

# Neighbors Helping Neighbors

The Newsletter of the Big Canoe® Wellness Collaborative

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## Board of Directors Message

The Big Canoe Wellness Collaborative is qualified as a charitable organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. "So what," you might ask, "why is that so important?" Well, I'm about to tell you.

There are two main benefits to maintaining this.

First, the Wellness Collaborative pays no federal or state income tax, allowing it to devote all its revenue to furthering its charitable purposes. Second, contributions to the Collaborative are tax-deductible. This means you also benefit when you contribute to the Collaborative, because you can deduct the amount of your contribution from your personal income tax.

However, in return for these significant benefits, the law has some important restrictions. For example, none of our earnings may be for the benefit of any private individual. In addition, we can't attempt to influence legislation as a substantial part of our activities or participate in any campaign activity for or against political candidates.

Most importantly, we must be organized and operated exclusively for one or more exempt purpose recognized by the IRS (e.g., religious, charitable, scientific or educational). Under our current bylaws, our primary exempt purpose is to provide services promoting wellness and quality of life for residents of Big Canoe. When you think about it, that's exactly what you're doing when you volunteer to furnish a ride, deliver a meal, or provide a visit on behalf of the Collaborative.

Although it is not an IRS requirement that we serve persons living outside the gates, such an expansion would certainly reinforce our argument for continued charitable status. Your Board of Directors is currently considering a gradual and orderly expansion of our services to limited



*Jack Schroder  
Member, BCWC  
Board of Directors*

## What is Happening with Rides?

The Big Canoe Wellness Collaborative Rides program has heated up, just like the weather in Georgia in the summer. So far this year we have provided over 90 rides to Big Canoe residents. If you want to ask how many rides we have done since the beginning of the program, the number is 285!

As volunteers in the program, give yourselves a big pat on the back. Because of all the great volunteers we have, our clients are able to get medical or physical therapy help, which allows them to get back into Big Canoe action. Remember, one day we will all have to use the service, so we are paying it forward now.

At the end of this year, I will be ending my term of service and passing the torch to a very qualified person, Robyn Bish. Robyn has always been there as a Rides volunteer when short notice trips have come through. She even changes her schedule, so clients don't have to change theirs.

Robyn will start January 1<sup>st</sup> with the experience of Carolyn Mackey as her backup. What a team! I would like to thank all of the Rides volunteers for making this program work. It's been you, not me, who provides this great service to the Wellness clients.

Transition is good!

*Jerry*

*Jerry Wentworth,  
Program Coordinator,  
BC Rides*



constituencies outside Big Canoe, and we will certainly seek your input before taking any definitive steps in that regard.

In the meantime, keep on serving your neighbors in need, knowing that your contributions serve a worthwhile charitable purpose. Thank you!

*Jack*



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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## STEERING COMMITTEE

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### BC Info

Ellen Sheridan  
Kim Mullan

### BC Meals

Diane LaCharite  
Phyllis Hogelin

### BC Rides

Jerry Wentworth  
Carolyn Mackey

### BC Visits

Charlotte Johnson  
Jackie Weinstein

## Steering Committee Report

On a blustery late-May afternoon, a group of our volunteers met outside at the Swim Club for our semi-annual Volunteer Forum. What a great afternoon discussing the Collaborative and how it has grown! As you'll see in the "Statistics" column, our volunteers have now responded to over 300 client calls, and completed over 600 services. We continue to say this, but THANK YOU for your dedication and willingness to help your fellow neighbors, as none of this would be possible without you, our fantastic volunteers!



Linda Ricklef,  
Chairman,  
BCWC Steering  
Committee

With Barb Schirmer's guidance, our volunteers spent a portion of the afternoon doing a "SWOT Analysis" – evaluating our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats as a follow-up to the analysis completed in 2016. This is an important preface to working on our 2019 goals and evaluating how we do what we do, and what we could do differently. A few take-aways from this exercise:

**People are our greatest strength!** We are fortunate to draw skilled volunteers from the kind, caring and involved Big Canoe community, and to offer volunteers and clients a way to connect with their neighbors.

**Community awareness of our services** continues to be our main weakness, particularly regarding shut-ins and new residents (which we've begun to address by adding information to new owner packets).

**We have several opportunities** which we will be exploring further, such as providing ways for volunteers to share best practices, expanding the Service Directory, finding other ways to publicize the Collaborative, and initiating services outside of Big Canoe. More to come on these!

**We have few threats**, thankfully, but continue to have neighbors who are hesitant or too proud to ask for our help, volunteers who leave Big Canoe, and volunteers who sign up but do not attend necessary training sessions.

If you missed our Volunteer Forum, we'd love to hear from you! Please send your comments or suggestions to our email, [bigcanoewc@gmail.com](mailto:bigcanoewc@gmail.com), or to me, at [lricklef@gmail.com](mailto:lricklef@gmail.com).

*Linda*

PROGRAM STATISTICS	6/30/18	6/30/17	SINCE INCEPTION
Client Service Calls	130	59	322
<u>Services Completed</u>			
- BC Info	23	13	61
- BC Meals	22	13	171
- BC Rides	88	49	285
- BC Visits	31	11	103
<b>TOTAL</b>	164	86	620

### Upcoming Events

Volunteer Training, October 4th, 1:00-3:00pm, Club Room  
Volunteer Forum & Reception, November 1st, 4:00-6:00pm, Canoe Lodge