

# Neighbors Helping Neighbors Newsletter

*The latest PIC news & announcements*

## New Volunteer Orientations for Fall

We are in need of volunteers to provide transportation.

**Dates:**

Wednesday, September 16th | 10:00 am- 12:00 noon

Wednesday, October 7th | 2:00 pm- 4:00 pm

Wednesday, November 18th | 10:00 am-12 noon

**Location:**

PIC office (see address below)  
Please call the office for more info and to register.



410-822-1803

peggytroiano@partnersincare.org  
lindaprochaska@partnersincare.org

8694 Commerce Dr. #1 Easton, MD  
21601

partnersincare.org

## Low Vision News

Partners In Care’s Low Vision Group has grown so much that the group will be moving back to the Brookletts Place Senior Center when meetings resume. Nita and Peggy have several speakers lined up, and look forward to gathering as soon as the center reopens.



## Welcome Our New Site Director!

Welcome our new Site Director, Linda Prochaska. Linda comes to PIC with an extensive background in youth and family education and literacy. For about 10 years, she was the Special Assistant to Senator Barbara Mikulski. In addition, Linda is a founding member of Habitat for Humanity Choptank.

# From the Director's Desk

It is my pleasure to introduce myself as the new Site Director for the Mid-Shore and to say how much I have enjoyed my first few weeks. I have received thorough training on Partners In Care's history, mission and operations, and have now spent two full weeks in the Easton office, meeting staff, board members and volunteers. I have also begun to reach out to our community partners.

I want to thank Partners In Care staff, volunteers, board and members for their warm welcome and for allowing me to dive into the work of PIC.

Although precautions related to COVID-19 have limited the amount of services we can offer, we continue to provide rides and handyman services, and we can look ahead to a day when we can begin growing again.

After a career in education and outreach that has taken me all around the state, it is a pleasure for me to be working where I grew up, where my family still lives, and just across the road from where my husband Val and I live.

Please don't hesitate to call to introduce yourself and to ask any questions you may have.

-Linda



## Ride Request Reminders

Please call the office at 410-822-1803 to arrange your rides. If your driver for one ride would like to take you on the next ride, please let us know when you call, and we will be in touch with them. Please do not arrange rides directly with drivers.

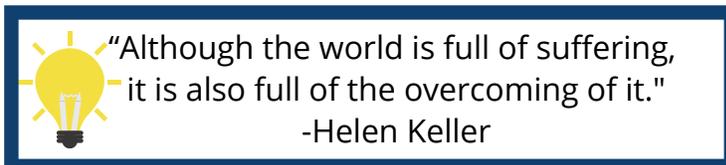
- Partners In Care is not able to provide rides for members receiving sedation or anesthesia at their appointments.
- Please let us know if you need to make any additional stops when you request your ride.

## Spring Shutdowns & Surveys

Following a complete shutdown beginning in March, Partners In Care returned to providing limited services in May. A hearty few of our volunteers are back on the road, and we welcome additional drivers, as they feel comfortable taking passengers. For the safety of all of our members, Partners In Care has added some items to our policies.

- Drivers and handypersons are asked not to go into members' homes.
- Members are asked to ride in the back seat passenger side for maximum distancing.
- Everyone will be masked at all times.
- Drivers have supplies of masks, hand sanitizer and wipes.
- In our office, masks are worn at all times, and extra cleaning and sanitizing has been added.

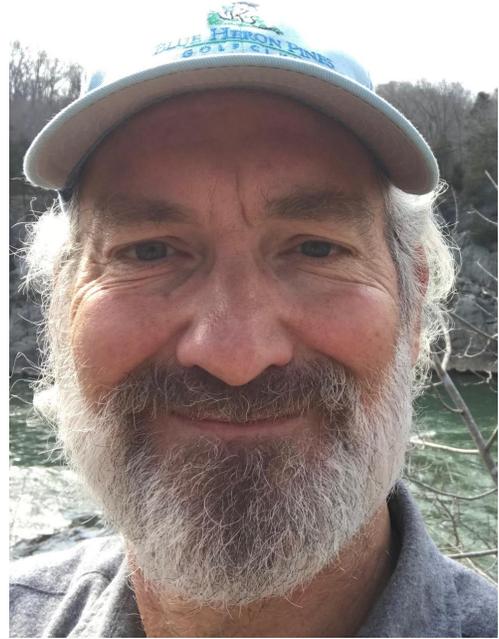
During the shutdown we have taken time to update our database and organize our office. You may have received a call from Partners In Care, updating your information. If you have not received a call, or if you have any questions, please call Program Coordinator, Peggy, Outreach Coordinator, Nita or Site Director, Linda at 410 822-1803.



# Volunteer Spotlight on John Vanderpool

John Vanderpool, a resident of Easton, has been an active volunteer with PIC since 2018, as a driver and as a handyman. No job is too small. John is always willing to put our members' needs in front of his own. During COVID-19, John delivered water and food to our members and neighboring residents. Over the span of 3 years, John has accumulated over 255 volunteer hours and has driven over 1065 miles-many of those hours providing handyman services to our members! John shares his positive spirit and talents for a great cause and for that we are extremely grateful. John is all about giving his time for a cause he believes in, in order to help others in the process.

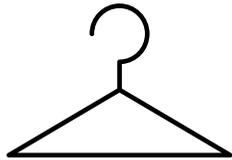
Many, many thanks to John for all he has have done for our PIC members and the growth of our organization.



## Grocery Delivery & Much More!

With many Seniors not wanting to go out more than they have to, Partners In Care continues to be available to pick up grocery orders, prescriptions, and run local errands for members. All deliveries will be left on the porch or doorstep. Call the office at 410-822-1803 to request your pick-up or errand.

## PIC Boutique Donations



Partners In Care is once again receiving donations for our boutiques in Anne Arundel & Frederick counties. Each bag or box donated puts an hour in a member's time bank. Please call the office at 410 822-1803 to arrange to bring in donations. Donations can also be given to drivers at the time of a ride. Remember that drivers are not currently going inside members' houses, so items must be brought outside. Partners In Care appreciates members' donations; sales in our boutique supply a large percentage of our operating revenue each year.

## In the Kitchen with PIC

### Ratatouille

From the kitchen of Sue Horne (Linda's mother)

- 1 large eggplant
- 2 medium zucchini
- 1 large onion
- 1 green pepper
- 1 clove garlic
- 2 T olive or canola oil
- 2 fresh tomatoes
- 2 T tomato paste and 2T water
- 1/8 t pepper
- 1 t basil
- 1 t oregano



Photo courtesy of Tasty.co

Dice eggplant into 1 inch cubes and slice zucchini in ½ inch rounds. Chop onion coarsely and cut green pepper into squares.

Use a heavy bottomed large saucepan or frying pan. Sauté the onion, garlic and green pepper until they are tender; stir in eggplant and zucchini and sauté a few minutes more. Add tomato and seasonings. Simmer gently about 10 minutes until vegetables are cooked but still crisp and some of the liquid has evaporated. Can be served as a side dish or over noodles or rice as a main dish.