

WELCOME TO THE

Friends of Neighbors Link

We are a dedicated group of volunteers who have supported Neighbors Link since its inception 25 years ago.

Neighbors Link is a thriving non-profit organization that works to build stronger communities through immigrant empowerment and integration. Each year, Neighbors Link serves over 10,000 immigrants with a comprehensive array of programs including English classes, legal services, programs for parents and children, crisis services, workforce development and job training classes.

Today, the Friends are a diverse group with a wide range of skills, experiences, and backgrounds, supporting Neighbors Link through fundraising, advocacy, and community outreach.

Friends of Neighbors Link



BUILDING BRIDGES, STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY

What We Do

The Friends of Neighbors Link have always chosen to stand with our neighbors and work towards building a community where everyone has a place to be and belong. Our activities take many forms, but if you believe in Neighbors Link's work, there is a way for you to get involved.

Monthly Meetings

We meet the second Wednesday of each month from 6-8 pm, September through June. Most meetings are hybrid, allowing members to participate in person or on Zoom. Meetings are usually held at a member's home or at Neighbors Link's headquarters in Mount Kisco. The co-chairs distribute an agenda before each meeting and the secretary distributes minutes afterwards, so everyone stays informed and connected.



Advocacy

The Friends support budgets and policies that respect the dignity of each human and recognize the contributions made by immigrants. Our advocacy co-chairs keep us informed through timely alerts, letting us know when it is important to contact our elected officials. They provide all the background information, talking points, and contact details, making it easy for everyone to participate. There are also opportunities to travel to Albany, attend marches and rallies, and to meet with elected officials. **There is real power when we speak up together.**



Community Tabling

Neighbors Link and the Friends participate in community events throughout the area. It is a great opportunity to introduce the organization to members of the community—and, most importantly, make sure people who need Neighbors Link's services know where to find assistance.



Community Drives and Events

Mercado de Fiestas is the annual holiday market for Neighbors Link clients and their families. The Friends donate new toys and gift cards and encourage others in our community to do the same, helping make the holiday season special for the children of Neighbors Link clients.

Coat, boot, and backpack drives are a way that Neighbors Link helps provide essential items for clients. The Friends organize and contribute to all of these drives. These donations help provide individuals and families with items they need to stay warm, prepared for school or work, and supported.

Trunk or Treat is a fun way to help children at Dayspring Community Center in Yonkers safely celebrate Halloween. The Friends decorate the trunks of their cars and fill them with candy. Neighbors Link provides all of the materials and candy—we simply show up ready to have fun!

Events Supporting the Neighbors Link Mission

Fall Educational Event

Panelists address current issues and challenges facing the immigrant community. Speakers have included experts from government, law, education, law enforcement, and health care. We help promote the event, ensuring these important conversations reach a broad audience.

Documentary Film Event

The Friends partner with the *Jacob Burns Film Center* and *Films on Purpose* to present a film and discussion focused on immigration issues. These events provide an opportunity to learn, ask questions, and engage in thoughtful conversation about the experiences and challenges facing immigrant communities.

Spring Benefit

Helping to plan and promote the Spring Benefit is one of the most important ways the Friends support Neighbors Link. Each Friend provides a list of contacts and sends personalized invitations to friends, family, and community members. Our collective network helps bring new people into the Neighbors Link community while strengthening existing relationships.

Special Projects

One thing that makes the Friends unique is our ability to act quickly when Neighbors Link needs help.

COVID-19 **We mobilized to help families facing extraordinary challenges by delivering emergency gift cards, groceries, hot meals, diapers, books for students, and other essentials. It was a powerful reminder of what can happen when a committed group of volunteers comes together to meet an urgent need.**

ACCOMPANIMENT PROGRAM **Neighbors Link recently launched an Accompaniment Program where trained volunteers accompany community members to court hearings and other appointments, providing emotional and logistical support and helping to ensure that they don't face the immigration court system alone. The Friends are supporting and participating in this important program.**



Become a Friend

We welcome new members. To learn more, contact us at thefriends@neighborslink.org

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