



This is what it's all about..... discovering old friends in new places.

Max and Howard were high school football competitors and acquaintances. Max played for Coopersville, Howard for Hudsonville.

After graduation both entered the Army, doing their basic training together in Pennsylvania. They were sent to different theaters of action and lost contact over the years. Both returned to West Michigan; Howard to become the Grandville City Manager and Max a builder/union negotiator/president of a credit union.

They retired. Both in their 80s, they joined the Grandville Senior Neighbors Center. Max and his wife are seven-year members while Howard is a two-year member. Going through some of his WWII memorabilia, Howard recognized Max and quickly renewed their friendship, reminiscing about their football teams and WWII involvements. Both now serve on the center's advisory council and are very busy having fun while staying active.

"If you associate enough with older people who do enjoy their lives, you will gain a sense of continuity and of the possibility for a full life." (Margaret Mead)

"Freshening Up" is something many of us like to do in the spring. It feels good and keeps us looking good. After more than 20 years, Senior Neighbors is transitioning to a new logo, above left, because it reflects the future thinking essential to serving community seniors in today's rapidly changing world. Did you notice our old logo on the exterior envelope? We're using up old stock. Soon we will launch our updated, more user-friendly website. Watch for an announcement coming soon.

We served 26% more nutritious meals at our senior centers in 2010 than last year (41,061 meals) - a huge increase - and 2009 increased 13% over 2008. Seniors are finding that they can stretch their limited fixed incomes, donate \$2, and enjoy a delicious, nutritious meal in the company of friendly seniors. They aren't lonely anymore. They get healthy and stay active longer. Life is good ... and it's fun!

Senior Neighbors is committed to remaining a leader in providing urgently needed, innovative senior

services to adults 60+ in Kent County. Doing so requires us to thoroughly understand the needs of seniors, what they really want, and what is most important in their lives. We want to continue to be the go-to organization when seniors are at-risk, or family members and caregivers need quick, sensitive support.

It is my great pleasure to highlight three of our programs: Home Maintenance (formerly Home Chore), Medicare/Medicaid, and our Senior Centers. Our seniors tell the most powerful stories!

Thank you. We are very grateful for your commitment and support, particularly during the current state and federal senior services funding crisis.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert Barnes".

Robert Barnes
President

Comfort, Safety, and Security are the primary concerns of our Home Maintenance Department.

Catherine, 71, and her husband Donald have requested assistance from Senior Neighbors on several occasions to deal with home maintenance challenges they were not able to complete themselves. Our Home Maintenance Department recently completed a home safety inspection and found a loose handrail that had the potential for lead exposure. The team also installed a motion-sensitive flood light on the back of their home to address current security issues.



Catherine and Donald have expressed their joy and satisfaction with all the Senior Neighbors services they receive, including Medicare and Home Financial Services tax form filing support as well. Catherine reported that she received her federal and state income tax refunds on the very day her property taxes were due, and she was able to pay them in full.

“What a Difference an Hour Can Make.”

Tears of sadness and fear slipped down Lily’s cheeks as she explained that her beloved husband of over 40 years, James, was no longer able to make financial or medical decisions. Lily now needed to take over these unfamiliar responsibilities and she did not know what to do. Their health insurance premiums, through a retiree plan, had risen to over \$800/month. Add in medical co-pays and deductibles for James’ increased medical needs, and nearly half of their monthly income was going for medical expenses.



Lily visibly calmed as she met with the Senior Neighbors’ Medicare counselor who was able to provide information on health insurance plans saving her 75% on premium cost while also reducing the co-pay liability. When leaving, Lily commented, “I just can’t believe what a difference an hour can make...”

In 2010, with 1613 client contacts, Senior Neighbors provided more than 1280 hours of Medicare and Medicaid counseling.

Senior Neighbors Inc. is funded in part by:
 Individual Donations; Heart of West Michigan United Way; Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan; Senior Meals Program; Kent County Senior Millage; Townships of Sparta, Lowell, Tyrone, Algoma, and Vergennes; Villages of Sparta and Kent City; City of Grandville; Michigan Department of Transportation; Michigan Office of Services to the Aging; Corp. for National Community Service; Emergency Food and Shelter Program; Older Americans Act



Senior Neighbors needs your support

On behalf of the seniors whose lives are transformed though Senior Neighbors, we thank you for your support.

I/we wish to donate a total of:

\$ _____

donor name _____

street address _____

city, state, zip _____

phone number _____

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This donation is to be paid:

- IN FULL prior to Dec. 31, 2011 to qualify for 2011 tax year.
- MONTHLY
- In-Kind donations
- Gift in honor/memory (circle one) of: _____
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I prefer to pay via

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* Contact Laura Byrd at 233-0739 or lbyrd@seniorneighbors.org to enroll.