

# FALL UPDATE

NDN had a summer of new beginnings—riders, drivers, board members and initiatives, and sadly, one heartbreaking ending.



## Remembering Dan Onion

*It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of Dan K. Onion back in early July. He was one of our founders and a driving force behind Neighbors Driving Neighbors. From NDN's inception until shortly before he died, Dan's generosity of time, energy, and resources has been unmatched. While Dan is missed, his example stays with us. Neighbors Driving Neighbors will forever be grateful for his gifts. Below are a few remembrances from board members.*

"I had just signed up as an NDN driver and I remember well that Dan came by to personally welcome new drivers and took the time to talk to each of us. He demonstrated then, as I experienced since, an interest and curiosity in the people he met, and made them feel welcome and appreciated for their contributions to NDN. He will be greatly missed."

—Harald Bredesen, president, NDN

*"As my boss [at Belgrade Lakes Regional Health Center], I saw him as a formidable medical and political force, but always fair and approachable. As his vice president, I saw the guy who would make pancakes at the community breakfast. As a parent, he sent me not one, but two, handwritten notes of condolence after the loss of my son."*

—Shelly Fitzgerald, board member, NDN

"A new board member had a conversation with Dan not long before he passed. Dan wanted to make sure she was still going to join the Board. She was, in fact, thinking of declining as she had a very full plate. But Dan said, "You have to join the board—I need to know that good people like you will continue the work we have started."

There was no way she could then say no."

—Libby Harville, board member, NDN

*"Dan, no doubt, adhered to Hippocrates' advice, 'first, do no harm.' But he also turned it on its head and did an amazing amount of good—from co-founding Neighbors Driving Neighbors, to driving riders, to sharing homemade maple syrup, to health officering, to Covid education Zoom sessions, to staffing vaccination clinics, to being great company. He seemed to be present and enriching lives 24/7."*

—Bill Rosenberg, board member, NDN

"Dan's example of 'leading by example' impressed me when I began coordinating rides in late 2019, as he consistently signed up to drive people at least once a week. He took time to know individuals, and with Pat at his side, delighted in their company. He led us all to meet the challenges of pandemic times. He encouraged me to apply for a new leadership position, and thus ushered in a coordinated team that has left NDN in great shape to continue to make a difference in the lives of people in the wide NDN community."

—Misty Beck, past co-executive director, NDN

## Who We Serve

Our riders range in age from 24-99, and more than half are older than 65. More than two-thirds live alone, and roughly half are in a low-income bracket. Younger riders use our services due to losing a license, or having a disability that prevents them from driving, or simply lacking transportation. Some of our older adults have never had a license; many have had to give up driving due to age-related medical concerns. Some riders use us only for a short time, in recovering from surgery, for instance; others need long-term transportation assistance.

We are glad to serve them all. If you or someone you know needs a ride, give us a call at 207-860-0677.

### Contact Info:

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## Community Breakfast

Here are a few photos from our August 6 community breakfast fundraiser at the Mt. Vernon Community Center, where we enjoyed a delicious breakfast buffet plus catching up with our neighbors. Thanks to all who baked, cooked, attended and donated!



Help us keep the rides running and the wheels spinning by becoming a sustaining member of the "Pit Crew."

By contributing as little as \$5.00 each month, you can help neighbors to age in place and enjoy free, safe and friendly rides to appointments, shopping and more. Please see our website for details.

