

## ***The Stone Curves Neighborly Fund***

The Stone Curves Neighborly Fund is premised in the belief that not one of our neighbors should suffer undue financial stress when there is a caring community to offer a helping hand. The mission statement of the Fund succinctly states its goal:

*Our mission is a simple one: to help neighbors, experiencing a rough patch, maintain their four walls and keep their lights on and food on the table. Meeting one another with empathy and understanding, privacy and dignity, we are here to assist our neighbors in ensuring basic immediate needs are met when hardship strikes.*

Non-mandated, this endeavor consists of voluntary contributions from Stone Curves residents. The funds are not intended for long-term or ongoing assistance but for strategic intervention to help achieve a measure of stability and avert a deepening crisis. We envision the Fund being used to help with COA payments, utility bills, groceries, prescriptions, car repair to name a few possibilities. There is no repayment requirement. Although begun during the pandemic, the Fund is a permanent entity, here to help whenever economic hardship rears its ugly head.

Two basic tenets underlie The Neighborly Fund: *Trust and Anonymity*. No documentation is required to request financial assistance. Recognizing how difficult it is for anyone to ask for help, we want no invasion of privacy that would make asking even more onerous. The Fund operates on the precept that we live in community, trusting our neighbors. Your request is your word. In this community we honor our word.

The Fund is managed by two members of the community: the contact person and the individual maintaining the funds. The contact person receives requests for aid and accepts contributions. *Only the contact person will know the identity of individuals requesting assistance*. Only amounts requested and disbursed will be recorded. There will be no written record of individuals requesting aid. All requests will be held in the strictest confidence.

Theresa (Tres) de Vries is the contact person for the Fund. She is the individual to be contacted for assistance and she gives the funds to the recipient. Tres assures the anonymity of the Fund. Chris Tucker is the keeper of the funds.

The Neighborly Fund is now in existence and will continue via contributions from community members. Requests for contributions will periodically be made to insure continuance of the Fund. Some residents may opt to make monthly donations. Contributions are to be given to Tres, Village 5, #103.

Some members of the Fund committee have experience that could perhaps prove useful in assisting individuals negotiate a settlement or payment schedule for large bills such as credit card or medical bills. They can also help navigate the government assistance systems.

We recognize it is difficult to ask for financial assistance. We ask that you remember we are a giving community as evidenced by the many and varied requests for help that appear almost daily on our listserve. With this Fund we go one step further: to ease the strain of a stretched budget that can stretch no further. We are community, individuals who have chosen to live in community, to be neighbors in the truest sense of the word.

The Fund Committee

Theresa (Tres) de Vries

Lidia Delpiccolo-Morris

Holly Landry

Chris Tucker

Eloisa Mastrangelo