



The Rose

Volunteer Newsletter

Spring 2017

CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF SERVICE

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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



We will host an official celebration this fall and will be celebrating in smaller ways throughout the year! If you would like to be part of the planning for our fall celebration please attend our planning meeting on Monday Feb. 20th at 12:00pm at Little Brothers! If you are unable to attend this meeting but are interested in participating in future meetings, please call Cathy Aten at 906-482-6944 or email her at caten.hou@littlebrothers.org

1 BIG Change this Holiday!

This Easter there will be one big change. **We are relocating our Keweenaw dinner site from Copper City to Mohawk (Horizons Alternative High School located at 110 Stanton Avenue).** This change will give our volunteers more room to maneuver in the kitchen and make it easier to prepare the meal. We are sad to say goodbye to a site that has provided many memories but we have outgrown the space. We thank the Village of Copper City for providing us a homey venue for many years.

We are also looking to serve more elders at the larger Keweenaw site so please let us know of anyone over the age of 60 who will be alone on the holiday. We will add them to our invitation list or they can call 906-482-6944 to sign up to attend the party or have a meal delivered.

For a complete listing of sites, please visit our website: www.houghton.littlebrothers.org

VOLUNTEERS AND HOLIDAY SITE MANAGERS NEEDED!

The Holiday Site Managers are responsible for ensuring the holiday party meets Little Brothers' standards in providing a homemade meal to elderly friends. You can choose to manage the kitchen, the dining room or both. This position requires organization and the ability to delegate jobs to fellow volunteers. Holiday site management can be overwhelming but we will arm you with the necessary information. Attend a pre-holiday meeting and meet with the Program Director for individual instruction.

To sign up to volunteer, please call 906-482-6944 or return the enclosed volunteer response sheet.

Keeping Elders Warm

Unique to the Copper Country, we're the only Little Brothers—Friends of the Elderly chapter in the world to provide our elderly friends with cut and split firewood.

Many elders still rely exclusively on firewood to heat their homes or use it as a backup to offset their home heating bills.

Each year we provide over 100 cords of firewood to approximately 100 elders, enabling them to continue living independently in their own houses.

Contrary to popular belief, the woodlot is in operation all

year long, right through the winter, where volunteers first have to remove the snow that has accumulated on top of the wood piles.

If you are looking for a new volunteer opportunity within Little Brothers, please consider the Firewood Program. Individuals as well as groups are needed to cut, split, and stack firewood at our Paradise Road woodlot. Volunteers are also needed to deliver firewood to our elderly friends, as well as maintaining the woodlot and equipment. If you are interested in volunteering, please call 482-6944.

Tips for Volunteering for the Firewood Program

Volunteering at the woodlot requires 2 to 3 hours of physically demanding work and volunteers should be in good health and follow all safety precautions. Come prepared by wearing sturdy boots or shoes (no open toe is acceptable or allowed), appropriate clothing for the weather conditions and bring work gloves. There is a woodshed on site for protection from the elements but it is not heated.

Planned Gifts: An Everlasting Gift

The Little Brothers – Friends of the Elderly Upper Michigan Foundation secures the future of Little Brothers. Led by Michael Aten, former Executive Director of the Upper Michigan Chapter for thirty years, the Foundation pursues planned gifts to ensure that we are serving our elderly friends for many years to come. To discuss your planned giving to the Foundation, **please contact Michael Aten at**

(906)282-3406, or email maten.hou@littlebrothers.org or foundation@littlebrothers.org

"To my special family at Little Brothers. Thank you for another fabulous year and hope we have many more. God Bless you all."
Beverly

Meet the Staff

Please join us in welcoming two new members of the team. **Terri Martin** was recently hired as our grant writer. She most recently worked at Finlandia University as their Director of Grant Writing.

Erika Grunert is our new Program Assistant. She brings her experience of being a group leader at the YMCA and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Milwaukee.

Terri and Erika have replaced Suzanne Van Dam and Irene Corrales, respectively. Suzanne moved down-state and is lending her talents to another non-profit. Irene moved to Ecuador with her husband Luke and works at Yachay Tech University as a social worker. We wish both of them the best of luck in their new adventures.

Funding Updates

General Operating Funds:

\$500 from the **Keweenaw Community Foundation, Herman Gundlach Fund.**

When **River Valley Bank** opened their community giving to be voted on, the community came together and voted to award us the top prize of \$3,000. Staff, board members and volunteers accepted the award at their open house at their newly renovated Houghton branch.

\$1,000 from the **Talcott Family Foundation.**

Friendly Visiting:

Milton M. Ratner Foundation awarded us with \$6,000 for our regional project, SISU: Serving Isolated Seniors in the Upper Peninsula.

Portage Health Auxiliary donated \$4,000 to enhance our home visiting program by

training volunteers in active listening and using a variety of communication programs to help connect our homebound elderly to their family and friends electronically. This matches the funds recently awarded by the Rice Memorial Foundation.

Medical Transportation:

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

\$10,000 from the **Mary Thompson Foundation.**

\$20,000 from the **Clare Foundation.**

Cold Weather Needs:

The Supplemental Firewood Program provides our elderly friends with firewood to keep their homes and hearts warm to

enable them to live independently.

\$10,000 from the **Talbert & Leota Abrams Foundation.**

\$3,500 from the **Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund.**

Holiday Meals & Food Pantry:

We celebrate the holidays with traditional meals and provide much needed food pantry staples each month to our elderly friends.

\$500 from **CertainTeed.**

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 11,000 pounds of food.

Holiday Volunteer Meetings

Tuesday, April 4th 6-7pm

Little Brothers - 527 Hancock St, Hancock

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Thursday, April 6th 6-7pm

St. Ann's - 318 Lyons St, Baraga

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Tuesday, April 11th 6-7pm

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

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Wednesday, April 12th 6-7pm

Holy Family - 515 Pine St, Ontonagon

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

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

Everyone is welcome and lead and experienced volunteers are encouraged to attend. This is a time to share your experiences and discuss your holiday site successes and needed improvements.

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

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Volunteer Spotlight

Ken Vervisch came to Little Brothers to volunteer in January of 2016 where he learned of numerous volunteer opportunities. He wanted something to do that would be meaningful for him personally and expressed interest in becoming a friendly visitor. When he met with the Elder Services Coordinator he had a few questions about what visiting was really like, what we expected of him and what he could “give” to Little Brothers.

After interviewing Ken to get to know him better, the Elder Services Coordinator suggested some potential elderly friends he could visit. His eagerness to get involved was evident so she introduced him to his forever friends and he has not turned back.

What is really appreciated though is that when Ken hears of a need that fits into his schedule he is quick to volunteer. He not only visits two forever friends regularly but has “adopted” a few more after helping out with food bag delivery, Christmas Box delivery, and the forever friend Christmas present program. The list of things that Ken has helped with has gotten long over the last year and he mentioned at one point that he has found that “meaning in life” in the work he does here for Little Brothers, and he has invited his family to join him!! Thanks Ken!!



In Memoriam



Minetha Ruohonen

7/8/1925-9/27/2016

Visited by Alice Slusarzyk

Ellen Lynch

3/27/1917-11/27/2016

Visited by Toni White

and

Debby Hart

Edna Van Wert

12/26/1925-12/20/2016

Visited by JP Rewer

Mary Alice Bertucci

8/2/1917-1/12/2017

Visited by Lee Parker

Patricia Stenson

9/3/1950-11/5/2016

Visited by JP Rewer

Leonard Murtomaki

6/12/1948-1/3/2017

Visited by JP Rewer

Rose Skoviak

6/2/1933—1/18/2017

Visited by Roland Mayer

Please tape edges

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

Longtime Volunteer, Ken Steiner, Remembered

January 1, 2017 brought the passing of a dear volunteer who had been with the organization since the very beginning. Ken Steiner was a constant presence through the years, taking charge of preparing most of the meals at our small group activities and as lead cook at our holiday dinners at Church of the Resurrection.

Cooking was his expression of love but it was the time spent outside of the kitchen that his caring and love of his elderly neighbors really shined.

Though he is no longer with us, he has spread his love of Little Brothers and the joy of volunteering to the community.



Jan Olli with Ken Steiner, Photo by Mark Cinelli