

# NORTHWOODS CAREGIVERS

*Connecting ~ Enriching ~ Empowering*

## Northwoods Caregivers Receives the “Innovation Award”

If you are a Homemaking Client...

Northwoods Caregivers was one of eight individuals and organizations from across Minnesota that were recognized for their work in improving and enriching the lives of seniors and people with disabilities at the 2013 Age & Disabilities Odyssey Conference held June 17-18 in Duluth.

This year marked the most nominations ever received for awards in the categories of service, community, innovation and policy.

“The 2013 Odyssey award winners are excellent examples of individuals and organizations coming together to better serve aging Minnesotans, people with disabilities and their caregivers,” said Human Services Commissioner Lucinda Jesson. “It is wonderful to see the difference these people and organizations are making in their communities.”

Northwoods Caregivers received an award in the innovation category, which recognizes an organization that has championed innovations in direct services, coordination of services, and community-based partnerships, and increased the resilience, interdependence and quality of life for elders, people with disabilities and their communities.

The 2013 Innovation Award recognized Northwoods Caregivers for using a Department of Human Services grant to partner with Bemidji State University students to customize and create a database and software application that automates time reporting, data entry and billing. With the new database and application designed by students from Bemidji State University and

the use of electronic tablets supported in part by the George W Neilson, Northwoods Caregivers has reduced errors and frustration and has saved time for office staff and homemakers. The efficiency allows the agency to reach out to more potential clients and referring partners.

“We can all learn from and be inspired by the exemplary work of these award winners,” said Don Samuel-



*Missy Thomas (Director of Care Services)  
Cindi Lee Jernigan (Executive Director)  
Katie Johnson (Volunteer Coordinator)*



## Congregational Contacts Needed

For nearly 15 years, Northwoods Caregivers has worked to recruit "Member Congregations" in the local faith community. Currently, we have 19 churches that have committed to supporting our agency thru appointing a Congregational Contact in their church and giving an annual financial gift to Northwoods Caregivers.

We are continuously grateful for the support of our Member Congregations and their commitment to our organization and the Clients we serve. In order to ensure the best communication and the best service, it is pertinent that each Member Congregation have a "Congregational Contact."

The Congregational Contact is the liaison between our organization and the congregation. Not only do they help facilitate the communication between church staff and our staff, but they can also help identify people willing to serve or individuals needing services. If you are interested in being this contact between Northwoods Caregivers (and YOUR Congregation is listed as one in need of a Congregational Contact), please contact our office! Training is available thru our agency and the time commitment is minimal, averaging 2 hours/month.



## Churches in Need of Congregational Contacts

### Blackduck:

Faith Lutheran

First Presbyterian

### Bemidji:

St. Philips Catholic

First Lutheran

First Presbyterian

### Waskish:

Bethlehem Lutheran

New Salem Lutheran

Aardahl Lutheran

**Fore more information on how  
your congregation can become a  
Member, please call us at  
218-333-8264 or 888-543-4432**



“Like” us on Facebook  
and be entered to win a  
Free Keith’s Pizza!

# Updates for Clients

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## New Technology

Our Homemakers are in the process of transitioning to a new, electronic system. Rather than filling out paperwork for each of your Homemaking visits, they now have a hand-held, electronic device (a “Tablet”) and will be asking you to sign your name at the end of their visit, just as you are currently doing on their paperwork. This is merely a confirmation that the service was provided to you (similar to when the UPS man asks you to sign for a package!).



It is your responsibility to verify that the information about your visit (and the tasks that your homemaker completed) is accurate **BEFORE YOU SIGN!** You

may ask your homemaker to show you the details of their visit on the Tablet before you sign. If the information is incorrect or if you have questions or concerns about the information they are recording, please contact our office.

If you have any other questions or concerns about this new process, feel free to call our office!

## On-Call Transportation

If you would like to use one of our volunteers for local transportation, please remember to give Katie as much notice as possible. We require a **minimum of two days notice**, however, due to the high demand of requests, **5 days ahead of time** would be ideal.

When calling to request a volunteer driver, please know that even if we are in the office, we may not be able to answer your call at that time, so please leave ALL of the details of your request on our voicemail: date of your appointment, time you'd like to be picked up, place you'd like to go, etc.

Because of the many other programs & services we provide, we appreciate your cooperation and will get back to you as soon as possible to verify your request. **THANK YOU!**

**To request a Volunteer Driver, contact:  
Katie: 218-333-8262**

## Homemaking Reminders

Please know that if your Homemaker is going to be unavailable for a regularly scheduled visit with you, they are responsible for finding a substitute, if you would like one.

Also, please be considerate and refrain from smoking while your Homemaker is in your home.

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SPONSORED BY:

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Land of the Dancing Sky Area Agency on Aging, Beltrami County Child Abuse Prevention  
Council, Member Congregations and Private Contributions.**

## First City News



**If you are utilizing our  
First City Supervised Visitation  
Services, please remember!**

Scheduling visits/exchanges is based on parent, staff and site availability. A minimum of **5 days notice** is required to schedule a supervised visit and **3 days notice** is required for safe exchanges. We must also receive your payment **BEFORE** a visit/exchange can even be scheduled.

Please know if you do not follow these guidelines, your preferred date/time for a visit or exchange may be given to another family. Also remember, we are only open every other weekend.

Payments can be sent to our office or paid online at [www.northwoodscaregivers.org](http://www.northwoodscaregivers.org)

## Welcome Carol!

**Northwoods Caregivers is pleased  
to welcome Carol Priest to our  
organization.**

Carol Priest is a Licensed Social Worker with over 25 years experience in a variety of areas. Most recently she was Executive Director of the Red Lake Homeless Shelter for the past 9 years. Prior to that, she worked for Community Resource Connections and shared offices with Cindi Lee, Missy and Ruth Sherman. Carol is happy to be rejoining the crew at Northwoods Caregivers and anxious to get going with her work here.