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NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
LITTLE BROTHERS
FRIENDS OF
THE ELDERLY



50th
LITTLE BROTHERS
FRIENDS OF THE
ELDERLY
CHICAGO CHAPTER



Little Brothers – Friends of the Elderly, Chicago is a national network of non-profit volunteer-based organizations committed to relieving isolation and loneliness among the elderly. We offer to people of goodwill the opportunity to join the elderly in friendship and celebration of life.

To volunteer, make a gift or refer an elder, call us at (312)455-1000 or visit: www.littlebrotherschicago.org.



Dear Friends,

The year 2009 marked an important milestone for Little Brothers – Friends of the Elderly: the celebration of our 50th anniversary. We were established here in Chicago in 1959 to continue the mission of our French founder, Armand Marquiset, to relieve isolation and loneliness among the elderly. Over the decades, we have brought companionship to thousands of elders, thanks to the steady support and commitment of generations of donors, volunteers, and our own staff and leadership.

We marked our golden anniversary in the best ways we know, starting with 14,060 personal visits and calls of reassurance to 1,119 of our old friends. We hosted nearly 4,000 celebrations of life, including luncheons, in-home parties, birthday parties and social outings. Nearly 2,000 elders participated in holiday activities, home-delivered holiday meals, and holiday visits to their homes. More than 1,000 food bags were delivered to our old friends most in need.

We also took time to recognize our anniversary year in other significant ways:

- **Launched the Lloyd Walding Brain Fitness Center:** Just as physical fitness can strengthen the body, we now know that mental exercise can enhance brain function. Our new Center features four state-of-the-art computers with 24" flat screen monitors and Posit Science brain fitness software, 47" flat screen television, Wii system and various brain fitness games. We collaborated with the IIT Stuart School of Business to provide tutors to teach computer skills to our elders. Thanks to the generosity of the late Lloyd Walding, who was a loyal friend and supporter of Little Brothers for more than 30 years, the Center enables us to connect our seniors with cutting-edge technology and healthier minds.
- **Preserved vital memories:** Little Brothers not only offers friendship to many of Chicago's elders but also cherishes these individuals, their lives and their legacy. In a fitting tribute to our elders, we published *Keep Them Alive: A Collection of Life Stories*. This beautiful 240-page anthology features original profiles, based on one-on-one interviews conducted by our former story intern, Laura R. Zandstra. Each profile brings to life—and will preserve—each elder's recollections and experiences. This book is one more

accomplishment of our Intergenerational Program, which connects youth and elders to promote learning and enjoyment.

- **Showcased our mission and home:** Throughout 2009, we hosted several events around the city to mark our 50th anniversary. But our own Open House was the most exciting, as we welcomed more than 400 guests, including friends from Little Brothers in Canada, France, Germany, Poland and Switzerland. Guests were able to tour our three-story headquarters and learn more about the work of our staff and volunteers. And, in the true spirit of Little Brothers, our celebration was filled with food, music and fun.

As we look ahead to our 51st year and to future decades, we are eager to reaffirm our commitment to our core mission of visiting elders and building lifelong friendships. We also pledge to put our time, talents and treasure to work to:

- Improve transportation options for elders.
- Explore viable elder housing options.
- Engage all forms of social networking to build an even broader network to raise friends—and funds.
- Invest in developing an even stronger corps of volunteers, who continue to be our most valuable resource.
- Enable our elders to take advantage of current and emerging technology to enhance their lives.
- Join with universities and other partners to help measure our impact on relieving elders' loneliness and depression.

Little Brothers – Friends of the Elderly has built a strong foundation over the past 50 years. All that we have accomplished—and will in the coming decades—flows from our partnerships with our loyal donors and volunteers. LBFE is grateful for your many contributions, and we look forward to our future work together to end the isolation and loneliness of elders throughout Chicago.

S. Mitchell Peterson

Simone Mitchell-Peterson
Executive Director

Naomi M. Stanhaus

Naomi M. Stanhaus
President of the Board



MISSION

Little Brothers – Friends of the Elderly is a national network of non-profit volunteer-based organizations committed to relieving isolation and loneliness among the elderly. We offer to people of goodwill the opportunity to join the elderly in friendship and celebration of life.

HISTORY

In 1946, French nobleman Armand Marquiset established Les petits frères des Pauvres (Little Brothers of the Poor) to serve elderly Parisians who had lost their savings and family members in World War II. His motto, flowers before bread, expresses the spirit that man does not live by bread alone; it is the human touch that makes life worth living.

“Friendship is love with understanding”

Proverb

By 1959, Marquiset’s vision had spread to Chicago where three petits frères staff members established the first US presence of this organization. Since then, we have expanded to serve the elderly in nine US cities and nine countries around the world. Just as the number of people served has expanded, our workforce has grown from one of solely Catholic males to men and women who represent many cultures.

In 1981, our national headquarters was established, also in Chicago. In 1985, we changed our name to Little Brothers – Friends of the Elderly (LBFE).



TIMELINE

1946

Armand Marquiset established Les petits frères des Pauvres (Little Brothers of the Poor) to serve elderly Parisians who had lost their savings and family members in World War II.

1959

Three petits frères staff members expanded beyond France and created a U.S. presence by starting our Chicago Chapter.

1981

U.S. national headquarters is organized and located in Chicago. LBFE National will grow to oversee nine U.S. chapters and facilitate U.S. expansion.

1985

We changed our name to Little Brothers – Friends of the Elderly (LBFE) to better reflect who we are and the individuals we serve.

1998

LBFE Chicago Chapter moved from Belmont Avenue to 355 N. Ashland Avenue into a multi-purpose facility.

2008

LBFE Chicago Chapter purchases first minibus to transport elders.

2009

LBFE Chicago Chapter celebrates 50 years of bringing Chicago elders from isolation to celebration.

The Lloyd Walding Brain Fitness Center is dedicated. The center was named in memory of Lloyd Walding, a loyal friend and supporter of LBFE for over 30 years.

Albert Einstein said that “wisdom is not a product of schooling but of the lifelong attempt to acquire it.” It could be these very words that drive so many aging adults to focus on keeping their minds as fit as their bodies.

Last summer, Little Brothers – Friends of the Elderly took a cutting-edge approach toward improving the quality of life for not only their elders but elderly throughout Chicago. After many months of fundraising and planning, the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Lloyd Walding Brain Fitness Center was held on Sunday, October 18.

Experts are convinced that brain health programs are an up-and-coming priority for people in their 60s, 70s and 80s. A growing body of scientific studies supports the trend. Stimulating the brain can actually generate new neurons and strengthen their connections which produce better brain performance.

Brain fitness refers to the process of keeping your brain active through a variety of activities. Brain fitness programs are expected to flourish as technology and medical research advances. Computer software programs now target elderly and the baby boomers in the production of games which focus on hand-eye coordination and logical thinking skills.

“We are very excited about our newest amenity here at Little Brothers – Friends of the Elderly. The Lloyd Walding Brain Fitness Center will enable elders to stimulate their brain on a regular basis through games, exercises and listening activities,” explained

Simone Mitchell-Peterson. “It is so important that seniors stay mentally active and engage in activities that they enjoy. One of the benefits of the program is that it pushes seniors to think critically and challenge themselves.”

The Lloyd Walding Brain Fitness Center is named in memory of Lloyd Walding, a loyal friend and supporter of LBFE for over 30 years. Lloyd was a Navy veteran who owned and operated Walding Construction Company until his retirement in 1990. He was an avid golfer with an enthusiastic and outgoing personality.

A generous gift for the center was also given by Ora Mae Turner and the Alvin H. Baum Family Fund. The donation funded the purchase of four, new, state-of-the-art computers, along with ergonomic style work stations and the brain health computerized tools including software, online applications and embedded devices. Elder participants receive instructions on headsets and respond to specific commands. The Lloyd Walding Brain Fitness Center’s new layout makes it easier for seniors to work on the computers and interact with each other.

In addition to brain fitness programs, the center will host small group discussions, documentary presentations and elders can even play Nintendo Wii. “Lack of socialization is said to be a big factor in mental decline,” said Mitchell-Peterson. “The greatest benefit may have less to do with the activity and more to do with the spirit of camaraderie it prompts. Seniors work through problems together and the social activity gets them interacting with others.”



Lloyd Walding Brain Fitness Center



**We’ve Always Been High Touch,
Now We’re High Tech Too**



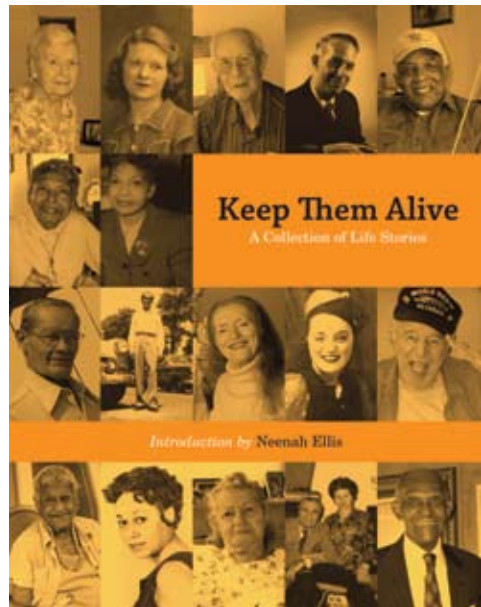


Little Brothers – Friends of the Elderly
50th Anniversary Celebration
 Throughout the year LBFE celebrated its 50th anniversary with a variety of community and internal events. The culmination of the 50th anniversary was an open house at Little Brothers – Friends of the Elderly on October 18, 2009.



“Our 50th Anniversary is an important step in sharing our past, but using it also to build our future—with greater recognition and the expansion of friends across the ages.”

Naomi Stanhaus • president
 Little Brothers – Friends of the Elderly Board of Directors



Keep Them Alive

It is only befitting that Little Brothers – Friends of the Elderly write and publish a book during the 50th anniversary that includes the wonderful life stories from our elders. For 50 years, Little Brothers – Friends of the Elderly has worked tirelessly to nurture the souls and spirits of lonely and isolated elders in Chicago. *Keep Them Alive* is our way of honoring the legacy of twenty-five elders whose stories represent so many elders who have passed before them.

For many of the elders in this book, who have outlived family and friends, this is their only opportunity to have their stories shared with the next generation. The stories are deeply personal and convey the myriad of experiences and relationships had in a lifetime.

This endeavor would not have been possible without the interest and talent of Laura Zandstra who took more than a year out of her life to document these stories. Laura was an intern at LBFE and has since graduated from Antioch Los Angeles with a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Nonfiction Writing.

Laura believed that the elderly were an untapped resource, revered in ancient culture but ignored in their own. While octogenarians all over the world would inspire her admiration, she focused her interests in Chicago.

Over the fifteen months she spent interviewing individuals, she realized that the Greatest Generation saw sweetness and contentment the likes of which may never be duplicated in today's world.

Neenah Ellis, author of *If I Live to Be 100: Lessons from the Centenarians*, alluded in her introduction to *Keep Them Alive*, that this book is the result of hours and hours of shared stories between two people. One who needs to talk, and one who is ready to listen. Their stories reflect their situations. Some need prodding and some don't. This book is a great reminder that loneliness can be relieved and lives made whole, even if only for a few hours, while a story is offered and received.

Keep them Alive is available for purchase through Little Brothers – Friends of the Elderly. Contact 312.455.1000 for more information.

“It’s a brilliant, simple thing, what these folks at Little Brothers have done, because there is nothing that human beings want more than the connection that’s possible when a life experience is shared.”

Nina Ellis • NPR
as written in *Keep Them Alive*



An Intergenerational Experience: Learning Across Ages

Little Brothers – Friends of the Elderly has been providing elders and youth with opportunities to learn and support each other since the organization was founded 50 years ago. Over the past 14 years a comprehensive intergenerational program has been developed for students in elementary grades, high school and college. Through this, we have learned a great deal about what make intergenerational experiences meaningful.

Teachers have expressed a desire for materials that could help them incorporate intergenerational activities in their curricula and meet service-learning objectives. In response, *An Intergenerational Experience: Learning Across Ages* was developed. This book is designed as a toolkit for educators to provide tips, ideas and resources for those who are interested in promoting meaningful intergenerational activities.

This tool was a collaborative effort between Christine Bertrand, intergenerational program coordinator at LBFE and Rebecca Berman, PhD., a professional gerontological consultant to the project. Our intent is that educators will both use and adapt these materials to meet their specific needs.

The Rose Project

The Rose Project was envisioned by the Elder Advisory Committee as a way to give each and every elder the opportunity to thank someone from LBFE during the 50th anniversary celebration. Over 250 hearts have been signed. This exhibit is permanently on display at LBFE.

“The Rose Project was a great concept and an opportunity not just for elders, but also volunteers and staff to leave their comments about Little Brothers,” explained Robert Zimmermann, LBFE elder and member of the Elder Advisory Committee. “It was a lot of fun working on it and much more involved than we originally thought. Contacting the elders was a huge job. The result is a joy and so very attractive.”



50th Anniversary Polo Shirts and Stemless Wine Glasses

For LBFE's 50th anniversary, memorabilia available included stemless wine glasses and polo shirts. The limited edition wine glasses were given to LBFE volunteers at the Volunteer Recognition Event in June. The polo shirts are available in two colors– white and black and can be purchased at LBFE.





Volunteer Celebration Event

Little Brothers – Friends of the Elderly could not carry out its mission over the past 50 years without the indispensable help of our volunteers. In June, LBFE hosted its Volunteer Celebration Event. This year's event included a program assistant reunion. Current and former program assistants gathered to share stories about their LBFE experiences.



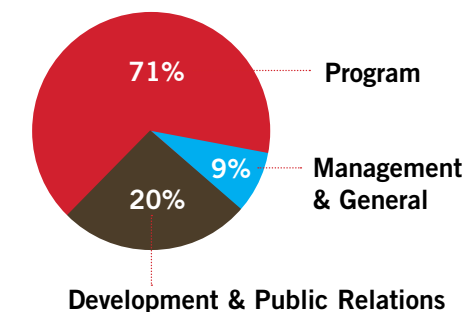
Revenue

Fiscal Year 2009
10/1/08-9/30/09

Individual Contributions	\$848,963
Planned Gifts	49,051
Grants from Corporations and Foundations	267,823
Income From LBFE Foundation	11,477
Donated Goods	107,611
Interest and Dividends	535,861
Special Events and Projects	3,052
Net: Investment Gains (Losses)	(\$140,087)
Total	1,683,751
(Less) Dues Paid to National Organization(1)	466,674
Net Operating Revenue	1,217,077
Bequest Income	1,498,415
Total Revenue	2,715,492

Expenses

Programs	
Visiting the Elderly	\$1,170,855
Direct Service	306,899
Holiday and Social Activities	642,241
Elderly Vacations	139,694
Total Program	\$2,259,689
Development and Public Relations	646,832
Management and General	274,860
Total Expenses	\$3,181,381
Net Excess (Deficiency)	(\$465,889)

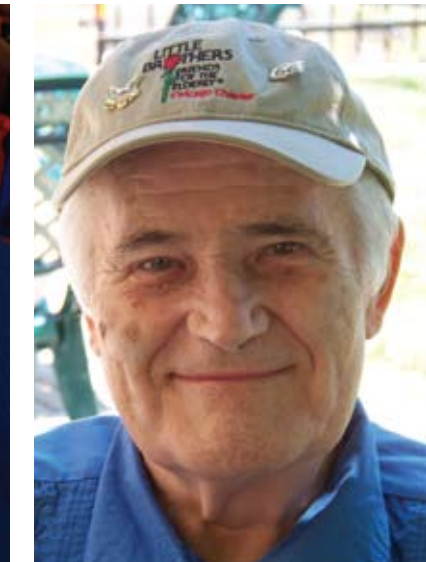
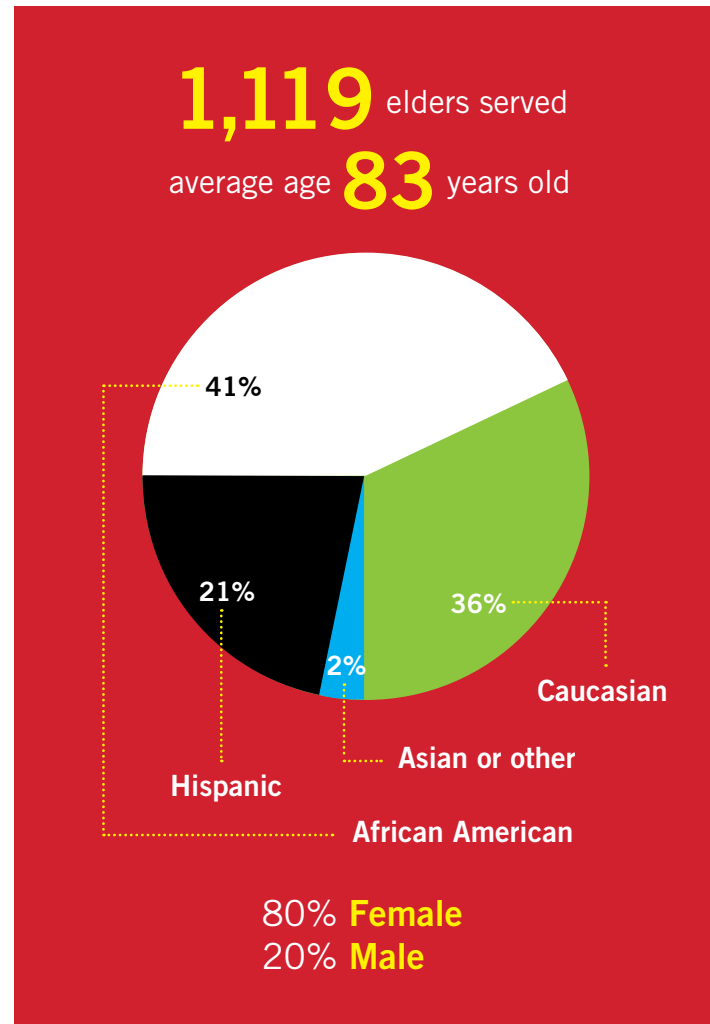


(1) These payments enable the National organization to expand Little Brothers – Friends of the Elderly to new locations and to provide support services for existing programs.

2009 PROGRAM STATS

- 165** Total number of new elders who joined LBFE
- 14,060** Personal visits and calls of reassurance
- 1,826** Number of holiday experiences by elders either at a party or through home delivered meals and visits
- 3,867** Number of instances where elders participated in Celebrations of Life (includes luncheons, birthday parties and outings)
- 128** Number of elders who participated in our overnight or summer vacation program
- 1,061** Number of food bags delivered
- 1,979** Number of occasions in which volunteers or staff provided special assistance to an elder (including transportation to and from medical appointments, pharmacies and grocery stores).
- 40,948** Hours of service to our elders by 1,441 volunteers in 2009.*

* The number of volunteer opportunities were reduced due to changes in our summer vacation program. This directly impacted volunteer hours in 2009.



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Little Brothers – Friends of the Elderly gratefully acknowledges the financial partnership and commitment of our donors who make our work possible.

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“I have learned that people will forget what you have said, people will forget what you did, but will never forget how you made them feel.”

Maya Angelou



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