

Prepared to Celebrate the Holidays Safely

The Covid-19 pandemic has forced us to make many changes. Because of the timing, we had to cancel our 2020 Easter celebrations. But now that we have learned more about this virus and know proper safety precautions, we are prepared to celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas safely. After months of information gathering and training, we are in a position to safely provide a traditional holiday meal to our elderly neighbors with your help and due diligence.

To do this safely, we had to restructure our holiday meals. **We will be providing home-meal delivery and curbside pickup only.** The decision to suspend the sit-down dinner parties comes with a heavy heart. We are asking all volunteers who plan to deliver meals to the elderly, to please pick up the meals curbside. You never have to leave your car. A volunteer working at the site will bring the meals to your car.

To volunteer, please register by returning the enclosed volunteer response sheet, register online at register.littlebrothers.org or call 906-482-6944. If you provide your email address, you will receive an email confirmation of your assignment. We understand if you are not in a position to volunteer due to the pandemic.

COVID-19 SAFETY PRECAUTIONS FOR VOLUNTEERS!

We are following the state's executive orders and CDC recommendations. We require all volunteers and staff to do the same. You must practice the following safety precautions for at least two weeks before each holiday to minimize your exposure to the virus if you plan on volunteering.

- Avoid high exposure sites (bars, restaurants, large crowds, and sites identified by the local health departments).
- Practice physical distancing, wear a face mask, wash hands frequently, etc.
- Don't travel outside of the U.P.
- Monitor yourself for symptoms including: fever, shortness of breath, sore throat, and sudden loss of taste or smell.

| Home Meal Delivery Sites

Please note that all sites are now home meal delivery sites.

Both Thanksgiving and Christmas Meals will be ready to be picked up for delivery between 11:45AM and 12:15PM on both holidays.

- Sacred Heart Church, CALUMET
- CLK School, CALUMET
- St. Ignatius Church, HOUGHTON
- Grace United Methodist Church, HOUGHTON
- Doelle Senior Center, TAPIOLA
- Grace Lutheran Church, SOUTH RANGE
- Holy Family Catholic Church, ONTONAGON
- St. Ann's Church, BARAGA
- Silver Creek Church, HARVEY (Marquette)

| MANDATORY ONLINE TRAINING

Please watch this MANDATORY 7 minute training on safe food handling, packaging, and delivery practices on our website.

houghton.littlebrothers.org/holiday-volunteering/

To request a printed copy, please contact Gail Ross at gail.ross@littlebrothers.org or call 906-482-6944.

This video was created by the staff and interns of our Marquette branch office. A special thank you to the NMU Nursing Class interns for their contributions on this video.

2020 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



Alexander Reichert

Over the past five years, Alexander Reichert has provided his expertise to continuously build the technology infrastructure within our organization. The upgrades and improvements to our computer and phone systems enabled the office personnel to quickly transition to work from home during the Covid-19 pandemic. He continues to provide extensive technical training and daily support so we can continue our outreach to the elderly through phone visits and virtual activities.

His patience is beyond measurable as he teaches staff the changes in our computer systems. Alexander is never bothered by the multiple phone calls and emails he receives from different employees throughout the day. He continues to provide help remotely after moving out of the area. Even being so far away, his passion for Little Brothers – Friends of the Elderly has not wavered.

Before becoming heavily involved on the Technology committee, Alexander started with the organization by volunteering to prepare Thanksgiving meals for the elderly and driving elders to the cemetery for Memorial Day.



NOMINEES



Abbey and Chris Green



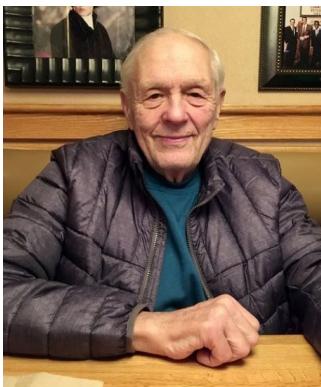
Jackie Manchester



Barb and Phil Quenzi



Judy Sellers



John Van Westenberg



Alice and Ted Soldan



Tim Williams



Arlene Young

Mary Chamberlain,
no photo provided

Three volunteers chose to remain anonymous.

2020 VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

As a volunteer-based organization, Little Brothers - Friends of the Elderly relies on the many talents of our volunteers. The pandemic has taught us that the spirit of giving not only lives on but it thrives during challenging times. As some volunteers had to take a break to protect their health and loved ones during the pandemic, new volunteers rose to the challenge so we could continue to provide essential services for the elderly.

Some examples of your volunteer service include driving our elderly friends to and from their medical appointments, delivering food when it wasn't safe for the elder to grocery shop, and dropping off a gift just to let a lonely elderly friend know that they are remembered.

Thank you for your service to the elderly and for being a friend to those in need.

YEAR OF SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

Congratulations to the following volunteers who have reached these milestone years of service!

35 YEAR VOLUNTEERS

Ren Olson

30 YEAR VOLUNTEERS

Reino Narhi

Jeff Flam

25 YEAR VOLUNTEERS

Paul Heikkila

Mary Jo and Larry Kristapovich

20 YEAR VOLUNTEERS

Linda Kantola

Laura Bulleit

15 YEAR VOLUNTEERS

Mari Janowiak

Jayne Nestell

Olszewski Family

Lorraine and Lynn Watts

Bernice Smith

Phyllis Johnson

10 YEAR VOLUNTEERS

Danny Bacia

Robert 'Bob' Drake

Barbara Edwards

Fred Geis

Kathy Jarvenpaa

Charlene Johnson

Lorena Kurburski

Joann and Mike LaCourt

Dawn and Erick Lee and Jasper Lee

Sue Maijala

Dan Maki

Carol and Robert Salmi

Jack Swift

Paul Tomasi

John VanAbel

5 YEAR VOLUNTEERS

Ann Binninger

Keith Brown

Theresa Cherubini

Patti and Frank Chiodi

Nancy Chosa

Tammy Couture

5 YEAR VOLUNTEERS cont'd

Sally Ann and Bradly 'BJ' Curtis

Pat and John Doyle

Jackie and Richard Erickson

Sara Goodell

Laura Hane and Lily Hane

Cindy and Geoffrey Harrison

Wendy Heikka

Sarah Hoy

Jillian Jacobsen

Carol and Don Koski

Peiying Kuo and Rodney Oakley and

Alethea Oakley

Sandy and Jeff Lewin

Rod Lindrus

Mike Malloy

Abigail Mauno

Cathy and Jay McKenzie

Rick Nye

Mark Roth

Anna Sanchez

Kristy and Rich Sarau

Darlene Van Wert

April and Ken Vervisch

OFFICE UPDATES

Retirement News



Sandy and Jeff Lewin

Sandy Lewin has retired from Little Brother - Friends of the Elderly.

Sandy joined the organization as Development Director in March of 2016. Some of her accomplishments include building our donor base, segmenting donors, organizing our donor database, developing a donor newsletter, and streamlining our annual report.

We are so grateful for all she has accomplished and wish her the best in her retirement. We know she will enjoy some time to just relax - she deserves it. Congratulations Sandy. We are going to miss you.

New Beginnings

After six years as Program Director, Carol Korpela is making a change and is now filling the Development Director position vacated by Sandy Lewin.

Gail Ross, the former Grants and Communications Manager is now the new Program Director.

Both are excited to learn a new facet of the organization and are looking forward to bringing renewed energy to their respective roles.

VPAs

Our international Volunteer Program Assistants (VPAs) typically join the organization for one year of service in September.

Due to Covid-19, our two VPAs from Germany went home early in March to be with their families. We were so happy to have Stella and Simon for just a short period of time. Our two VPAs from France, Gauthier and Louna, stayed with us until July and August.

This year we won't be able to welcome new VPAs in September because of travel restrictions.

We currently have one young woman from France and one young man from Germany interested and committed to joining us, but the earliest they can come to America is after the new year in 2021.

We hope nothing changes to push their arrival back further, but it has already happened a few times since April.

In the meantime, we are in need of more volunteers: groups and individuals. Our VPAs usually visit around 20 Forever Friends each, meaning we have close to 100 Forever Friends who are not getting the full benefits of having a committed friend.

If you or someone you know would like to volunteer by visiting a lonely elderly person in Houghton, Keweenaw, Baraga, or Ontonagon please call Gail Ross at (906) 482-6944.

In Memoriam

Annie Butina

11/12/1921-07/03/2020

Visited by Simon Reitz and Joyce Koski

Tom Hruby

07/13/1926-06/30/2020

Visited by Mike Aten

Connie Olson

09/09/1926-09/17/2020

Visited by Debby Hart

Ingrid Puuri

09/19/1930-06/11/2020

Visited by Elisa Isaacson

Betty Saari

02/24/1940-09/18/2020

Visited by Joyce Koski



Covid-19 Support

Little Brothers - Friends of the Elderly received \$8,000 toward payroll through The Small Business Restart Program from the Small Business Association of Michigan.

This grant has allowed the organization to remain operational and provide services to the elderly when they needed it most.

THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS 2020 VOLUNTEER RESPONSE SHEET

Volunteers over the age of 13:

NAME _____ Birthdate ____/____/____

NAME _____ Birthdate ____/____/____

NAME _____ Birthdate ____/____/____

MAILING ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

If you provide your email, we will send you an email confirmation of your volunteer assignment.

Have you volunteered before? Yes No

Would you like to receive the volunteer Newsletter? Yes No

Printed or Electronic? _____

I/WE WILL VOLUNTEER ON: THANKSGIVING DAY CHRISTMAS DAY at the following site....

CALUMET, Sacred Heart CALUMET, CLK School

HOUGHTON, St. Ignatius HOUGHTON, Grace United Methodist

TAPIOLA, Doelle SOUTH RANGE, Grace Lutheran

ONTONAGON, Holy Family BARAGA, St. Ann's

HARVEY (Marquette), Silver Creek Church

kitchen (8am to 2pm)

dining room (10am to 2pm) *To set up meal deliveries and curbside pickup. There is no sit-down meal service.

meal delivery (pick up meals from site between 11:45am and 12:15pm)

I/WE WILL VOLUNTEER FOR OTHER HOLIDAY NEEDS:

Deliver supplies to a site the day before Thanksgiving Christmas

Make Thanksgiving Treat Baskets Total # of baskets

Decorate Thanksgiving Grocery Bags Total # of bags

Decorate Christmas Grocery Bags Total # of bags

Turkey Prep for Thanksgiving Christmas

Make/Answer Phone Calls

Office Clean Up after Thanksgiving Christmas

For Office Use Only (do not fill out)

Date Received: _____

Received By: _____

Totals Board Registration Completed GWs

Manual Master List Called into site



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Little Brothers - Friends of the Elderly
Attn: Gail Ross
527 Hancock Street
Hancock, MI 49930

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PROGRAM UPDATES

Although different, Little Brothers—Friends of the Elderly has been hard at work to continue providing the elderly with friendship during the socially isolating time of the Covid-19 pandemic. Usually, we are celebrating the warm weather with multiple picnics and fun activities throughout the summer. As our spring virtual activities tapered off, we dreamed up new, safe ways to remain in contact with our elderly friends.

The warm weather afforded us the opportunity to visit our elderly friends in person outside with physical distancing and PPE as a requirement. Phone calls supplemented those visits as well as some special occasion gift deliveries.



Forever Friend, Karen Oja

In August we celebrated 'National Friendship Day' by having volunteers deliver cookies, a carnation, and a card. In September we celebrated 'Healthy Aging Month' by having volunteers deliver a custom face mask with the Little Brothers—Friends of the Elderly logo, some hand sanitizer, and hand lotion. Most importantly though, our elders received a physically distanced friendly visit!

As the weather starts to cool, we are now working on a plan to continue our mission to relieve isolation and loneliness among the elderly during the cold winter months. If you have ideas or are able to volunteer, please contact Gail Ross at gail.ross@littlebrothers.org.

Program Growth in the Marquette Area

The Community Foundation of Marquette gifted us \$2,000 for a laptop, docking station, and headset for the Marquette office through their Covid 19 Response Fund. This gift has allowed our Marquette branch staff to work from home and continue providing friendship to our elderly friends in the Marquette area.

The Marquette branch office is starting to grow as we now welcome Andrea Harvey as the new Program Manager after April Cote had to step down. Though we miss April, we wish her the best of luck in her new endeavors.

We have recently hired Erin Shei as the new Volunteer Coordinator. Both Andrea and Erin have been instrumental in recruiting six new field placement interns through Northern Michigan University (NMU). We welcome three Social Work Field Placement Interns, Dillon Donaghy, Jesse Laurin, and Cynthia Maurer. They have been busy visiting Forever Friends, sending out letters, helping with holiday

planning, recruiting donations, and much more. They are also writing "Legacy Books" on each of our Forever Friends who want to participate. They write the stories of our FF, and type it into a book for the future generations of their families to read.

We also have three NMU Nursing students joining us for their Fall 2020 semester for their Community Nursing course. Sarah, Michaela, and Alysse are all seniors and completing the final steps to their BSN. They have begun work on securing Holiday Meal PPE kits for every site and meal delivery volunteers.

Activities are starting up soon! We have planned our Virtual Activities to begin in October with the following: Music Monday, Light Exercise facilitated by the YMCA of Marquette County, Detroit Reunion, True Colors Women's Coloring Group, and a Halloween door decorating competition.

Community Support

Little Brothers—Friends of the Elderly was the recipient of a \$1,000 gift from the Evangel Community Church.

The gift was from their concession proceeds during the High Flying Stunt Team Zero Gravity event which was hosted by the church in August.

Thank you to the Evangel community for your support of our programs.



Executive Director, Cathy Aten, accepting a check from Pastor Levi Matteson and Travis.

Phone: 906-482-6944

Fax: 906-482-6106

Email: michigan@littlebrothers.org

Website: houghton.littlebrothers.org

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

The Rose

Volunteer Newsletter

Fall 2020

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit #61
Hancock, MI
49930

SWEETSTAKES PRIZE WINNERS

Peter Lappi of Chassell won 1st Prize - 2011 Ford Mustang

Mary Kerttu of Dodgeville won 2nd Prize - Door County, WI Weekend Get-Away

Devonte Fleming of Hancock won 3rd Prize - \$250 VISA Gift Card

Mary Lou Tillison of Marquette won 4th Prize - The cash alternative of Two Cords of Firewood

Chad Kuivanen of Tapiola won 5th Prize - A Dozen Assorted Keweenaw's Bounty Jams and Jellies



Thank you for your generous support of our Medical Transportation Program by purchasing tickets to our annual Mustang Sweepstakes. We are especially grateful since this year we could not participate by having ticket booths at fairs and festivals in the five-county area. We relied mostly on our mailing and ticket sales at our office.

Your contributions enable us to continue serving the elderly by providing them rides to and from their medical appointments. This is especially invaluable to those elderly who had essential appointments during the pandemic and could not participate in a telehealth appointment. Volunteers provided 312 medical transports since March.

While our volunteer driver pool got smaller, we were able to onboard eight new volunteers, six of whom have stayed on during the pandemic. We appreciate the seventeen active volunteer drivers who have been providing this essential service; some providing multiple transports a week.

More volunteers are needed! If you are available to drive elders to and from their medical appointments, please call Gail Ross at 906-482-6944 or email gail.ross@littlebrothers.org