



The Rose

Volunteer Newsletter

Spring 2016

Contact Information

Phone: 906-482-6944

Fax: 906-482-6106

Email:

ckorpela.hou@littlebrothers.org

Online:

houghton.littlebrothers.org

facebook.com/LittleBrothersUP

Inside this issue:

Creating Friendships 2

Tips for Volunteering with the Elderly 2

In Memoriam 2

Funding Updates 3

Save the Date 3

Volunteer Spotlight 4

Volunteer Application insert

Planned Gifts insert

Holiday Volunteer Workshop insert

Volunteer Response Sheet insert

Mission Statement:

Little Brothers - Friends of the Elderly is a national network of non-profit, volunteer-based organizations committed to relieving isolation and loneliness among the elderly.

We offer to people of good will the opportunity to join the elderly in friendship and celebration of life.

The Rose is published three times annually by the office of the Program Director

Updated Volunteer Application

In this issue of *The Rose* you will find an updated volunteer application. It has been many years since we reviewed how we're collecting information and recruiting volunteers to meet our specific needs. To better align your interests and skills to our volunteer opportunities, **we ask you to please complete the new volunteer application.**

The new application can be folded into the Easter Volunteer Response Sheet and mailed to us or you can find it on our website, houghton.littlebrothers.org and email it to Carol Korpela at ckorpela.hou@littlebrothers.org

We appreciate your service to the elderly friends of our organization. During our 2015 Fiscal Year 744 volunteers provided 4,883 actions serving 1,115 elderly friends. This is an average of 7 actions per volunteer on behalf of Little Brothers—Friends of the Elderly. This only reflects our core programs and not the time dedicated to small activities, baking for holidays, and office work.

THANK YOU! We could not be a friend to the elderly without you.

Easter Volunteer Needs

Last year we relied on 400 volunteers to serve 743 elderly friends at our Easter meal. We need your help again as we host our annual Easter celebration on Sunday, March 27, 2016.

We host sit-down meals at ten sites in a five-county area: Baraga, Calumet, Copper City, Hancock, Houghton, Marquette, Ontonagon, South Range, and Tapiola. Volunteers are needed at these sites in shifts starting at 10am through 5pm.

We also deliver meals from two sites: Houghton and Laurium. Volunteers are needed at these sites in shifts starting at 8am through 2pm.

Holiday celebrations take a lot of preparation so we also need volunteers in the days and weeks prior to the holiday to pick up donations, deliver food and supplies to the sites, help in the office, bake dessert, and more.

Please complete the enclosed Volunteer Response Sheet and mail it back. You will be called to confirm your preferences and availability. You may also sign up to volunteer by calling the office at 482-6944.

Creating Friendships

All chapters of Little Brothers—Friends of the Elderly around the world share one thing in common. We all make a commitment to create and build friendships with our elderly neighbors. As elderly people are referred to our agency, we assess their needs and determine how we can help. As they experience life-changing events such as the loss of their driver's license, a health crisis, or death of a family member, they may require services from Little Brothers. If significant need for friendship and services is identified, the elder may become a "Forever Friend".

Forever Friends are added to our Friendly Home Visiting Program where they receive in-home visits at least twice a month. Additionally, we help with errands, shopping or other

tasks that keep them independent and happy. When we add someone to our program we accompany them for the remainder of their life, therefore they become our forever friend. This friendship makes the difference as noticed by the daughter of a Forever Friend who wrote "Just a note of thanks for the many ways you help my mom. The dinners, gifts, rides and visits are so thoughtful and very much appreciated. I live 500 miles away and the care and attention she receives from your organization is very comforting." Sincerely, Vicki.

Just a few hours of your time can make a difference. Please call 482-6944 if you are interested in becoming an in-home visitor.

Tips for Volunteering with the Elderly

Volunteering with the elderly can be very rewarding. Here are a few tips to help you as you volunteer with our elderly friends. Allow for Extra Time: Arrive early and be patient. Slow Down: Adjust your speaking and walking pace. Speak Up: Speak loudly but also slowly and enunciate. Be Seen and Heard: Sit face to face and maintain eye contact to foster good communication. Bring Prompts: Photos or small objects trigger conversation and memory. Don't Make Assumptions: Our elders are a diverse and fascinating group of people, with a variety of beliefs, life experiences, interests and opinions. There is no "typical" elder. Have Fun!

IN MEMORIAM

Barbara Kastamo

8/30/1933—10/5/2015

Visited by Alice Slusarzyk

Marge Tinetti

5/11/1924—10/23/2015

Visited by Kathryn Heikkila

Dale Evans

11/4/1946—10/29/2015

Visited by Joyce Koski

Elsie Byrne

2/7/1924—11/16/2015

Visited by Sharon Eklund

and

George Kauppila

James Kastamo

5/18/1933—12/7/2015

Visited by Alice Slusarzyk

Alex Butkovich

10/24/1919—12/24/2015

Visited by Joyce Koski

Matthew Somero

9/13/1952—1/22/2016

Visited by Philip Detje



Funding Updates

General Operating Funds: **UP Health Systems** gave us \$500 in October of 2015 from their Canal Run Gives Back fund. We also had a great team participating in the race, with the coolest T-shirts on the street.



SEMCO Energy gave \$1,000 in November 2015 for general support. We continue to benefit from SEMCO through their former employee, Dave Wiitanen, who has more time to volunteer with Little Brothers since his retirement. He recently helped with the installation of a new boiler in the intern house.

Medical Transportation:

Our medical transportation program provides crucial access to health care for those who can no longer drive or need

assistance. **The Mary Thompson Foundation** gave \$15,000 in November 2015, (an increase of \$5,000), and **The Clare Foundation** gave \$12,000 in December 2015, (an increase of \$2,000 from previous years) to help meet our expanding needs.

Cold Weather Needs:



Our International Interns visit more than 25 elders each month, and provide much-needed youthful energy and an international perspective. Their home that Little Brothers provides was in dire need of a new boiler & hot water heater. **The Milton A. Ratner Foundation** generously gave \$5,000 for matching/supplemental funds in October 2015. The rest was covered by **the Rice Foundation** from an earlier grant.

Additionally, **Plum Creek** has been a longstanding supporter

of our supplemental firewood program that helps keep our elders warm! They gave \$2,000 in January 2016 for wood processing equipment.

Holiday Meals & Food Pantry:

The James Ruppe Foundation donated \$5,000 in September 2015 and the **Talcott Family Foundation** gave \$1,000 in October 2015 to help us keep our meals affordable and festive for our elderly friends who would otherwise be spending the holidays alone.

The **Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity** helped us collect over 7,450 pounds of food at our annual food drive. With the additional donations from a local canathon, our pantry is now stocked with over 9,000 pounds of food. Thanks also to the Houghton Community Broadcasting Corporation and WMPL for helping us get the word out through live radio coverage!

Save the Date: Rock Retrospective

Get your groove on at our annual Spring Fundraiser on Saturday, April 23, 2016 at the Shelden Grill in Houghton. This year's theme is *"With a Little Help from my Friends"* inspired by The Beatles.

This rock retrospective will feature an evening of dining, DJ and dancing. At the event you will find tasty small plate dinners, silent auction, live auction, a rock and roll shop featuring Little Brothers apparel and more.

Volunteers are needed to help plan the event. Please call Cathy at 482-6944 if you're interested in lending your talents to the cause.

Planned Gifts: An Everlasting Gift

Consider making an Estate Gift to the Little Brothers – Friends of the Elderly Upper Michigan Foundation. You can name Little Brothers in your will designating property, securities, life insurance gifts, retirement gifts, or other planned gifts. You might consider purchasing a Charitable Gift Annuity or donate to the “John and Cookie Johnson Needs Fund” that directly impacts the lives of our “Forever Friends.” Your gift no matter how small or large ensures that Little Brothers will provide services and programs beyond our lifetime.

If you would like to meet with Foundation Director Mike Aten to learn more about the giving opportunities without any obligations, please call (906) 370-2215 or e-mail maten.hou@littlebrothers.org

Rather than enclosing an envelope, you are asked to merely fold this page and tape the edges.

Please tape edges

Little Brothers - Friends of the Elderly
 Attn: Carol Korpela
 527 Hancock Street
 Hancock, MI 49930

Holiday Volunteer Workshop

Tuesday, March 15th 6pm

Little Brothers - 527 Hancock St, Hancock

~

Wednesday, March 16th 6pm

Little Brothers - 300 Lake St, Ontonagon

~

Thursday, March 17th 6pm

St. Michael's - 401 W. Kaye St, Marquette

~

Wednesday, March 23rd 6pm

Please join us for a hands-on experience to learn about our holiday party standards and procedures. We'll be reviewing practical steps to a stress-free dinner party.

Learn how to properly temp food, set-up for meal delivery, pack and distribute home meals and more.

We'll also be sharing a new menu format and food-safety forms.

Holiday site manuals will be available for review and holiday party booklets will be available to take home.

Everyone is welcome!

EASTER 2016 VOLUNTEER RESPONSE SHEET

NAME _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

By sharing your email you agree to be added to our E-Newsletter I prefer a printed newsletter

OTHERS VOLUNTEERING WITH YOU _____

I/WE CAN VOLUNTEER ON EASTER DAY : YES NO I can be a lead volunteer

SIT-DOWN Sites and Times:

Hancock Calumet Houghton
 Tapiola S. Range Copper City
 Ontonagon Baraga Marquette

Kitchen 10am—1:30pm
 Kitchen 1:30pm—5pm
 Dining Room 11:30am—1:30pm
 Dining Room 1:30pm—5pm
 Meal Delivery 1:45pm
 Transport Guests
 Provide Entertainment

NURSING HOME Site and Times:

HCMCF (multipurpose room)

 LBs Kitchen 8am—12pm
 HCMCF Dining Room 10am—2pm
 Provide Entertainment

DELIVERY Sites and Times:

Houghton Home Meal Delivery Site

 Laurium Home Meal Delivery Site

 Kitchen 8am—11am
 Kitchen 11am—2pm
 Dining Room 10am—2pm
 Meal Delivery 11:45am

Other preferred time/assignment: _____

I/WE CAN VOLUNTEER PRIOR AND/OR AFTER EASTER : YES NO

- Pick Up Donations and run errands (starting March 8)
- Deliver to a site (March 26th between 7am and 1pm)
- Make Easter Baskets or Decorate Grocery Bags (due March 16)
- Data Entry (starting February 17)
- Make Phone Calls (starting February 10)
- Other Office Help (March 24 and 25)
- Count Supplies (March 18)
- Office Clean Up (March 28 9am—noon)
- Bake Desserts Total # of servings _____ delivered to: Hancock office by the 24th _____ meal site on Easter day

I/WE CAN ATTEND A HOLIDAY MEETING:(details on other side) YES NO

March 15 in Hancock March 16 in Ontonagon March 17 in Marquette March 23 in Baraga

For Office Use Only (do not fill out) Date Received: _____ Date Volunteer Role Confirmed: _____

Day of: Entered into GW Totals Board

Pre/Post: Entered into GW Totals Board

Little Brothers - Friends of the Elderly
527 Hancock Street
Hancock, MI 49930

The Rose

Volunteer Newsletter

Spring 2016

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit #61
Hancock, MI

Address Service Requested



Volunteer Spotlight

Office volunteers are essential to our daily operations. Nothing would be accomplished without dedicated volunteers coming in everyday. Working behind the scenes are our receptionists, bookkeepers, clerks and coordinators. They manage our computer network, maintain our buildings and equipment, manage our stockrooms, and develop PR campaigns. Last year 70 volunteers put in over 2,250 office hours! That's equivalent to one full-time office employee!

We are so blessed by the dedication of our volunteers and this is especially true of **Father Alexander**, a priest with Sts. Sergius and Herman of Valaam Orthodox Church in Atlantic Mine. Father Alexander, who has a secular job in IT, is a volunteer who joined our Technology Committee almost 2 years ago and has given so much of his time and talents to upgrade our computer system! He has seen us through so many improvements including acquiring and configuring a new server. He upgraded our technology infrastructure, then migrated all of our files and accounts from our previous system. In short, our system now runs more safely and swiftly than ever before.

Father has put in many, many hours and has been a great teacher to us as well. We have come so far and are so grateful for all his time. Thank you Fr. Alexander!!!