



CONNECTIONS

A Jackson County Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers, Inc. Publication



November 2017

In Memory of...

Geraldine "Gerry" Rudkin 1923-2017

Gerry began volunteering very early in the history of Interfaith. Donna Overlien and Gerry decided that Donna would represent Black River United Methodist Church as its Coordinator and Gerry would be the volunteer. Great plan! Gerry drove people to their medical appointments, provided respite care, and was a friendly visitor extraordinaire!

Even though the program was new, she stepped out in faith and willingly became involved. We are so glad she did. The time she spent and those lives she touched will always be appreciated and remembered by her Interfaith friends.

Mildred Hefty 1919-2017

Mildred loved helping people and she so enjoyed being a friendly visitor. I know from personal experience she also enjoyed volunteering at Atrium Care Center where my mother, Gladys Anderson, was a resident. My Mother so enjoyed their conversations and also shared what a "classy" dresser Mildred was. Many times you could also see her dancing with her brother, Crist, at Atrium. We all could have taken lessons from her. Be at peace, dear Mildred.

JoAnn Kujak is this Year's Best Apple Pie Baker at the 2017 Black River Area Oktoberfest



Presenting the award to this year's winner JoAnn Kujak (r), was Miss Black River Falls Isabella Cowles.



Judges were (l to r) County Board Chair Ray Ransom, along with Isabella Cowles and Jaida Decorah from the Miss Black River Falls Court.

Interfaith held its annual Sweet Charity Bake Sale during the Oktoberfest at the Jackson County Fair Park. This year, Interfaith included an apple pie baking contest. We had four entries and while it was a close race, judges selected JoAnn Kujak as the Best Apple Pie Baker in Jackson County for the 2017 Oktoberfest. Judges were County Board Chair Ray Ransom, and Isabella Cowles and Jaida Decorah from Miss Black River Falls. At the end of the day a live auction was held for the winning pies, minus one slice. Winning bidders were Eric Skogstad, Marie Williams, and Joan Onstad.

A Pick Your Prize Raffle was held

featuring a beautiful fire pit donated by D&S Manufacturing, won by Jackie Ramgren, and a \$100 Visa card, donated by Co-op Credit Union, won by Jan Eckles. Baked goods, including 24 loaves of the famous Bob Perry bread, filled the tables in the morning but by afternoon they were all gone. Our Sweet Charity Bake Sale is one of our largest fundraisers, helping us raise much needed funds to provide assistance to the elderly and disabled in Jackson County.

Mark your calendars for October 6th, 2018 for the 12th Annual Black River Area Oktoberfest, which will include another apple pie baking contest!

Chart of Hours

2016 Volunteer Hours

Transportation	1219
JUMP	1183
Friendly Visits	927
Visually Impaired Program	547
Board/Fundraising.....	354
Reassurance Calls	336
Chores	270
Groceries To Go	259
Trans to Food Pantry	256
Library To Go	252
Housekeeping	155
Office Volunteers	132
Other	76
Respite Care	27
Shopping.....	21
Total	6012

Co-op Credit Union celebrates International Credit Union Day by donating to local charities

We are proud to celebrate International Credit Union Day each year with our friends at Co-op Credit Union. This year's luncheon and bake sale supported eight local charities, including Jackson County Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers, Jackson County Animal Shelter, Fall Creek Community Cupboard, Trempealeau County Human Society, G-E-T Community Food Pantry, Friends of Melrose, Onalaska Police Department, and Eleva-Strum Girl Scouts. Thank you Co-op Credit Union for sharing the true meaning of Community!



Preparing and serving brats at the fundraiser were CCU employees (l to r) Eric Skogstad, Adam Ross & Jordyn Marg.

Annual Report 2016-2017

Program Director's Report — Lori Chown



Like the fall colors, we are seeing many changes at Interfaith. While change can often be scary, without it we wouldn't be able to grow. Last year Karen and I noticed a troubling change. We were hearing from more and more families caring for loved ones with dementia. There were husbands taking care of their wives at home, wives caring for their husbands and daughters caring for their mothers. It was heartwarming and heartbreaking at the same. We knew we wanted to help but we weren't sure how. When we attended our yearly Volunteer Coordinators Conference we met a woman from The Gathering Place, a dementia care facility in Sheboygan Falls. They run a group respite program that is coordinated by volunteers. We thought what a wonderful way to add a much needed service. We already had 230 volunteers, many of whom were looking for more ways to serve. Now we just needed to create the program! In 2018 we will be opening the Time for You Respite Center, a

respite program that will provide engaging activities to enrich the lives of dementia patients, while providing much needed respite to caregivers.

To help manage the program, we have hired Shawn Callisto as the Program Coordinator. Shawn comes to us with a great deal of knowledge and experience and will be an asset to Interfaith. Shawn has a Master of Science Degree in Nursing as well as Human Resource/Business Administration Degree. She has worked for Black River Memorial Homecare and Hospice, Morrow Memorial Homecare, and Pine View Care Center. Shawn is a proud member of Black River Falls Lions Club and Squaw Creek Lutheran Church. She has also served as a board member for Interfaith for the last year. We are proud to welcome Shawn to Interfaith as the Program Coordinator for the Time for You Respite Center.

More changes will come in December when Karen retires completely from

Interfaith. It will be very hard to see Karen leave, but we know she won't go far. Karen will continue to be a part of Interfaith as a volunteer where she will continue to touch the hearts of many. The many friendships she has built over the years with Interfaith's volunteers, care receivers, and partners will continue and the foundation she has built will forever remember the lessons she has taught us. When I think of the many things Karen has shown me, a quote by Mother Teresa comes to mind. "Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier." This is one of the many things we all love about Karen. She always warms our heart with her smile, her stories, and her compassion.

Yes, change can be heartbreaking and heartwarming, but like the fall colors we will continue to blossom and try to make our world more beautiful.

President's Report — Pastor Meg Erickson



We live in a time of wonderful advancements in just about every area of our lives. From technology to infrastructure,

we find ourselves benefiting from these advances. Who would have thought there would come a day when we could not only talk to our kids and grandkids via phone, but talk and see each other face-to-face thanks to the technologies behind the likes of Skype and FaceTime, or the myriad of other communication technologies we now have at our fingertips. Let's not forget the wonders of technology that enable the elderly to be safer while alone in their homes. With the quick push of a button, an elderly person can summon help. Such advances give peace of mind to many families, especially those unable to be close at hand for the needs of an elderly loved one.

These are wonderful advancements that aid an ever growing aging population in our country. But technology cannot take the place of genuine human contact. Today, the average age of a US citizen is 62yrs. with a life expectancy of 78.8 yrs. It stands to

reason, that there will continue to be a need for services to aid our elderly population. In Jackson County we are blessed to have just such an organization in Interfaith. Thanks to the pioneering spirit of Karen Foust who has served as Director over the past 28 years, the county has benefited from quality programs that not only meet immediate needs, but provide compassionate one-on-one presence.

Looking to the future, the Interfaith Board is excited about the smooth transition of leadership as Lori Chown moves into the position of Director following Karen's retirement. Through their collective efforts, Interfaith's vision moves forward. 2018 will see the start of Time For You, a respite care program for individuals with Dementia, and the continuation of the many programs already in place. Of course, none of these programs would be possible without the tremendous support given by the faithful supporters and volunteers of Jackson County. On behalf of the Board of Directors, "Thank YOU" for all you do to make this such a success for Jackson County. The staff and Board are committed to serving the needs of our county and look forward to a bright future.

Treasurer's Report — Fred Goettl

2016-2017

INCOME

Fundraising	\$ 36,201
Memorials	\$ 20,250
Individuals	\$ 13,591
Grants	\$ 7,500
Churches	\$ 3,829
Businesses	\$ 2,497
Organizations	\$ 1,288
Other Income	\$ 326
Total Income	\$85,481

EXPENSE

Payroll	\$ 55,282
Fund Raising	\$ 5,887
Office Expense	\$ 3,616
Insurance & Dues	\$ 3,591
Publicity/Printing	\$ 2,043
Program Expense	\$ 1,893
Utilities	\$ 1,858
Accounting Services	\$ 897
Other expenses	\$ 834
Travel/Training	\$ 698
Total Expenses	\$76,600

A Humble Thank You — Karen Foust



Almost thirty years ago, my Mother had a volunteer application on her dining room table that she needed help to complete. She was interested in volunteering for a new program called Jackson County Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers. She and her friend Annetta Kampen, were interested in visiting homebound older adults. Those two were quite the visitors and were looking forward to taking their basket of homemade goodies and a carafe of coffee to someone's home to brighten their day. A few days later the director's position for Interfaith was in our church bulletin at Little Norway. I poked my husband, in church and said, I might be interested in that. He agreed that I should apply. Paul Reiff was the pastor and also served on the newly formed Interfaith Board. I asked him numerous questions about the proposed program. He was very supportive of me applying for the position and said, "It's time to let that little bird fly."

That's a little history of how I got involved with Interfaith and it has been quite a flight every since. After being advised that I was hired, I was in shock

and called Judy Hansen to find out a little more about the expectations of the position. She reassured me that board members would provide support. I had to learn how to recruit volunteers, do public speaking, manage a budget, and educate myself about community resources. I was introduced to my new office space on August 14th, 1989 by Jan Eckles and Pastor Erik Zingleman. It was in the library of the St. Joseph's Education Building. Things went along just fine until the board members voted to purchase a computer! Well, with that news, I thought it might be time to take flight and leave! The introduction to the computer went fairly well and I decided to hang in there a little longer. There were more challenges, but with the wisdom and guidance of the board, the Lord and so many people, I have stayed for twenty-eight years.

I have so many heart melting stories of caregiving lovingly provided by hundreds of volunteers. I say a humble thank you to all who were a part of those stories. I was just the connector who made those stories happen.

Lori Chown, our new director has the wisdom, skills, faith and dedication to develop and enhance the programs

coordinated by Interfaith. I am so very proud of Lori and grateful for her willingness to serve as Interfaith's Program Director.

The generosity of St. Joseph's Catholic Church and its congregation has been a tremendous help to Interfaith. Thank you so much!

Like Lawrence Welk says, "Thanks for the memories." I love this community for standing by me to develop such a wonderful Christian outreach organization. I wonder where my next flight will take me.



Pictured (l to r) with Karen at the Coffee & Cupcakes Open House, held in her honor of her retirement, were Carol Haugen, Jack Gunn and Mary O'Brien

Gifts and Memorials

Interfaith relies on the generous support of our community to continue our mission of helping the elderly and disabled. Without the support of our volunteers and our donors, 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 all donations during this time period. If your name was omitted, please accept our apologies and let us know so we can promptly correct our records.

IN MEMORY OF

Jim Benrud

- Marjorie McNulty
- Raymond Berg
- Robert Olson
- Eugene Boisen
- Margaret Boisen
- Meg Brown
- Carol Dougherty
- Edward Buhler
- Jan Eckles
- Nyla Musser
- Clint Burghardt
- Carol Dougherty
- Ida Blackdeer Carrier
- Brad & Lori Chown
- Lorraine McDonald
- Roger Dahl
- Merlin & Beatrice Fredrickson
- Ronald Dorwin
- Dennis & Joan Hansen-Mays
- Margaret Legois
- DA Gerald Fox
- Brad & Lori Chown
- Bob & Jan Eckles
- Judy Hansen
- Harvey & Diane Wood
- Lee Frederick
- Bob & Jan Eckles

Alice Gearing

- Carol Dougherty
- Dan Gomer
- Richard Anderson
- Brad & Lori Chown
- Harvey & Diane Wood
- Harley Goodenough
- Mary J. Hansen
- Marian Grouper
- Larry & Georgia Comstock
- Nyla Musser
- Leonard Grunlien
- Mary J. Hansen
- Gayle Handly
- Bob & Jan Eckles
- Richard & Vonnice Greene
- Mary J. Hansen
- John Haneck
- Nyla Musser
- Nila Hanson
- Nyla Musser
- Willard Hart
- Carol Anderson
- Tony Hart
- Gene & Virginia Olson
- Fred Hesse
- Chuck & Ruth Buswell
- Dean & Delores Severson

Delores Hornby

- Bob & Cheryl Gabrielson
- Bruce & Judy Hunter
- Nyla Musser
- Harvey & Diane Wood
- Mildred Hefty
- Bob & Jan Eckles
- Rod & Ellen Gearing
- Jim & Jill Kaphengst
- Alvin & Gwyn Knutson
- Ev & Alice Larkin
- Lyla Lynne
- John Held
- Harvey & Diane Wood
- Joyce Heuer
- Dennis & Joan Hansen-Mays
- Larry Hanson and Family
- Linda Hoem
- Nyla Musser
- Steven Hoem
- Nyla Musser
- Michael Huse
- Nyla Musser
- Sharon Iverson
- Nyla Musser
- Harvey & Diane Wood

Delores (Sampson) Klevgard

- Nyla Musser
- Thomas Kneifl
- Nyla Musser
- James Kniseley
- Nyla Musser
- Donna Kostohryz
- Nyla Musser
- Ray Ransom
- Avonelle Tollefson
- Evelyn Lambert
- Mary J. Hansen
- Bruce & Judy Hunter
- Lorraine McDonald
- Marjorie McNulty
- Bruce & Carol Olson
- Jean Overlien
- Maralyn Laudon
- Bob & Jan Eckles
- Clint & Jean Finland
- Gerald Laufenberg
- Arlene Dunnigan
- Bob & Jan Eckles
- Ron & Carol Olson
- Vern & Ruth Jacobson
- Don & Jeanette Kaus
- Dr. Jerry & Lori Kitowski
- Marjorie McNulty
- Jim Talley

- Ron & Judy Stanek
- Priscilla "Pep" Lindberg
- Steven & Diane Aldach
- Al Barnes & Margaret Rewald
- Ron & Connie Wyss
- Crist Lokken
- Richard Anderson
- Bob & Jan Eckles
- Mary J. Hansen
- Alvin & Gwyn Knutson
- Duane & Jean Mosley
- Nyla Musser
- Margaret Peterson
- David Lunde
- Friends and Family
- Todd & Lynn Gates
- Bill & Pam Johnson
- Dee Mayer
- Bob & Jan Eckles
- Clifford McCoy
- Nyla Musser
- Richard "Bill" Millis
- Gene & Virginia Olson
- Carol Dougherty
- Louis "Lou" Musser
- Gene & Virginia Olson
- Tony Hart
- Jill Borreson
- John & Char Overlien
- Mark & Brenda Miles

- Millie Perner
- Virginia Berger
- Glen & Luella Overlien
- John & Char Overlien
- Ignatius Rebarchick
- Margaret Boisen
- Ray Rozmenoski
- Ed & Darlene Dugan
- Jan Bjerke
- Lewis Sartor
- Richard Anderson
- Wendy Sasmon
- Harvey & Diane Wood
- Russell Schrinner
- Lorraine McDonald
- Larry & Georgia Button
- Beulah Severson
- Family & Friends
- Jane Siefert
- Jo Ann Dougherty
- Judy Hansen
- Joan Simonson
- Merlin & Beatrice Fredrickson
- Ralph Sobota
- Kathy Dolesy
- Bob & Jan Eckles
- Dave & Mary Mack

Continued on back

IN MEMORY OF

Continued

Sherry Solinsky

- Mike & Cindy Dougherty
- Joseph Streff
- Nyla Musser
- Charity Thunder
- Dave & Mary Mack
- Judy Wensel
- Harvey & Diane Wood
- Becky Wilkinson
- Bob & Jan Eckles
- Bruce & Judy Hunter

IN HONOR OF

Chuck & Ruth Buswell's

50th Wedding

Anniversary

- Becky Hasz
- Nyla Musser
- Lori Chown
- Carol Dougherty
- Karen Foust's Birthday
- Lillian Hart

- Merlin & Lucy Anderson
- Karen Foust's Retirement
- Jim & Diane Anderson
- Richard Anderson
- Carol Dougherty
- Clarice Franke
- Gil Homstad
- Joel & Rae Ellen Hickey
- Peggy Krpata
- Nancy Laabs
- Bette Marshall
- Lorraine McDonald
- Nyla Musser
- Trolten Therapies
- Mary Lou Young

Lyle Hart's 80th Birthday

- Larry & Karen Pennekamp
- Richard & Gloria Johnson's 65th
- Wedding Anniversary
- Jim & Sandra Kauss

Bruce Lahmayer's

Retirement

- Dr. Bruce & Barbara Lahmayer
- Jim & Sandra Kauss
- Lillian McManners 100th Birthday
- Clio Club
- Lorraine McDonald
- Joyce Sawyer's 90th Birthday
- Lorraine McDonald
- VIP Readers
- Dick & Betty Fischer

INDIVIDUALS

- Bill Abbott
- Geri Allen
- Richard Anderson
- Al Barnes & Marge Rewald
- Chris Barnett
- Duane Bowen
- Evelyn Boos
- Ruth Buswell

- Shawn Callisto
- Joanne Capper
- Isabella Cowles
- Marilyn Curran
- Jaida Decorah
- Jan Eckles
- Pastor Meg Erickson
- Dave & Joy Fossum
- Bill & Karen Foust
- Bill & Connie Gates
- Karolyn Gjerseth
- Mary J. Hansen
- Lillian Hart
- Carol Haugen
- Bonnie Held
- Joan Higgins
- Valerie Jacobson
- Cindy Johnson
- Gavin Johnson
- Pam Johnson
- Grace Kammerer
- Jill Kaphengst
- David & Virginia Knoll
- Sandra Krueger
- William Laurent

- Kathy Mertig
- Sandra Millis
- Nyla Musser
- Mrs. Phyllis Myers
- Marie Olson
- Nola Olson
- Charlotte Overlien
- Bob Perry
- Ron Perry
- Judy Peterson
- Lisa Ripp
- Rozanne Ruzic
- Alyce Schreiber
- Leota Simonson
- Clara Smetana
- Sherry Squires
- Terry Stevens
- Marianne Torkelson
- Hattie Walker

- Outlet Carquest
- Co-op Credit Union
- D&S Manufacturing
- JE Jewelry
- Kwik Trip
- Moe Hardware
- Pine View Care Center
- Pine View Terrace
- Utopian Dreams Gifts

CHURCHES

- Community Christian Family Worship Assembly
- Guardian Angels Catholic Parish
- Little Norway Squaw Creek Lutheran

BUSINESSES

- Back Yard Creations
- Black River Country Bank
- Black River Furniture

ORGANIZATIONS

- Clio Club
- Humbird Quilters
- Republican Party

Interfaith receives \$10,000 grant from the Brookdale Foundation Group

The Brookdale Foundation will provide \$10,000 to Interfaith to initiate the Time for You Respite Center. This will assist Interfaith in purchasing program supplies, training volunteers and has allowed us to hire an additional staff person, Shawn Callisto as a Program Coordinator.

The Brookdale Foundation Group purpose is to enhance the quality of life in seniors, which our Time for You Respite Center most certainly will do. This program will offer engaging activities for those suffering from dementia.

To participate, families will complete an application form to determine the level of

care necessary and once approved they can attend the center one to two days a week, up to four hours a day. Activities will be based on participant's interests. To keep the program affordable for all families a minimal fee will be charged, but will not cover the full expense of the program. That is why funding from the community and organizations like the Brookdale Foundation is so important.

If you are interested in volunteering or having a loved one attend, please contact Interfaith. While the program is not open yet, we are in the process of training volunteers and determining the number of participants able to attend.

Welcome to Our Newest Volunteers

- Trudy Arrington
- Sylvia Crocker
- Kelly Emerson
- Faith Emerson

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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