



Mission (What We Do)

RNeighbors empowers citizen leaders to create sustainable neighborhood networks that promote a vibrant, healthy, and livable community.

Vision (Why We Do It)

RNeighbors works toward a future when Rochester community life is rooted in neighborhoods that nurture citizen involvement for positive community change.

Statement of Purpose (How We Get There)

RNeighbors provides support and organizational development assistance to neighborhood associations throughout the Rochester community by developing and implementing programs and activities that enhance neighborhood capacity.

2009 Accomplishments (What We Did)

- Helped organize three new neighborhood associations including Cimarron, Parkway, and Washington using the RNeighborhood Toolkit.
- RNeighborWoods planted 260 boulevard trees with the help of more than 320 volunteers. (Photo above of Kutzky Park neighborhood tree planting)
- Helped the "A Litter Bit Better!" campaign rally 3,200 Rochester volunteers to collect over 40,000 pounds of litter. (Photo below of 2009-10 poster contest winner Daphne Jebens, and her 4th grade class at Sunset Terrace)
- Assembled and distributed over 1,000 City Ordinance Highlights booklets.
- Served as an organizer to address public safety concerns in the grass-roots Neighbors for Safety effort.
- Helped assemble and distribute 20,000 free copies of five neighborhood walking routes.
- Educated 70 volunteers with the Citizen Forester Training program.
- RColorful Corners brightened up Rochester intersections with 1 new mural and 3 mural repaints assisted by over 200 volunteers.
- Partnered with the Diversity Council to bring neighbors together to discuss immigration over city-wide dinners in the Table Talk event.
- Increased neighborhood visibility through participating in events like Chalk the Block (photo below), the Rochesterfest parade, and National Night Out.



Rochester Neighborhood Resource Center RNeighbors

Providing tools to grow GREAT neighborhoods



Natalie from Q Photography took this portrait of some members of the RNeighbors Board of Directors and Friends at Pipsqueaks, an indoor playground. Pictured are board members unless specified. Kneeling: Marilyn Meyer (Cimarron NA), Michael LaPlante, Cassie Runke, Nate Runke (RNeighborWoods). Standing: Aaron Stelpflug, Bob Nowicki, Bob Suk, Judy Stern, Jason Schilling, Jeff Ellerbusch, Kari Schilling (RNeighborWoods), Vicki Snyder, Bob Sixta. In the back (on the jungle gym): Caitlin Meyer (MN GreenCorps), Heather Peterson, René Jones Lafflam (Executive Director), Anna Kokesch Reeve. Board members not pictured: Mike Podulke, Ahmed Makkawy, and Michon Rogers.



2010 Board of Directors

Jeff Ellerbusch
Rochester/Olmsted County Planning Dept.

Anna Kokesch
HGA

Michael LaPlante
Mayo Clinic

Ahmed Makkawy
IBM

Bob Nowicki
Rochester City Council

Heather Peterson
City of Rochester Public Works

Mike Podulke
Artisan and Omsted County Board

Michon Rogers
University of Minnesota Rochester

Cassie Runke
Mayo Clinic

Jason Schilling
Mayo Clinic

Bob Sixta
Sixta Insurance

Aaron Stelpflug
Mayo Clinic

Judy Stern
Robert G. Suk Law Offices, P.A.

Bob Suk
Robert G. Suk Law Offices, P.A.

Staff
René Jones Lafflam
Executive Director

MN GreenCorp
Caitlin Meyer
Winter 2009-Fall 2010

Technology
Adam Starkey
Webmaster

Terry Trelstad
Computer Consultant

Interns
Joe Sixta
Fall-Winter 2009

Claire Hunt
Summer 2009

Jaclyn Brink
Tessa Dungan
Taryn Upmann
Spring-Summer 2010



Rochester Neighborhood Resource Center
RNeighbors
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829 3rd Ave SE, Ste 225 • Rochester, MN 55904
www.RNeighbors.org

Finances

Accountability Wizard

RNeighbors is funded in part through the City of Rochester. The remainder of our operating budget comes from grants and donations. In 2009 we completed the Accountability Wizard, a process to identify and define sound practices in nonprofits, through the Charities Review Council. We can now proudly say that we meet all accountability standards of the Charities Review Council.

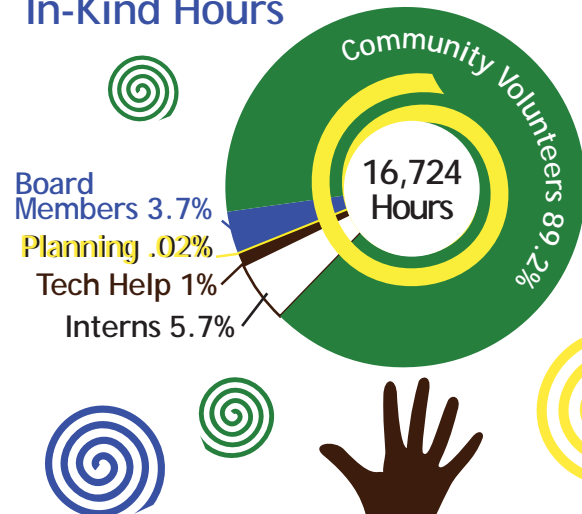


Our Books

2009 Assets	2009 Income & Expenses
Cash.....\$9,071	Total Income \$113,393
Property & Equipment.....\$2,804	
Funds held with Rochester Area Foundation.....\$4,921	Expenditures
Total Assets\$16,797	Neighborhood Associations..... \$4,390
	RNeighborWoods..... \$66,570
2009 Liabilities & Net Assets	Litter Bit Better \$13,092
Current Liabilities.....\$1,622	RColorful Corners \$5,216
Net Assets.....\$15,175	Administrative Expenses..... \$21,751
Total Liabilities & Net Assets\$16,797	Fundraising Costs..... \$5,957
	Total Expenditures..... \$116,976
	Decrease in Net Assets(\$3,583)

Above financial figures were compiled by independent accountant Bill Nietz, of Scanlon, Nietz & Murch.

In-Kind Hours



Volunteers make up the heart of RNeighbors. We thank you.

Work of strategic planners, Board members, interns, bloggers, committee members, street mural painters, and tree planters, made up over 16,724 hours of volunteer time in 2009.

When multiplied by \$20.85 (the estimated value of volunteer time by the National Independent Sector), the year's volunteer work equals \$348,695.

This number does not even include the important work done by members of our Neighborhood Associations.

Neighborhood Associations (NAs)

We assist neighborhoods with tools and resources to keep their organizations strong and healthy. Each of our programs and partnerships work toward this goal. There are currently 36 registered NAs in Rochester.

In 2009 we helped organize new NAs, distributed City ordinance booklets, worked on public safety, fostered our partnership with the Youth Commission engaging youth, and continued to increase the visibility of neighborhoods with the Rochesterfest Parade, National Night Out, our e-newsletter "RNews" and through our website at RNeighbors.org. This was also the year we undertook transferring our website to a more user friendly format. Corporate Web Services (CWS) generously provides hosting.

We partnered with the City and the Rochester Convention & Visitors Bureau to bring the Neighborhoods USA (NUSA) Conference to Rochester. We were 1 of 5 finalists and will continue trying to bring this amazing resource to our community.

RNeighborWoods

RNeighborWoods is designed to educate community members on growing a sustainable urban forest, helping to amplify beauty, safety, energy efficiency, and value of neighborhoods. Currently there are 27,720 vacant boulevard tree spaces throughout Rochester neighborhoods, out of a total of 56,779 spaces. In 2009 RNeighborWoods "volunTrees" helped in small part to add to the tree canopy by not only properly planting trees in our neighborhoods but giving participants a chance to work side by side with their neighbors.

RColorful Corners

RColorful Corners is modeled after similar programs in Portland, Oregon and St. Paul, Minnesota. This RNeighbors core program became a reality in 2007. Still painting strong with help from Valspar street paint, it brings neighbors together to create street murals that transform common public spaces into a neighborhood asset. The program continues to create community connections and add public art to neighborhood streets.

A Litter Bit Better!

RNeighbors partners with the City of Rochester and many others agencies and organizations in this program. Now in the fifth year, this city-wide litter cleanup program is completed during one week in April. The program enjoys participation across many sectors in the community including schools, service and faith groups, scout troops, businesses, and of course, Rochester neighborhoods.

RLuau (fundraiser)

RLuau is a tropical annual celebration, featuring food, entertainment, and a silent auction with handcrafted items from neighborhood members. Proceeds go to support important community-building projects, such as the RColorful Corners street murals and the RNeighborWoods tree plantings.

Over the Fence Chat

- // RNeighbors has been instrumental in getting me the tools and contacts that I need as a president of our neighborhood association. They are an important asset that allows neighborhoods to find resources to help fight crime and bring about a safer environment for all of the city."
-Marilyn Meyer, Cimarron Neighborhood Association President
- // RNeighbors is important because they provide resources, and tools to active neighborhoods throughout the city of Rochester. Without the overall coordination that this organization does, it would be difficult for individual neighborhoods to organize and accomplish all that RNeighbors does each year through the programs they offer. RNeighbors has also provided a pivotal role in facilitating a direct link with city hall on public safety concerns of neighborhoods, which is invaluable."
-Wayne Flock, Slatterly Park Neighborhood Association President
- // There are not many organizations that provide as many truly good programs for Rochester as RNeighbors. Out of the many, the one that has impacted us the most is RNeighborWoods. It is refreshing to see a non-government entity taking on the role of greening our streets. It is not being done with massive tax dollars, burdensome policies, or regulations. Rather, it is a united and concerned group of neighbors and neighborhoods that are taking the responsibility upon themselves."
-Jay Maier, Maier Forest and Tree, LLC
- // Advancing the common good first requires that we feel a commonality. With each project they undertake, RNeighbors nurtures and sustains the sense of connectedness upon which a community is built. When people come to experience their connectedness, they realize in doing one thing together that they can act together in other ways as well. There is a bright line that links, for example, neighbors acting together to plant trees and neighbors acting together to address concerns about safety."
-Dave Beal, VP of Communication and Advocacy, United Way
- // My internship at RNeighbors taught me how city government, local nonprofits, and residents can work together to create great projects, beauty, dialogue and change."
-Heather Cederholm, 2008 RNeighbors Intern & College of Saint Benedict 2010 Grad
- // RNeighbors has become the linchpin of the neighborhoods network. We are all grassroots organizations out here and except for RNeighbors we only meet by chance if at all. It is vital to have a central person and place that is stable and contains our collective history and experience. Connecting people to people is a great public service."
-Dave Edmonson, Kutzky Park Neighborhood Association President
- // RNeighbors, working with the Neighbors for Safety initiative, has helped to address a community concern. RNeighbors served as a convener, developed a plan, and then became an effective voice for change. This is a concrete demonstration of the potential that exists for community collaboration and successful problem solving."
-Susan Ahlquist, Community Relations Administrator, Mayo Clinic
- // RNeighbors is helping neighbors create sustainable neighborhood networks that promote a vibrant, healthy and livable community. Additionally, neighborhood associations are once again developing a sense of value that not only creates an identity and pride in the neighborhood but also strengthens the entire City. As cities, including Rochester, face greater budget issues, it becomes even more valuable that we have strong neighborhoods with an active volunteer force. Congratulations on making a difference by providing tools to grow great neighborhoods in Rochester."
-Mayor Ardell F. Brede, City of Rochester, MN

