

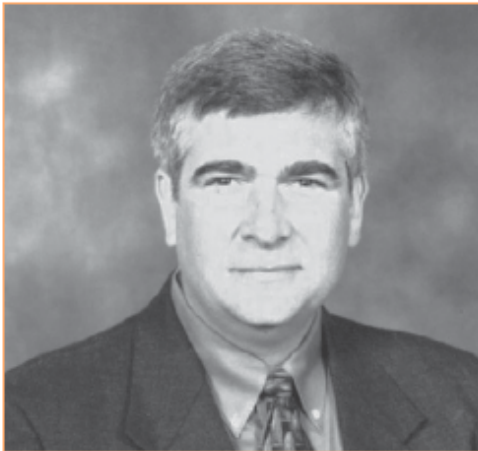
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A Message From the Director

Michael Fritz



2017 marks the 20th Anniversary of Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance, Inc. (Good Neighbor) of providing emergency assistance to individuals and families in need. Since the first agency office opened in April of 1997, Good Neighbor has provided needed assistance and support to thousands of households throughout Story County. The agency provides rental and utility assistance in an effort to avoid homelessness and/or the disruption of needed services. Healthy Food Vouchers are given to ensure that nutritious meals are available within the home. Gas Vouchers are provided to assist with emergency transportation needs. All assistance is provided in an atmosphere of dignity, comfort and encouragement.

Any household in jeopardy of being evicted from their apartment or having their utilities disconnected is eligible to apply for Good Neighbor rent and/or utility assistance. Applicants are required to provide documentation of their need, as well as, information on their particular financial situation. A personal interview is conducted with each applicant to assess needs. Applicants are provided with referral information to other community organizations when services not directly provided by Good Neighbor are needed. Once rent/utility assistance is provided, applicants are not eligible to apply again for a minimum of one year.

The Healthy Food Voucher Program provides any household residing in Story County with vouchers that allow for the purchase of nutritious food items at local grocery stores. Currently, the vouchers are accepted at five Ames grocery stores, as well as, stores in Nevada, Story City, Slater, and Huxley. Two types of vouchers are offered. Grocery vouchers allow for the purchase of dairy products, eggs, cheese, fruits and vegetables. Meat vouchers are offered for meat products, including meat substitutes for those that are vegetarians. Each voucher can be used to purchase up to \$5.00 worth of the corresponding food items, and households are provided with six vouchers per visit. No change is given, so program participants are encouraged to spend as near the face value as possible. Applicants are asked to provide photo identification and proof of residence in Story County in order to receive the vouchers. The vouchers can be obtained once per calendar quarter for a total of four times each year.

The Gas Voucher program is one of few fuel options available in Story County. The program is described in greater detail elsewhere in this newsletter.

Demand for Good Neighbor services increased in all three programs during FY 16 – 17 over FY 15 – 16. Service comparisons can be seen in Figure 1[†].

It is of note that 11 more households received rent/utility assistance last year, despite 40 households being turned away in the fall due to limited financial resources.

These households were located in nearly every community throughout Story County, with over one third residing outside of Ames. Each year we see over 70% of these individuals and families have incomes that are at or below 100% of the federal poverty level. To put this in perspective, for a family of three to be at 100% of the federal poverty level, they can earn no more than \$18,500 per year.

As Good Neighbor enters its new fiscal year, we remain committed to serving those living in poverty and the working poor throughout Story County. We will continually strive to improve services and strengthen funding to ensure that needs are met. I thank each of you for your past support and hope that you will continue to assist Good Neighbor in its efforts of "offering help and hope to those in need."

**Figure 1*

	FY 15 – 16	FY 16 – 17
Rent/Utility Assistance	343 Households	354 Households
Healthy Food Vouchers	1,209 Households	1,507 Households
Gas Vouchers	249 Households	295 Households

SAVE THE DATES!

"MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE" CONCERT

Northminster Presbyterian Church will hold its annual **"MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE"** concert to benefit Good Neighbor on *Sunday, September 17th*. The concert will begin at 2:00 p.m. at the church located at 1416 20th St. in Ames. The concert will include local musicians and feature the gospel quartet "3 Longs and a Short." The public is invited to attend the concert which is free of charge. A free will offering to support the services provided by Good Neighbor will be taken.

ANNUAL GOOD NEIGHBOR "CHORAL CONCERT"

Good Neighbor's annual **"CHORAL CONCERT"** will be held from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on *Sunday, November 5th* at St. Cecilia Catholic Church located at 2900 Hoover Ave. in Ames. Choirs and musical groups from across Story County will perform. The concert finale will feature selections performed by a Combined Choir composed of members from each of the other musical groups. A free will offering to support Good Neighbor will be taken. The "Choral Concert" is open to the public and is free of charge.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR 20TH ANNIVERSARY *Celebration*



Over 130 friends of Good Neighbor attended the 20th Anniversary Celebration on April 29, 2017. Attendees had the opportunity to enjoy beverages and hor d'oeuvres and help celebrate the efforts of eight award recipients who have been essential to the agency's growth. The highlight of the event was the testimony of a previous client. Relative's and friends of the late Mary Lou and Arne Paulsen from all across the country set a tone of joy and true celebration that became infectious to the crowd. The event ended with a spirited auction that generated nearly \$13,000 to support agency services. Good Neighbor would like to thank all involved with making the Celebration a great success!

GOOD NEIGHBOR WOULD LIKE TO **THANK OUR SPONSORS** WHO GAVE GENEROUSLY TO SUPPORT THIS EVENT

Hor d'oeuvres Courtesy of
Lincoln Center Hy-Vee and West Ames Hy-Vee
David Jensen, Ballard LLC
Martin Property Management
Hansen's Sinclair
Jerry Litzell
Copyworks
Triplett Companies

AND A SPECIAL THANKS TO
CITYCHURCH OF AMES-DES MOINES



Program Profile – The Good Neighbor Gas Voucher Program

Transportation issues have consistently been identified as an ongoing community need throughout Story County. For those living in poverty and the working poor, rising fuel costs hinder those individuals and families struggling to survive on limited incomes in meeting their transportation needs. Often times these situations are exacerbated by the fact that many of these households are driving older, less fuel efficient vehicles

The Good Neighbor Gas Voucher program provides needed fuel assistance to Story County residents experiencing difficult situations. Applicants are able to receive gas vouchers by coming to the Good Neighbor office during regular hours of operation (9:00 a.m. to noon, Monday through Friday). Participants are required to provide a valid driver's license and proof of residency in Story County. Those applying for gas vouchers meet with the Good Neighbor Director to discuss the situation and determine need. Preference is given to those households whose situation indicates that the voucher will address the immediate need and promote a longer term solution. The gas vouchers have a face value

of \$25.00 and may not be redeemed for cash. Vouchers can be redeemed at Hansen Sinclair in Ames, and once provided, recipients are not eligible to receive another for a minimum of one year from the date the voucher was issued, encouraging participants to utilize the program only in emergency situations.

The Gas Voucher program benefits the community by providing fuel assistance in crisis situations. While each case is unique in their situation and circumstances, there are common themes for the households that have benefited from the Gas Voucher program. The vast majority has children and are either employed or actively seeking employment. Many have recently started new jobs and need transportation assistance until their first paycheck is received. This group includes individuals that are commuting to different communities from where their homes are located. Medical issues within the family and the need to get to medical appointments in other communities is another common theme.

The Good Neighbor Gas Voucher program is one of the few gasoline assistance resources in Story County. Each year we have seen increased demand for the service. The program works in conjunction with other agency services to address individuals and families in crisis situations.



FY 17 – 18 Board of Directors

The Good Neighbor Board of Directors is a group of volunteers comprised of representatives from faith based organizations and at-large members. The Board provides oversight of all agency operations and guidance of activities to ensure organizational growth into the future. Board members are also essential in helping conduct agency fundraisers and public awareness events. Each faith based member of Good Neighbor has the opportunity to appoint a representative to the Board of Directors. Good Neighbor is extremely fortunate to have a committed group of individuals dedicated to the agency's mission serving on the Board. The members of this year's Board of Directors are as follows:

President Steve Hanlin, First United Methodist Church
Vice President Phyllis Craig, St. Cecilia Catholic Church
Secretary Amy Doolittle, Collegiate United Methodist Church/Wesley Foundation
Treasurer Judith Carlson, Member At-Large
A. M. Fink, Ames Friends Meeting (Quaker)
Ann Thompson, Collegiate Presbyterian Church
Anne Almquist, Bethesda Lutheran Church
Becky Jackson, St. Paul Lutheran Church
Corey Mellies, St. John's By the Campus Episcopal Church
Donna Bergman, Trinity Christian Reformed Church
Jere Maddux, First Baptist Church
Jim Trenberth, Unity Church of Ames
Joe Jurasic, Ascension Lutheran Church
Joel Jacobsen, Cornerstone Church of Ames
Leonard Larsen, Northminster Presbyterian Church
Michael Madson, St. Andrew Lutheran Church
Sally Daub, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Shirley Malaby, First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
DEDICATION
AND
SUPPORT.**

Tuscan

DINNER FUNDRAISER

to benefit

GOOD NEIGHBOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE, INC.
.....

Saturday, August 19th | 6:00 *social* | 6:30 *dinner*

located in the Fellowship Hall,
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
1015 Hyland Avenue, Ames

\$35 *per person* for tickets,
call **515.296.1449**



Please make plans to join us for the

Tuscan Dinner

being held Saturday, August 19th.

The dinner is being prepared by Chef Terry and Chef Mark, founders of Lucallan's Italian Grill. The dinner will include: beverages, salad, Italian bread, two entrées (one a vegetarian option), and dessert, all served family style.

For your added dining pleasure, a red and white house-wine option will be available for a nominal donation. All funds raised will be used to support the agency's Healthy Food Voucher program.

**Tickets are \$35 per person,
with \$20 being tax deductible.**

*Tickets can be obtained by calling
515-296-1449, or emailing gneainc@gmail.com.*