

## Volunteer of the Year Nominations now being accepted

Please help us recognize an outstanding volunteer who demonstrates service to the elderly by submitting a nomination form. The Volunteer of the Year demonstrates commitment to the elderly and embodies the spirit of the Little Brothers - Friends of the Elderly mission of relieving isolation and loneliness among the elderly. We are looking for volunteers who serve the elderly in meaningful and unique ways either directly or indirectly.

**Nominations must be received by July 7, 2021 to be considered.** You may submit more than one nomination. Self-nominations are encouraged and accepted. Please, only one nomination per form. This form can be found online at [houghton.littlebrothers.org/nomination-form/](http://houghton.littlebrothers.org/nomination-form/) or by mail upon request. Verbal nominations cannot be considered in fairness to all candidates.

## THE WOOD LOT HAS A NEW HOME



Volunteer Otto Bloom and wood shed

We are proud of our Firewood Program that has been such a vital and unique service for our elderly friends since our beginning in 1982! **A huge thank you to Julie and Gary Beck who have allowed us to use their property to operate our wood program for many years.** In the fall of 2019, LBFE was able to purchase a five-acre parcel of land on the corner of Haarala Road and Paradise Road, which is now home to our new wood lot!

We have spent the past year making improvements to the new lot by moving dirt, bringing in gravel to make roads for logging trucks, and just recently, we moved our equipment garage from our old wood lot to our new lot. There is still so much work to do (including building two large wood storage sheds). If you are interested in managing the construction of the sheds or want to volunteer your labor to build, please let us know by calling Cathy or Debby at (906) 482-6944.

Please watch for our special announcement about a more formal event to celebrate and thank everyone who has helped us move from our old wood lot to our new wood lot. We will be hosting a "Grand Opening" at the new location. We cannot wait to celebrate with you! Thank you in advance to all those who have helped in the smooth transition over the past two years!



Volunteer Ray Wirtanen moving wood shed to the new wood lot

## VOLUNTEER PROGRAM ASSISTANT UPDATE



NMU interns at LBFE Marquette office

A piece of our hearts was missing at Little Brothers this year with no International Volunteer Program Assistants (VPAs) joining us for the 2020-2021 year.

In Marquette, we had student VPAs from the Nursing and Social Work programs at Northern Michigan University. We are so appreciative of their help this year as they implemented new activities, created friendships with our Forever Friends, and constructed handmade gifts for our elderly friends.

For the 2021-2022 academic calendar year, we plan to have students from NMU's Social Work and Nursing programs again. The incoming NMU VPAs have been interviewed, and they will start at the beginning of the fall semester. We will have one social work VPA and about three

nursing VPAs each semester. There is potential to receiving more VPAs from the university.

We also plan on welcoming back International VPAs from France and Germany. We have accepted five young adults to serve a year with us at our Hancock location, who will also travel to Baraga and Ontonagon. Although we have accepted them and prepare for their arrival, we are unsure at this time if their visas will be approved as international travel is unpredictable.

The five International VPAs will arrive between July and September. There are four women and one man. Three are from Germany and two are from France. Their biographies will be in the next newsletter.

A huge thank you to Dillon, Cynthia, Vanessa, Michaela, Sarah, and Alysse, our NMU Interns for the 2020-2021 school year. It was a pleasure to have you work with us. Good luck with your endeavors!

We cannot wait to have our VPAs joining us again from NMU, France, and Germany!



## VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

We are so happy to announce that this year we will be hosting an in-person Volunteer Appreciation Picnic at Kestner Park in Houghton from 7-8pm. Unfortunately, we will not be having our traditional barbecue meal. Instead we will have desserts only. **We ask that nobody brings a dish to pass as we still want to practice Covid safety protocols. Little Brothers will provide the desserts.**



As usual, Little Brothers - Friends of the Elderly will be highlighting the Years of Service Volunteers and the Volunteer of the Year nominees at the Appreciation Picnic on July 21, 2021 and on social media.

Please follow us this summer through:

[facebook.com/LittleBrothersUP/](https://facebook.com/LittleBrothersUP/)

**The Volunteer of the Year will be announced at the Volunteer Appreciation Picnic on Wednesday, July 21, 2021.**

## In Memoriam



**Dale Lowe**

04/18/1957-03/12/2021

Visited by Joyce Koski

**Richard MacGillivray**

4/29/1941-04/27/2021

Visited by Joyce Koski

**John "Jack" Massoglia**

09/05/1933-03/20/2021

Visited by Mary Jo Stimac and  
Tanner Polglaze

**Bernard "Bernie" Shute**

03/12/1927-03/1/2021

Visited by Joyce Koski

## FRIENDLY VISITING UPDATES

For over a year, Little Brothers - Friends of the Elderly has decided to put a pause on in-person visiting with our Forever Friends. We are happy to announce that we are resuming visiting! Starting now, LBFE will allow Visiting Volunteers and their Forever Friends to visit in person either outside without masks or indoors with masks if one or both people are unvaccinated. If both the volunteer and the Forever Friend are vaccinated and both feel comfortable without masks, then neither person needs to wear a mask. If one party would like masks to be worn or to not visit in person, please be respectful of those decisions. We are still in the middle of a pandemic and want to be considerate of those who are still being cautious about interacting with other people.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has allowed fully-vaccinated people (two weeks after final dose) to resume normal activities and

interact with other fully-vaccinated people without masks for a month or so now.

The State of Michigan's Department of Health and Human Services have been following the CDC's recommendations. When the CDC updates any mandates or executive orders, Michigan will follow soon after.

Little Brothers wants to be cautious with large gatherings as we work directly with a valuable and vulnerable population. Because of that and not knowing about elders being vaccinated, we have not made any decisions about events larger than 25 elders. We are still careful about how we serve food at gatherings also.

We cannot wait until we resume all programs in our usual capacity, but until then, we remain optimistic and look forward to in-person visiting and small activities.

## What Happened to the Canvas Food Bags?

At the beginning of the pandemic, LBFE decided to stop the use of canvas food bags because of the uncertainty of the virus staying on surfaces and the potential risk. Starting in July 2021, we will use our generously donated blue canvas bags to deliver monthly non-perishable food items to our elderly friends who are part of the program. These bags are much sturdier and eco-friendly.



### Beginning June 1:



- There will no longer be capacity limits outdoors.
- There will no longer be capacity limits at residential gatherings.
- Indoor establishments will be at 50% capacity.
- Social gatherings will now be regulated only by the venue.
  - *For example, guidelines or rules for an indoor wedding or conference would be set by the establishment in which it is hosted.*
- Face masks continue to be required for non-vaccinated individuals indoors.



**Beginning July 1**, all broad epidemic orders will be lifted.



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

Summer 2021

Non-Profit Org.  
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**PAID**  
Permit #61  
Hancock, MI  
49930

## This is your chance to win a Ford Mustang while supporting our Medical Transportation Program



### PRIZES

**1st Prize** - 2014 Ford Mustang Convertible Race Red with Black Leather Seats and Interior, 3.7L V6 engine, Auto Transmission, A/C, Full Power, Shaker Stereo System, Sequential Rear Turn Signals, Sharp Condition!

**2nd Prize** - Door County, WI Weekend Get-Away, includes Lodging and Meal Certificates at the White Gull Inn, Fish Creek, WI

**3rd Prize** - \$350 VISA Gift Card

**4th Prize** - Two Cords of Firewood cut and split, delivered within a 40 mile radius of Hancock or \$250 cash alternative

**5th Prize** - A Dozen Assorted 9 ounce Jars of Keweenaw's Bounty Jams and Jellies, donated by the Wood'n Spoon, Mohawk, MI

**Our Mustang Sweepstakes is our main source of funding for our Medical Transportation Program. All proceeds** from the ticket sales support our Medical Transportation Program and provide a much-needed service to our local elders.

Our Medical Transportation Program provides elderly people age 60 and older with rides to and from their medical appointments free of charge.

Tickets are \$5.00 per ticket, or \$10.00 for three, \$20.00 for six, or \$30.00 for ten tickets.

Tickets can be bought online through our website, [houghton.littlebrothers.org/mustang-sweeps/](http://houghton.littlebrothers.org/mustang-sweeps/), by mail, by calling the office at 906-482-6944, or at the office located at 527 Hancock Street in Hancock.

They will also be available for purchase at fairs and festivals throughout Houghton, Marquette, and Ontonagon Counties.

**DRAWING September 17, 2021.** Location to be announced.