



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.

2011 Accomplishments (A Bit of What We Did)

- Helped neighbors organize new neighborhood associations including Homestead Trails, South Pointe and Badger Hills using the RNeighborhood Toolkit.
- Proudly accepted a state-wide Best of Community Showcase Award for "helping our community...with creative and proactive community and economic development innovations."
- RNeighborWoods planted 1,161 boulevard trees in Rochester neighborhoods with 778 volunteers.
- Partnered in the "A Litter Bit Better!" campaign to rally 3,334 Rochester volunteers to collect nearly 10.5 tons (or 20.962 pounds) of waste.
- Reprinted and distributed over 1,000 City Ordinance Highlights booklets.
- Served as an organizer to address public safety concerns in the grass-roots Citizen Advisors for Public Safety group.
- Wrote a grant and hosted a MN GreenCorps member who devoted 1,700 hours to RNeighbors and greening Rochester neighborhoods.
- Educated 47 volunteers with the Citizen Forester Training program.
- RColorful Corners brightened up Rochester intersections with 5 mural repaints assisted by over 290 volunteers, dedicating 939 hours of time. (Photo below of the Tree of Knowledge NE street mural at 17th St. and 2nd Ave. that over 60 volunteers of all ages helped to repaint in 2011.)
- Educated over 800 neighbors in the Think Green Fair. Over 135 gallons of motor oil, 16 car batteries and 3,000 bottles and cans were collected during the Fair for recycling.
- Moved our offices to the Olmsted County 1421 building, with increased office space and additional storage for our event supplies.
- Increased neighborhood visibility through participation in City events and committees.



2011 RNeighbors Board & staff in Slatterly Park by Q Photography.

We lost an Integral and founding part of RNeighbors in 2011. Mike Podulke's spirit, originality and heart will be missed in the RNeighbors organization and throughout Rochester neighborhoods.

2011-12 Board of Directors & Staff

Sankar Bandi
Mayo Clinic

Ivana Bartulovic
Intercultural Mutual Assistance
Association (IMAA)

Mark Bilderback
Mayo Clinic, Council Member - Ward 4

Jeff Ellerbusch, Past President
Olmsted County Planning & Zoning

Tami Greenslade
Property Brokers of MN

Michelle Komosinski, Secretary '12
Olmsted County Public Health

Michael LaPlante
Mayo Clinic, ESPNA President

Ahmed Makkawy
IBM, SPNA Board

Caitlin Meyer, Vice President '12
Olmsted County Environmental
Resources

Bob Nowicki, President '11-12
Retired IBM and City Council

Michon Rogers, Treasurer '12
University of Minnesota Rochester

Cassandra Runke, RCCorners '08-'12
Mayo Clinic

Jason Schilling,
RNWoods Chair '08-'11
Mayo Clinic

Bob Sixta
Sixta Insurance

Aaron Stelpflug, RNWoods Chair '12
Mayo Clinic

Judy Stern, Secretary '06-'11 & RLUau
Robert G. Suk Law Offices, P.A.

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

Paul Wilson
County Commissioner, Third District

Outgoing

Heather Peterson, Treasurer '08-'11
City of Rochester Public Works

Mark St. Peter, Litter Bit Better! '07-'11
City Auto Glass

Staff

René Jones Lafflam
Executive Director

MN GreenCorps

Brittany Stewart
Fall 2010-Fall 2011

UM Rochester
Ashley Borgschatz
Fall-Winter 2011

Technology
Adam Starkey
Webmaster

Terry Trelstad
Computer Consultant

2011

Neighborhood Roots

Community Report



Rochester Neighborhood Resource Center
RNeighbors
Providing tools to grow GREAT neighborhoods

1421 3rd Ave SE • 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.

Always striving for improvement, in 2011 we became members of the Directed Giving Alliance (DGA), a workplace giving non-profit. We also continued our membership with the Charities Review Council, an organization that identifies and defines sound practices in non-profits. We can now proudly say that we meet all accountability standards of both the DGA and the Charities Review Council.

In 2010 we saw an increase in fiscal assets, in part to our proud partnership with the Rochester Arborist Workshop, becoming their fiscal agent.

Our Books

2010 Assets	2010 Income & Expenses
Cash.....\$49,670	Total Income \$143,830
Property & Equipment.....\$3,217	Expenditures
Funds held with Rochester Area Foundation.....\$5,112	Neighborhood Associations..... \$6,573
Total Assets.....\$57,999	RNeighborWoods..... \$15,663
2010 Liabilities & Net Assets	Litter Bit Better \$16,546
Current Liabilities.....\$1,622	Rochester Arborist Workshop \$7,903
Net Assets.....\$56,377	RColorful Corners \$1,576
Total Liabilities & Net Assets\$57,999	Think Green Fair.....\$29,398
	Administrative Expenses.....\$19,191
	Fundraising Costs.....\$5,968
	Total Expenditures.....\$102,818
	Increase in Net Assets.....\$41,012

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

In-Kind Hours

17,995 Hours*

When multiplied by \$21.36 (the estimated value of volunteer time by the National Independent Sector), the year's volunteer work equals \$384,373 of value to Rochester neighborhoods.

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

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

- RNeighbors Board
- RNeighborWoods
- RColorful Corners
- CAPS
- MN GreenCorps
- Office Tech and Web Gurus
- Strategic Planning
- ARTigras
- Rochesterfest Parade
- Litter Bit Better



Neighborhood Associations (NAs)

Established as a nonprofit in 2001, RNeighbors is celebrating 10 years of assisting 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 41 registered NAs in Rochester.

In 2011 we helped organize new NAs, assisted neighborhoods in connecting with resources, distributed City ordinance booklets, worked on public safety, continued to engage with youth, and increased visibility of neighborhoods through participating in community partnerships, the Rochesterfest Parade, National Night Out, and through our website at RNeighbors.org, generously hosted by Corporate Web Services (CWS).

RNeighborWoods (Est. 2004)

In 2011 RNeighborWoods "volunTrees" helped in small part to add to the tree canopy by not only properly planting trees in our neighborhoods but also giving participants a chance to work side by side with their neighbors. RNeighborWoods is designed to educate community members on growing a sustainable urban forest, helping to amplify beauty, health, safety, energy efficiency, and value of neighborhoods. In 2010 this program received a MN Society for Arboriculture Award and in 2011 received a City Tree Team Award from the Arbor Day Foundation.

Also this year the RNeighborWoods group completed the Friedell Middle School Butterfly Garden with the help of 50 student volunteers. Filled with native trees and plants, this garden is used by Friedell Science classes.

RColorful Corners (Est. 2007)

Now in its fifth year, RColorful Corners empowers Rochester neighborhood residents to work together to create colorful street murals, transforming public space into neighborhood assets. In 2011 we assisted five neighborhoods to repaint their intersection murals with local donations from Sherwin Williams and Hitachi. The program continues to create community connections and add public art to neighborhood streets.

Rochester Arborists Workshop (Est. 2007)

The Rochester Arborist Workshop holds both a one-day winter and a summer conference. Its focus is to nurture, educate about and promote safe and current urban arboriculture.

A Litter Bit Better! (LBB) (Est. 2007)

RNeighbors serves as the fiscal agent to LBB and partners with the City of Rochester and many others agencies and organizations in this program. This city-wide litter cleanup program is completed during one week in April. LBB enjoys participation across many sectors in the community including schools, service and faith groups, scout troops, businesses, and of course, Rochester neighborhoods.

CAPS (Citizen Advisors for Public Safety) (Est. 2010)

CAPS serves as a grassroots communication link between residents and local government to improve public safety. Recognized by the City Council, CAPS is made up of volunteer representatives from each ward in Rochester, as well as representatives from local organizations, businesses, and members of the Rochester Police Department Community Action Team (CAT).

