



# CONNECTIONS

A Jackson County Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers, Inc. Publication



November 2016

## In Memory of Donna Mae Carson



1933-2016

Donna Mae Carson was a devoted volunteer for many years and we were glad she called Interfaith to inquire about opportunities to serve. She wanted to fill her days with meaningful work and we matched her as a phone friend for a home bound lady. We also appreciated her time spent as an office assistant and cleaning the office. She was very proud to be a volunteer for Interfaith and Family Worship Assembly, where she was a member.

Donna's service was held on a beautiful October day at the Buswell Funeral Home. Blessed be her memory.

## Elvis legacy continues



Judith Ann Thundercloud is possibly one of Elvis Presley's biggest fans. Since 2006, Judith Ann has been honoring the King with a donation to Interfaith and to Black River Memorial Hospice. This year was no different. Pictured are Judith Ann with a silhouette of Elvis, and Program Director, Karen Foust and Assistant, Lori Chown.

## Thank You Co-op Credit Union

It was another wonderful day during Co-op Credit Union's International Credit Union Day, held on Thursday, October 20th. To celebrate the day, Co-op Credit Union hosted a luncheon and bake sale for many worthwhile organizations. Thank you CCU for this wonderful event. It was a brisk fall day, but the camaraderie was very warm.



Board member and volunteer Lyle Hart and his wife, Ruth, enjoyed visiting during the Brat Luncheon.

## T-Shirt Fundraiser

We are doing a t-shirt fundraiser. T-shirts are available in blue and yellow. If you would like to order, please let us know by November 30th. T-shirts are \$14, size Small-XL, \$16 for XXL or XXXL. To order, call Interfaith at 715-284-7058 or stop in and drop off your payment. All proceeds go to Interfaith.



T-shirts come with this heart-shaped graphic.

## Chart of Hours

2015 Volunteer Hours

Friendly Visits.....	865
Transportation.....	1324
Trans to Food Pantry.....	289
Respite Care.....	57
Shopping.....	72
Reassurance Calls.....	252
Chores.....	657
Housekeeping.....	169
Board/Fundraising.....	462
Office Volunteers.....	137
JUMP.....	696
VIP.....	807
Library To Go.....	200
Groceries To Go.....	222
Other.....	28
Total.....	6237

## Volunteer Training

On August 25th Interfaith, Black River Memorial Hospital, and Jackson County Aging Unit offered a volunteer training to over 40 individuals. This training included a Virtual Dementia Tour, Sensitivity to Visually Impaired, Fall Prevention, and more. Everyone enjoyed the day and learned so much. One of the volunteers who joined us said it will surely help them help others.

*Christmas Time*

**CRAFT SALE**  
**December 3rd, 2016**  
 9 am - 3 pm  
 St Joseph's Parish Office  
 407 Main St, Black River Falls

*A percentage of the proceeds will go to Interfaith.*

# ANNUAL REPORT October 2015– September 2016

## Program Director's Report — Karen Foust

I begin my annual report this year wondering where the years went. I have been Interfaith's Program Director since its inception in 1989. I have met so many wonderful people who have helped Interfaith thrive in the community. I have been blessed to work with the best board members, volunteers, coordinators, churches, generous contributors, program assistants, and the businesses and organizations Interfaith has partnered with.

It was approved by the Board of Director's, at its September 2016 meeting, that I would step down as Program Director in July 2017 and move to the Program Assistant position for about six months. My plan is to leave slowly as Interfaith means so much to me.

Lori Chown, will become Program Director at that time. How exciting for the community to have Lori at the helm with her skills and her passion for helping people. If you haven't met Lori yet, please stop by our office. She loves meeting new people.

In our 27 years, board members and

staff have strived to meet community needs. New programs have been developed such as New Mother's Helper, Bear Essentials, JUMP-our school based mentoring program, and our Library & Groceries to Go Programs. These programs wouldn't be possible without our dedicated volunteers.

The number of people we help each month continues to grow, reaffirming that we are only as strong as our volunteer base. If you can give one hour a week, or an hour each month, we will find a volunteer opportunity for you.

While we have made great progress with helping people and developing programs, our work is not done. There are still so many needs to be considered that may fit well with our Christian outreach program.

Thank you for your commitment to our mission. We ask for your continued prayers of support and guidance for continued sustainability for Jackson County Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers.



## Treasurer's Report — Fred Goettl

### 2016-2017 Budget

#### INCOME

Fundraising	\$25,000
Memorials	\$14,000
Grants	\$6,000
Businesses	\$6,000
Churches	\$5,000
Individuals	\$7,500
Organizations	\$2,500
Other Income	\$12,800

**Total Income \$78,800**

#### EXPENSE

Publicity/Printing	\$3,500
Office Expense	\$3,000
Payroll	\$56,400
Utilities	\$2,400
Insurance & Dues	\$4,000
Fund Raising	\$5,000
Accounting Services	\$1,200
Bear Essentials	\$300
Gas Vouchers	\$500
Travel/Training	\$800
Volunteer Training	\$1,400
Other expenses	\$300

**Total Expenses \$78,800**



My first year at Interfaith has gone so fast, and while it feels like I've learned so much, I believe I still have so much to

learn. I am so humbled and honored that Karen and the board has put their faith in me and I am so thankful that Karen is such a patient and kind teacher. Each year at Interfaith we see many new challenges, new opportunities, and so many new faces.

In 2016 we provided services to 317 care receivers compared to 258 in 2015. Fortunately the number of volunteers Interfaith has continues to grow as well. Currently we have 230 volunteers that

provide over 6,000 hours of their time to Interfaith each year. That is a lot of coordinating, but Karen makes it look rather easy. She seems to have the knack for finding just the right volunteer for the job! One of my favorite stories happened just after

## Program Assistant Report — Lori Chown

I started. Last July, Sherry Squires called wanting to volunteer five days a week! That is a huge commitment but Karen had the perfect job for her. Sherry was paired with a home bound woman named Llona Dell. Sherry, along with her husband Wally became "fast friends" with Llona, visiting and playing cribbage. The relationship has grown to more than that as they sometimes celebrate holidays together. Thank you to Sherry and Wally for making a difference in someone's life.

As Karen teaches me the many aspects of her job, I can see why Interfaith is so strong. She has made sure that Interfaith not only strives to help individuals, but also works hard to help other agencies in

our community. In June we were able to coordinate the Black River Falls Football Team taking residents from Pine View Care Center to the Jackson County Fair. Throughout the summer we had

volunteers commit to taking residents from Atrium to Music in the Park, and in September they enjoyed a lovely stroll on the foundation trail. This month we had a group of ladies volunteer at Pine View for their Monday Bingo, and in October Tim and Mary McCann, from the United Methodist Church, coordinated another very successful Neighbors Helping Neighbors Day. Volunteers spent the day raking, winterizing, and providing much needed assistance to individuals, allowing them to spend another winter safely in their own homes. Thanks so much to Tim and Mary and their group of volunteers!

As you can see, Karen has built many strong partnerships and I am so excited to continue her tradition of collaborating and developing new programs to meet the many needs in our community.

As we celebrate the many wonderful partnerships, the leadership of Karen and the board, we realize all of this success is due to our wonderful volunteers. We can't say thank you enough for all that they do! Your help gives so much to so many. Thank you for putting your FAITH in ACTION!



Pictured L to R, Sherry and Wally Squires, and Llona Dell

## President / Development Report — Pastor John Cowles



I heard someone once say, “You can’t buy that kind of care.” I would say that statement could be said about the people who

help make Interfaith the great organization that it has become for the last 27 years.

While some people could afford to buy the care they need, we are also very aware that there are people in our county that simply cannot afford that type of care. I know that our volunteers and staff pride themselves in providing care that is a compassionate investment into the lives they serve. It is a precious gift that they keep giving each and

every day without fail. The Board and our great staff all do our part to help make this type of care possible to those in need. We would all agree that our deepest gratitude is reserved for each volunteer and donor whose contribution gives life to our mission and helps transform Interfaith’s passion into excellent programs that bring joy and hope to those in need. The excellent leadership that Karen and Lori provide is always top-notch. I know it will be tough to see Karen lessen her role as Director but we take comfort knowing that Interfaith will continue to provide excellent care and be as strong as ever with Lori leading the charge.

While we celebrate accomplishments

from the past year, we also look forward to meeting new opportunities in the coming year. In order to keep that a reality, we need your continued faithful donations. The last couple of years our budget has been short and we have had to dip into our reserves to balance our budget. We are grateful we have had the reserve funds to accommodate the short fall but there is no guarantee they will always be there. We are sincerely grateful for your continued support and we know that you share our pride in what has been achieved and will continue to be our partner in providing the best care possible. Together we are making Interfaith a gift that is a blessing to Jackson County!

## Gifts and Memorials

Interfaith Caregivers relies on the generous support of our community to continue our mission of helping the elderly and disabled. Without your support none of this would be possible. We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the following people, churches, organizations and businesses for their donations. Every effort is made to include the names of all donors during this period. If your name was omitted, please accept our apologies and let us know so we can promptly correct our records.

### In Memory Of

Larry Anderson

• Brad & Lori Chown

Marvin Bazhaf

• Jim & Diane Anderson

Lorna Ledin Benjamin

• Lou & Nyla Musser

Arlene Bonetti

• Bill & Jean Mickelson

• Lou & Nyla Musser

Don Brockway

• Bette Marshall

Clara Bush

• Don Anderson

• Richard Anderson

• Marjorie McNulty

• Dean & Delores Severson

Sarah Callisto

• Jim & Diane Anderson

• Sally Burgau

• Mike & Cindy Dougherty

• Bob & Jan Eckles

• Mary Hansen

• Sally Jacobson

• Bruce & Carol Olson

Donna Carson

• Joanne Capper

• James & Annette Dickman

• Jan Eckles

• Bill & Karen Foust

• Judy Hansen

• Lillian Hart

• Steve & Mary Hegna

• John & Mary Schlesner

Allan Flicek

• Lou & Nyla Musser

Dr. John W. Foster

• Bette Marshall

Mark Hanson

• Richard Anderson

• Bill & Karen Foust

• Margaret Peterson

Alice Homstad

• Gil Homstad

George Johnson

• Duane & Carol Hanson

• Robert Hunter

• Margaret Legois

• Mary Waughtal

Joyce Johnson

• Robert Hunter

• Mary Waughtal

LeRoy Johnson

• Lou & Nyla Musser

Imelda Kelly's mother

• Charlotte Thompson

Thomas Kimball

• Lou & Nyla Musser

Mable Rochester Lambert

• Lou & Nyla Musser

Raymond Lowe

• Robert Hunter

• Lou & Nyla Musser

• Mary Waughtal

Valerie Maurer

• Bette Marshall

Tom McNulty

• Carole Byrns

• Bob & Jan Eckles

• Robert Hunter

• Wilva Marshall

• Arvid & Judith Olson

• Lois Smetana

• Mary Waughtal

James "Jiggs" Moen

• Merlin & Beatrice

Fredrickson

• Mary Hansen

Patricia Morris

• Duane Bowen

Mike "Oluff" Olson

• Tom & Delores Gearing

• Lou & Nyla Musser

• Skip & Grace Nordahl

• Bruce & Gayle Olson

Nancy Olson

• Steve & Diane Aldach

• John & Gloria Curran

• David & Sharon Ernst

• Mildred Evenson

• Muriel Gilbertson

• Melissa Gilles

• Bill & Pam Johnson

• Mike & Cindy Mense

• Lou & Nyla Musser

• Tom & Linda Nehring

• Betty Oliver

• Nola Olson

• Bob & Natalie Petrucelli

• Duane & Joyce Steien

• Marlin & Gerilyn Subra

• Jane Tessmann

Elvis Presley

• Judith Ann Thundercloud

Gaylord Rhodes

• David Lunde

Eugene Savage

• Mike & Cindy Dougherty

• Mary Waughtal

Linda Schmitt

• Lou & Nyla Musser

Leone Scholze

• Dale & Lois Derouin

• Charles & Betty Lund

• Gerald & Marcia Scholze

Joanne Seig

• Lou & Nyla Musser

Beverly Ann Stapel

• Mike & Cindy Dougherty

• Glen & Jan Goeman

Evelyn Tande

• Mary Loveland

Jean Tenner's Sister

• Charlotte Thompson

Harriet Thompson

• Bob Hart & Sue Reshel

• Doris Holder

• Mary Van Gordon

Clyde Traeder

• Lorraine McDonald

Jean Lee Vail

• Margie Slosser

### In Honor Of

Russell & Kyle Engebretson

50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary

• Mary Hansen

• Willy & Barb Rogstad

Mr. & Mrs. David Gjerseth's

30<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary

• Mary Hansen

Todd & Darlene Gomer 50<sup>th</sup>

Wedding Anniversary

• Lou & Nyla Musser

Tim Hopkins

• Dick Meyer

Tim McCann

• Dick Meyer

Donna Overlien's Birthday

• Lillian Hart

George Schwab Retirement

• Jim & Diane Anderson

• Lou & Nyla Musser

Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Shomaker 25<sup>th</sup>

Anniversary

• Mary Hansen

• Mary Hansen

Volunteers

• Chris & Priscilla Goldsmith

• Roma Harris

• Judy Radcliffe

### Individuals

Bill Abbott

Richard Anderson

LuAnn Ashenbrenner

Arlyce Bahnb

Duane Bowen

Brad & Lori Chown

Beth Craven

John Deno

Jan Eckles

Ms. Alberta Endres

Connie Gates

Sun Gorski

Judy Hansen

Rae Ellen Hickey

Carl & Rhonda Holmquist

The Jelinek Family

William Laurent

Mary Loveland

Dennis Melichar

Phyllis Myers

Cheryl Nortman

Marge Paulin

LaVonne Prusa

Alice Schreiber

### Bear Essentials

Judy Hansen

Valerie Jacobson

Clara Smetana

### Businesses

Tastee Treat Customers

### Churches

Community Christian

Family Worship Assembly

Genesis Circle – Evangelical

Lutheran

Jackson County Ministerial

Association

Little Norway Lutheran

Squaw Creek Lutheran

Trout Run United Methodist

Women

Black River Falls United

Methodist Women

### Foundations

Alliant Energy

Black River Area Foundation

### Organizations

Clio Club

Republican Party

Thrivent Financial for

Lutherans

## A Fall Stroll

Volunteers and Atrium residents enjoy a stroll on the beautiful Black River Foundation Trail.



1st front row, l to r, Bob Mathews, Leon Legacy, Shirley Shegonee; 2nd row, Phyllis Buttke, Carol Lietz, Janice Bott, Lillian Hart, Lorraine Turmmire; 3rd back row, Linda Severson (volunteer), Carole Byrns, Chuck Buswell, and Mary Hansen.

## Mentor Training at Red Creek

The beginning of each school year, Interfaith hosts an orientation and training for our JUMP mentors. This year was very exciting, not only because we were able to visit the new Red Creek Elementary, but also because we have 24 mentors volunteering in our schools.



On September 28th, Dr. Shelly Severson hosted a breakfast and welcomed all of our mentors. It was heartwarming to listen to all the wonderful stories from the mentors returning to visit their students, but the note we received from one of our volunteers sums it up the best: "Thank you for the school mentor program. It is a lifetime project." It is easy to see that the mentors find this program as rewarding as the students!

## Black River Falls Oktoberfest

Interfaith hosted our annual "Sweet Charity Bake Sale" under the big Oktoberfest tent at Rock Springs Park on October 1st. What a hidden jewel this little park has proven to be. Our bake sale is one of our biggest fund raisers each year, we thank so many volunteers for baking, buying, and volunteering this year to make it another wonderful success!



Gerri Allen, left, & Andrea Hoffman volunteered in the afternoon for our Bake Sale and Chinese Raffle booth.

## Welcome to Our Newest Volunteers

Nancy Nibbe • Joyce Hove  
Karolyn Gjerseth • Nancy Oldham

## CONNECTIONS

Connections is a publication of Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers. We welcome any comments or suggestions.

**Jackson County Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers, Inc.**

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*Nearly 75% of all Wisconsinites volunteer, are you one of them?*

*"I will praise the name of God with song, And shall magnify him with Thanksgiving." Psalm 69:30*



Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
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Black River Falls  
Wisconsin 54615

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Interfaith Volunteer  
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