

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

The Newsletter of the Big Canoe® Wellness Collaborative

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The Board of Directors Message

On behalf of the Board, we're very excited to be celebrating the third anniversary of our operations with you. The Collaborative has truly become part of the fabric of Big Canoe through the caring and conscientious services that you, our wonderful volunteers, have provided to our community.

When we started providing services in November 2015, we set out to offer services that would enrich the quality of life of our residents while respecting our clients and establishing a reputation as a trustworthy and extremely competent organization. Thanks to you, we have successfully demonstrated this through our delivery of over 700 services. Over this past year, we have continued to be responsive to our clients in expanding our program offerings to meet the needs of our community.

We have also introduced new Healthy Living events that have been very well received. Healthful eating events included a soup tasting, salad tasting, and a tasting of side dishes for the holidays. Wellness education events included a series of seminars about brain health and a presentation about Medicare options. These were in addition to the continuing walking group events.

In addition, we have begun more active outreach to healthcare organizations, local governments, and local churches to provide even more services to our broader community.

As we mature as an organization, we are recruiting talented and capable individuals to serve on our Board and Steering Committee to ensure that our organization continues to be a robust and growing organization. As we look forward to working with you next year, we also wish you and your families a wonderful holiday season!

Shiraz

*Shiraz Alikahn
President, BCWC
Board of Directors*



About the Visits Program

The Visits Program has seen an uptick in activity over the last quarter, as the word has spread regarding the great service being provided to caregivers by our volunteers. To ensure that needed support is provided in a safe environment for the client and volunteers, the Visits Coordinator conducts a home visit prior to contacting volunteers.

The home visit serves multiple purposes. It gives the new client an opportunity to meet a trained volunteer, ask detailed questions about the service and sign the Service Agreement. The Coordinator reviews the role of the volunteers, discusses additional services provided by the Wellness Collaborative and Chapel, determines the visit preferences of the homebound client and identifies any special circumstances for the volunteers. The information gathered during the home visit is then shared with volunteers in the email call for support. Therefore, the volunteers will know in advance if the client has memory loss or another condition that is keeping them homebound, what the client might like to discuss during the visit, if the client has mobility or hearing issues, what pets might be present in the home and other necessary information to ensure a successful visit.

We are fortunate to have very special Visits volunteers, each dedicated to providing support for their neighbors. A special thanks goes to Barb Kelly, one of our most active team members.

Charlotte

*Charlotte Johnson, Chair,
Visits Committee*





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Steering Committee Report

Hello Volunteers!

We're nearly at the end of 2018, and a huge "Thank You" goes to our volunteers for handling over 250 client requests so far this year, well outpacing last year for that period! While Rides continues to be our busiest program, with over 125 rides so far, Visits, Meals and Info have also been busy, with Info verifying eligibility and service requests for each of our clients.

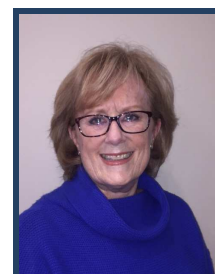
It was great to see many of you at our Volunteer Forum & Reception on November 1st, particularly with the stormy weather that day. We hope you found the Forum to be worthwhile and left having learned something new. I know I did – from Ricky Jordan's discussion about the many services offered by Public Safety and the importance of calling "911" when there is an emergency; from Christine Flaherty's talk about the many Healthy Living activities; and Judy Bellenger's description of the many repairs our Chapel men will handle for our community at large. A very special segment was the opportunity to hear from Mary Jane Chester, one of our long-time clients.

A couple of housekeeping items – to stay current, we'll be asking all volunteers and clients to sign new forms in 2019, and for insurance purposes, we will run new DMV checks on our drivers, unless one was done in the past six months. Additionally, the decision has been made to not continue with our software implementation. Please stay tuned for more information on all of these items!

Lastly, many, many thanks to Ellen Sheridan and Jerry Wentworth who are leaving the Steering Committee after several years of fantastic service. In their place, we welcome Kim Mullan, as our Info Coordinator, and Robyn Bish who will handle our Rides program. Thank you for all you do to help your neighbors.

Linda

*Linda Ricklef, Chairman,
BCWC Steering Committee*



Big Canoe Wellness Collaborative Statistics

PROGRAM ACTIVITY	Thru 9/30/18	Total 2017	SINCE INCEPTION*
Client Service Calls	177	141	459
Services Completed			
- BC Info	39	22	77
- BC Meals	49	51	200
- BC Rides	125	104	319
- BC Visits	42	36	114
TOTAL	255	213	710