

Bay to Sound Neighbors

— A bridge to aging in place



Letter from the President

Greetings from Bay to Sound Neighbors

Great news! We are in our sixth month after launching in September and I am happy to share with you that as of this writing, we have almost 90 members and 82 volunteers! A year ago, while we were in the planning stages, I remember hoping that we would have 30 members and possibly 30 volunteers after three months. It is amazing to see how our efforts have paid off and how the word about Bay to Sound Neighbors is getting out into the Dennis and Yarmouth communities. We are getting lots of interest.

We had a volunteer gathering in December featuring two members who spoke to the group about how Bay To Sound Neighbors helps them. We had a good turnout and heard firsthand how our organization impacts our members' lives. We also had a B2SN Launch party hosted by the Dennis Senior Center for both members and volunteers on New Year's Eve day.

I want to thank all of our volunteers for all that you do and for helping our members to stay in their homes. Your dedication is most appreciated. I know personally that every time I drive a member someplace that they need to go, I feel so good that I have made a difference in their day.

I also want to thank our members because without your trust in us and taking a chance with us, there would be no Bay to Sound Neighbors. **I am pleased to announce that we have increased the number of service units for an individual membership to 12 and for those with a household membership to 17.** We are grateful to have you as our members.

If you are not a volunteer or member currently, we really hope that you will consider joining us and becoming part of Bay to Sound Neighbors. You can be a volunteer, member or both

Thank you,

Cheryl Herwig

President, Bay To Sound Neighbors, Inc.

Outreach

The Outreach Committee is pleased with the relationships developed with nonprofit community organizations and businesses in Yarmouth and Dennis that are helping to spread the mission of Bay to Sound Neighbors. Our gratitude extends to Sight Loss Services, St. PIUS X Women's Society, and the South Yarmouth United Methodist Church as well as many others. Our thanks go to Shorefront Consulting, for a one year sponsorship to the Dennis Chamber of Commerce. We cannot forget Yarmouth and Dennis Councils on Aging, citizens, and friends who helped us pass out brochures or posters and supported us with their great enthusiasm!



Members and volunteers enjoyed refreshments, music and meeting new friends at New Year's Eve party hosted by Dennis Senior Center

What people are saying about Bay to Sound Neighbors

Late last fall, we contacted our members to notify them that we would be offering Christmas shopping as a service delivery option and to invite them to a gathering planned on New Year's Eve at the Dennis Senior Center. At the same time, we did a "quick" assessment of how satisfied members were with our program. Here are a few of the comments they shared with us:

"The volunteers are all wonderful. The program is a 'miracle.' I can't say enough good things about it. I've never been disappointed."

"B2SN couldn't be any better, wonderful and is a blessing to someone who is alone like I am."

"Everyone is so friendly and seem to really enjoy helping someone. "

Members' Corner

Who Joins Bay to Sound Neighbors?
Evelyn B – Yarmouth, Member

Evelyn is a vibrant woman with a quick wit. Four years ago, though, she was seriously injured in a car accident. Her car was totaled and she can no longer drive. "Have you ever been without your car?" asks Evelyn. "I'm stuck. If I want to go out for coffee, or pick up some milk and eggs or just go shopping, I have no car. I have no ride." Evelyn's children live out of state and her daughter has to take a day off from her job to take her to a doctor's appointment or for lab work. "It's been difficult. But then I heard about Bay to Sound Neighbors and what they were offering. It was the help I needed."

Evelyn was one of the first to become a member when Bay to Sound Neighbors launched in September, 2018. "It's been incredible. You just can't understand the psychological and social implications of being isolated. Some people get depressed staring at the four walls or without anyone to talk to." Now, she is able to call Bay to Sound Neighbors to request a ride to a doctors' appointment, to shop or just simply to see the ocean. "It's just been great. The volunteers who have taken me out have been wonderful. And it's nice to have someone to talk with." Evelyn has recently become a volunteer herself. "I can't drive someone to an appointment, but I can use the phone and make a friendly call to someone who might be isolated and would like someone to talk with."

Volunteers' Corner

Why Volunteer with Bay to Sound Neighbors?
Gail F – Dennis, Volunteer

Gail, a resident of Dennis, had considered volunteering after her retirement. "My mother got sick and eventually was moved to a nursing home. I became consumed with being there every day for her. After she passed on, I had this big void in my life. What was I going to do?" She needed a sense of purpose – as many retirees often do. At the urging of a friend, she looked into volunteer opportunities but was reluctant to commit to a schedule again. After learning about volunteering with Bay to Sound Neighbors and how different it is from other non-profits because it is completely flexible, it seemed right for her.

Gail provides transportation for members as well as emergency pet care and friendly visits. "One of the unintended benefits for me is that it helps me manage my time better. I plan my own errands around a member's service request or while waiting for them at an appointment."

She also discovered how the members she drives are so grateful for her time and effort and how relieved they are they didn't have to call or burden a neighbor for a ride. They just call B2SN and the volunteer comes right to the door. When Gail picks up a member, often those who have recently given up driving, she likes to ask the member if they have a particular route they like to take to their destination. "I had a sales job for years and drove all over the Cape. I thought I knew every shortcut, but some of the people I have driven have surprised even me with their secret shortcuts!"

Save the Date

Volunteer & Member Social Gathering
May 9, 2019 - 11:30-2:00 - Dennis Police Station

Join Us!

Bay to Sound Neighbors' mission is to support our members who want to remain in their home and age in place. Our all-volunteer organization helps members continue to live in their homes as long as possible and be more actively engaged in the community. You can help by becoming a member or volunteer, or by making a donation. We hope you will join us!

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