingling, hiking and biking, book discussions, conversational Spanish, gardening stories, and just because.

We are . . . DONORS

NN received donations from 495 people last year, including 51 sustaining donors committed to monthly or yearly contributions to the organization. In addition to members, our donors are friends of members who give in honor of someone or something, local residents, and businesses giving in ways large and small. All have the same goal of enriching and making possible the work of Northampton Neighbors.

We are . . . VOLUNTEERS

There are many ways to volunteer, and at NN we welcome them all: providing direct services to members, serving on the board or committees, helping with events, and more. This year we expanded our board by six to a total of 15 members overseeing the organization, from community partnerships and development to communications and the DoozyDo Parade working group. NN's volunteers are creative, committed, and all about connecting to the organization in ways that are meaningful to each of us.

We are . . . COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Northampton Neighbors actively partners with local organizations to expand our offerings, from talks and classes to activities such as walking, kayaking, skiing, and participating with or volunteering time with the organizations directly. Our less formal partnerships include outreach to inform our Monthly Insights education series on local, relevant resources and other collaborations. "It takes a village" is certainly true here, and we are grateful for the relationships we have created and continue to cultivate in the community.

We are . . . BUSY!

Our work includes: fielding and matching service requests with volunteers; a Laptop Program; collaborations with Forbes Library and Grow Food Northampton, UMass, Pioneer Valley Memory Care Initiative with Cooley Dickinson Hospital, and others; welcome visits with new members; a bimonthly newsletter and website maintenance; supporting Neighborhood Circles and Interest Groups; inviting speakers and others to share expertise; the NN listserve; volunteer training; birthday cards and other outreach including social gatherings and regular phone check-ins; contributing to the *Conz Street Chronicle*; and so much more!

Volunteering

At the heart of all we do are those who volunteer in a variety of ways to help our members continue to lead rich, engaged lives. Our most visible volunteers are those who provide direct services such as tech support, small home repairs and chores, a ride to the doctor, or a helping hand with groceries. We believe that connecting those who are able to help with those who need it benefits both, as well as the greater community. Many members note the joy in giving as well as receiving, and participate across the board. In addition, we encourage participation on committees and helping to plan events such as our DoozyDo Parade and annual summer gathering, as well as leading Neighborhood Circles and Interest Groups. Others may enjoy working with our community partners to expand our services. Whatever your interests, skills, and availability, there's a volunteer niche awaiting you at Northampton Neighbors. Our community will benefit from your generosity. For a volunteer application or to learn more, please contact us at 413-341-0160 or info@northamptonneighbors.org.

DoozyDo Parade

What began as a fundraiser for Northampton Neighbors grew into a joyous, colorful, and memorable celebration of community as 350 participants made their way through the streets of Northampton for the first annual DoozyDo Parade. Many thanks to our dedicated steering committee, all of our partners, business sponsors, and volunteers, and of course our abundantly creative parade participants for making it possible! Be sure to check out highlights from this year's parade at doozydo.org!



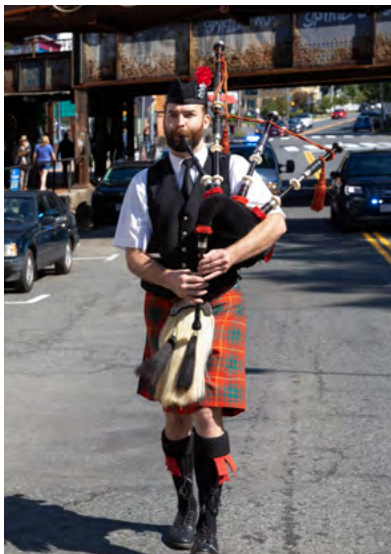
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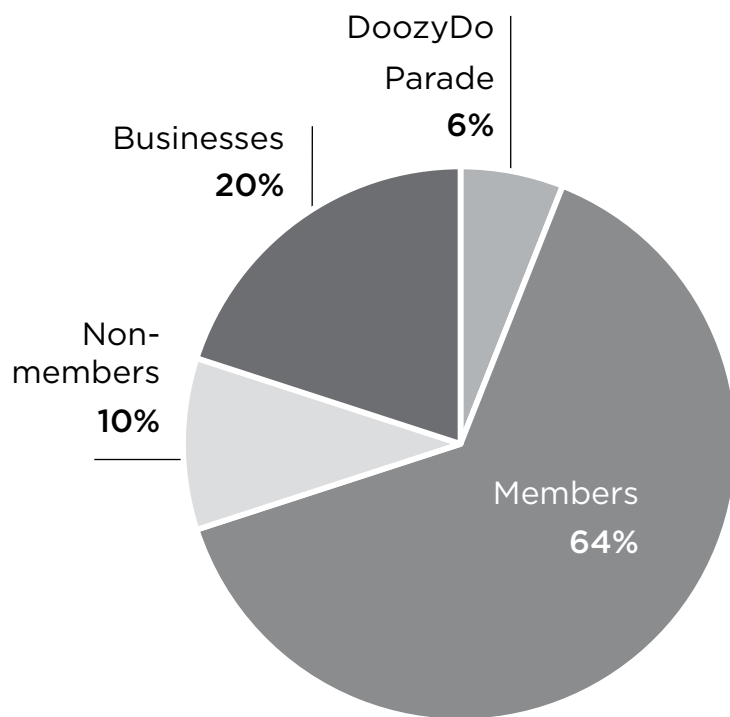
PAUL SHOUL

Financial Report

THIS PAST YEAR, NORTHAMPTON NEIGHBORS SAW A 6% INCREASE FROM THE year before in the amount of donations. We are thankful to local businesses who have greatly stepped up their support. Their names are listed on our website. Please thank them by patronizing them when you can. However, as always, the bulk of donations, 64%, comes from you, our members. We are grateful for the support of all who made this possible. Every dollar—and donor—is meaningful and much appreciated.

FY 2023

Revenue:	\$121,584.24
Expenditures:	\$80,934.76
Net:	\$40,649.48



Become a Sustaining Partner!

Our sustaining partners are individuals and businesses who make monthly or annual pledges that are automatically deducted from their bank accounts. These steady contributions are a wonderful way to support us throughout the year, while also helping us maintain a stable financial base and plan for the future.

Services

NN VOLUNTEERS WELCOME OPPORTUNITIES TO provide free, in-person services to members 55+ who live in Northampton, Florence, or Leeds. If there's a need, we will do what we can to meet it. Some of the more common requests include: rides and errands, neighborly visits and phone check-ins, small fixes or home tasks, technical assistance, and creative supports for the caregivers among us.



CHERI CROSS

For some, it can be hard to ask for help. The thing is, NN volunteers want to help. You are not asking for a favor, you are connecting with Northampton Neighbors in the way it was meant to be, and that is true to our mission of maintaining connection, independence, dignity, and joy as we all age.

For more information about our services, or to make a request, please visit northamptonneighbors.org, email info@northamptonneighbors.org, or call 413-341-0160.

Partners in the Community

TO SERVE OUR MEMBERS best, we collaborate and partner with local service agencies and nonprofits, healthcare and government organizations, and the business community, including:

All Out Adventures
Alzheimer's Association
Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary
Cancer Connection
City of Northampton
Community Action Pioneer Valley
Cooley Dickinson VNA & Hospice
Daily Hampshire Gazette
Dementia Friends
Downtown Northampton Association
Forbes Library
Friends of Northampton Trails
Greater Northampton Chamber of Commerce
Grow Food Northampton
Hampshire Regional YMCA
Highland Valley Elder Services
Historic Northampton LifePath
Mass General Brigham Cooley Dickinson Hospital
Media Education Foundation
Northampton Bicycle
Northampton Health Department
Northampton Housing Authority
Northampton Open Media
Northampton Senior Center
Northampton Survival Center
Paradise Copies

Pioneer Valley Memory
Care Initiative
ServiceNet
Smith Vocational and
Agricultural High School
Spoleto
UMass Amherst School
of Public Health and
Sciences
UMass Amherst
Woodstar Cafe
WRSI

Donors

NN IS DEEPLY grateful for the support of our individual and business community donors, grantors, foundations, and the many other organizations and people who have contributed to our mission.

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Christine Aubrey
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Charlie and Kelly DeRose
Peter and Florence DeRose

* Indicates an honor and/or memorial gift

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Robert L. Edmunds
Norma Johnson's
mother
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**Elizabeth Kehne
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Ernie Liebman
Richard Parmett
Susan Rosen**

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Cynthia Monahon
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Richard Moulding
Sharon Moulton
Phyllis Muldoon
Jerry Mullane
Mary Murphy

Northampton Neighbors members partnered with upper-level undergraduates in a UMass course about connection, belonging, and public health. Over the semester, each pair got to know one another, largely through sharing stories about their own lives. The course culminated with partners recording interviews with one another on a topic of each person's choosing and an installation of participants' photographs in downtown Northampton. Interviews from previous semesters and information about how to participate are on our website, northamptonneighbors.org, and at storyshareumass.org.

Connecting Across Generations



SASHA WHITTAKER



Please Support Your Northampton Neighbors!

Donate online at www.northamptonneighbors.org or send your contribution to Northampton Neighbors, PO Box 231, Northampton MA 01061.

For a volunteer application or questions, please visit our website or contact us at info@northamptonneighbors.org or 413-341-0160.

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Special Thanks

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 Beth Haxby
 Marcia Holden

Named Honor Gifts

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 Mark Karpel and the
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 Suzanne Slater
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 Naomi Yanis

Committees

Our dynamic, get-it-done committees, composed of volunteers and board members alike, are at the heart of our operations. If you have time and talent for one of the following NN committees, we'd like to hear from you!

Communications
 Community Partners
 Development
 DoozyDo Parade
 Events
 Finance
 Governance
 Neighborhood Circles
 Speaker Series
 Support
 Wellness Information
 Neighbors
 Volunteer

If you would like to receive a large-print version of the NN Year in Review, call 413-341-0160.

Para una versión Español, por favor contáctanos por teléfono 413-341-0160 o email info@northamptonneighbors.org y nos alegramos traducirlo.

We've made every effort to reflect accurately each contributor, and gratefully acknowledge anonymous donations, too. If you find an error in this list, please accept our sincere apology and contact us at 413-341-0160 so we can correct it.

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Maypole Celebration



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Northampton Neighbors and Grow Food Northampton celebrated spring with a gathering that included fiddlers, pipers, flute players, singing, dancing, and an abundance of joy. Traditionally held on or around May Day to welcome the spring season, a Maypole event features a festive dance and decorative weaving of colorful ribbons.



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