

Faith in Action®

Partner Congregations

Caseyville

Caseyville United Methodist Church
St. Stephen Catholic Church

Maryville

Copper Creek Christian Church
Our Mother of Perpetual Help
Catholic Church

Collinsville

First Baptist Church
First United Methodist Church
First United Presbyterian Church
Holy Cross Lutheran Church
Meadow Heights Baptist Church
St. John United Church of Christ
S.S. Peter & Paul Catholic Church

Thank you to
Meadow Heights Baptist
Church for duplicating
this newsletter.

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Collinsville Faith in Action is a
program of the Collinsville Area
Ministerial Association.

A Neighbor's Independence
Depends on You!



Collinsville Faith in Action
A program of: Collinsville Area Ministerial Association

222 Goethe Ave.
Collinsville, IL 62234
Phone: 618-344-8080 Fax: 618-344-4969
Email: volunteers@fiacollinsville.org
www.fiacollinsville.org

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Looking Forward . . .

Our Advisory Board will work on strategic planning in 2010. We hope anyone connected with our ministries – volunteers, care receivers, donors, or others – will join us for a brainstorming session. We have not yet set a date, but let Lori know if you would like to be invited. (344-8080 or volunteers@fiacollinsville.org)

The ability to follow our hearts and expand services requires resources as well as vision. A generous bequest received in late 2008 let us expand outreach to our more isolated care receivers. Stepping out in faith to use this wonderful gift, we budgeted to spend more than our annual income temporarily, hoping to generate additional funding and recruit additional volunteers. Our strategic planning will evaluate how we are using our resources to assure we are being good stewards of God's gifts to us.

The Area Agency on Aging just notified us of an additional \$13,000 per year to support Answers on Aging as we



Nancy Berry, Executive Director

expand our official target area (for that service only) to include Granite City! This new funding will begin in October. In the meantime, Kay Curtis's assistant, Denise Silhavey, will attend Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP) training so that she is able to support Kay more effectively.

We would love to have more SHIP-trained volunteers to supplement Kay. Please let Kay know (344-7788) if you would consider taking this 40 hour training in early fall. Being an effective SHIP volunteer requires basic computer skills, but the rewards are many as you assist seniors and families navigate the maze than is Medicare! And you will love working with Kay, Denise, and Marian (our only SHIP-certified volunteer at this point).

Gifts in Memory of or in Honor of

In Memory of:

Loretta Oddy

♥ Don & Carol Block

Jerry Grant

♥ Jim & Pat Schapp

Nancy Schapp

♥ Jim & Pat Schapp

Thelma Schuette

♥ Jannell Vetter

Bob & Virginia Ralston

♥ Richard & Debra Ralston

Joan Schiller

♥ Joyce Fitzgerald

Bruce & Dee Mont

♥ Daniel O'Connell

In Honor of:

David Stabenfeldt

♥ James & Gail Herren

June Launhardt

♥ Gary Borgard

Nancy Berry

♥ Bill & Nancy Dusenberry



Take a chance!

Once again FIA is sponsoring a traveling quilt. The quilt will be displayed at various churches and civic events throughout the area. The quilt is not only an opportunity to raise awareness of FIA, but also a fundraiser. It will be raffled the evening of July 16 as part of our annual auction, but raffle tickets may be purchased any time.



- ♥ 84" x 106" (queen)
- ♥ A lovely lavender and white

hand sewn by the ladies of Caseyville United Methodist Church with pointed edging

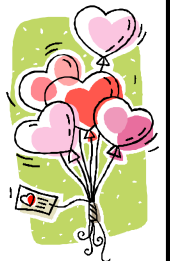
Participants need not be present at the auction to win. Just send \$1 for one ticket or \$5 for six tickets to:

Faith in Action
222 Goethe Ave.
Collinsville, IL 62234

Good Luck!!!!

Thank you!

Faith in Action would like to thank the **Italian Fest Committee** for their gracious donation! Your gift helps us continue our mission of helping our neighbors.



FIA Is Only a Phone Call Away

"We will never realize how much the little things mean to those who need us." Lori Fry

Recently, I was sitting at my desk doing my usual review of our weekly appointments. I realized I needed to go over the details of an appointment with a care receiver. So, as always, I picked up the phone and went directly to the source. I gave our care receiver a call. His friend answered the phone. He was still in surgery. (I had forgotten!) The friend knew the answers to all my questions concerning the future appointment. I was relieved I didn't have to bother him during his recovery. I thanked the friend and went on with the rest of my work, glad I had reached someone.

It wasn't long until my phone rang. It was his friend. Our care receiver was out of surgery and doing fine. I must have sounded confused. (Had I asked the friend to call when he got out of surgery? I was confident that he would be fine. It was minor surgery.)

"You see I just needed someone to tell. When he came out, I was so relieved. You just called. I knew you cared. I just had to tell someone and I just talked to you, so you were on my mind," she explained without my asking. "I'll have him give you a call when he gets home to tell you about his surgery. It is just so good to have someone to talk to."

I couldn't help but wonder how often this sort of thing happens. It is humbling to think that something so small as a phone call can mean so much. I am just so glad that we are here for those we serve and that FIA is always just a phone call away.



Lori Fry
Program Director
Collinsville Faith in Action
volunteers@fiacollinsville.org



Friday, July 16 - Save the date!

"A NEIGHBOR'S INDEPENDENCE DEPENDS ON YOU!"



From the Director's Chair - by Lori Fry

Volunteers

Build a Better World

At Collinsville *Faith in Action*, we celebrate our volunteers every year with a breakfast to let them know just how much we appreciate what they do for us. We eat great food and someone sings. Nancy Berry speaks. I gush about how we can't do without our volunteers. As I sit here thinking about the process, I wonder if our volunteers know just how much we really need them.

Faith in Action belongs to our volunteers. Our volunteers do the care giving, raise the money, organize our committees, and tell the world about us. *FIA* volunteers drove 36,560 miles last year, spent 4,413 hours to perform 1997 events. They drove our care receivers to the doctor, the beauty parlor, and the grocery store. They performed household tasks, delivered groceries, raked yards, and made phone calls. More important, they held hands, dried tears and listened. There isn't a brochure big enough to describe an *FIA* volunteer's unofficial duties.

I can't help but think of a quote I heard at a volunteer caregiver's funeral. "Volunteers do important work," read J.J. Ehlenfeldt's memorial display. There is so much truth in the statement. How much work gets done because volunteers do it? How much work would go undone if volunteerism ceased to exist? And not just any work, but **important work**. Volunteerism matters.

"Alone we can do so little. Together we can do so much." (Helen Keller) This thought was the theme of our Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast 2010. It really could be another motto for Collinsville *FIA*. Our group has helped so many throughout the years. Thank you *FIA* volunteers for all you do, today, tomorrow and in the future. We couldn't do it without you!

Friendly Reminder To All Care Receivers:

If you would like to communicate with your volunteer, please call the *Faith in Action* office and we will put you in touch with your volunteer. Remember, volunteer phone numbers are never given out. Please call 344-8080 if there is a question. We'd rather the phone ring all day than a care receiver worry about their ride.



Policy Reminder

Gas reimbursement is available to any volunteer who needs (or wishes) to receive it. Simply mark the line "Number of trips requesting reimbursement" on your monthly timesheet. It's that easy.

Call Lori at 344-8080 if you have any questions concerning this policy.

E-mail Address?

Faith in Action is currently collecting e-mail addresses for upcoming mailings. If you are a care receiver, volunteer or member of the community, we want to hear from you! Please send your e-mail address to Judy (fiassist@fiacollinsville.org) or call the FIA office at 344-8080. If you have a computer and don't have an e-mail address, please consider getting one. *Faith in Action* plans to

start sending out messages and we want to be in touch with you! FIA news is also available at *Twitter*. Simply search the *Twitter* website for "CILFIA". Become one of our followers and get weekly updates about what is going on at *Faith in Action*.

SPRING IS HERE! continued

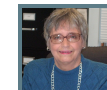
situation or have any questions about someone representing themselves to you, please do not hesitate to notify Answers on Aging, 344-7788 or the Southwestern Illinois Area on Aging at 222-2561.

Our checklist is done.

Be safe, savvy and enjoy the summer. We look forward to seeing all of you at Senior Wellness Day



Kay Curtis



**Answers on Aging Specialist
Collinsville Faith in Action
answers@fiacollinsville.org**

Do you know your local Faith in Action?

1. What is Collinsville *Faith in Action's* motto?
2. Which area churches partner with CFIA?
3. What are our local colors?
4. Describe the CFIA symbol.
5. How many miles did CFIA travel in the year 2009?

Answers

1. "Serve one another in love." Galatians 5:13
2. There are eleven.
 - † **Caseyville:** Caseyville United Methodist Church, St. Stephen Catholic Church
 - † **Collinsville:** First Baptist Church, First United Methodist Church, First United Presbyterian Church, Holy Cross Lutheran Church,

- Meadow Heights Baptist Church, St. John Evangelical United Church of Christ, S.S. Peter and Paul Catholic Church
- † **Maryville:** Copper Creek Christian Church, Our Mother of Perpetual Help Roman Catholic Church
3. Maroon and gray
 - 4.

5. Collinsville *Faith in Action* drove over 36,560 miles in 2009.



SPRING IS HERE!

As I write this today, flowers are blooming, the trees have leafed, April has brought the traditional showers and, yes, the pollen has been a problem. But the grey, dreary days of winter are behind us.

As we look forward to spring and summer, let us take a few minutes to do a checklist of items that are beneficial to you and your family.

IL-1363 Application for Circuit Breaker and Illinois Cares Rx:

If you have not filed this year, it is to your benefit to file as soon as possible using the Internet for quicker processing. Also, the income guidelines have changed this year. A quick telephone call could result in a benefit to you.

Will you be celebrating your 65th birthday this year? Be sure you have accurate information to “get off to a good start with Medicare” and make informed decisions concerning health care.

If you need forms for the any of the above programs and assistance in filing, please contact Kay at Answers on Aging,

344-7788.

Other helpful information tidbits:

† Guard your Medicare card as carefully as you do your social security card. In some instances, scammers and unscrupulous individuals may get your social security number from your Medicare card.

† Be wary of individuals persistently calling your home, trying to sell insurance products that you do not need, and wanting to visit you in your home after you have told them you are not interested. Remember: employees of traditional Medicare and the Social Security Administration do not make home visits.

† If you are made to feel uncomfortable in any

Continued on page 9

SAVE THE DATE! 2010 Dinner Auction

Write the date July 16 in your calendars for the 2010 *Faith in Action* Dinner Auction. You won't want to miss all the fun – and the opportunity to help your favorite organization.

This special event will be held again at the Gateway Convention Center in Collinsville. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m., and bidding starts immediately on Silent Auction items. We'll have a delicious buffet dinner, or you could choose the dessert only option. Then the fun starts with the Oral Auction. Pat Gauen, *St. Louis Post Dispatch* columnist, will serve again as master of ceremonies. The wonderful folks at Allan Auction and Real Estate Appraisal will be calling out the Oral Auction. There'll be some interesting items that you won't be able to resist.

The 2010 Auction Committee started working in earnest in January on the sports theme for the

Auction. The Gateway Center will become a “Wonderful World of Sports.”

So gather your friends and make up a table or two. It's a lot of fun and all for a good cause. Last year, the Auction made over \$18,000 for the programs for our care receivers (60 years and older and disabled adults). Let's throw down the gauntlet and challenge each other to top that figure by thousands. See you at the Gateway Center on July 16!

(If you have any questions or would like to join the Auction Committee, call Nancy Kaprelian at (618-799-9085.)



Nancy Kaprelian
Outreach Coordinator
(618) 799-9085
outreach@fiacollinsville.org

Dates of Interest

<i>Faith in Action</i> Annual Dinner Auction	Friday, July 16, 2010 Gateway Center — 5:30
The <i>Faith in Action</i> office CLOSED	May 31, Memorial Day

Spring is here!
Send us your handyman projects.

Faith in Action has volunteer handymen ready and willing to help! (Remember you pay for the supplies.) FIA cannot make repairs to rented property or provide professional services. We can do everyday routine household repairs. Just call the *FIA* office to request a volunteer - 344-8080.

From our Bulletin Board

Resources for Caregivers

Family Caregiver Support Group

St. John's Home & Community Care
222 Goethe Ave.
Collinsville
2nd Wednesday of every month

5:30-6:00 p.m. Light dinner served
6:00-7:00 p.m. Support Group
Complimentary Adult Day Service Available
Call Stacey Rhodes (618) 344-5008

Collinsville Township offers a Telecare Program

This program provides someone to call you every morning to make sure you are doing okay. **It is free.** Call for more information 344-1290.

Madison County Health Department provides Free Screenings

101 E. Edwardsville Road, Wood River
Breast exams, mammograms, pelvic exams, pap tests
For more information call 692-8954 ext.2

Elder Connection Soars With the Eagles

Eight hardy individuals braved the cold and threatening skies on February 13 and went eagle watching in Alton. The group experienced the "Masters of the Sky" demonstration at the National Great Rivers Museum. Under a tent on the museum grounds, birds of prey flew over our heads as staff members from the World Bird Sanctuary presented their informational program. Falcons, owls, a vulture, and a magnificent eagle all fluffed their feathers for us.



After the hour-long program, we toured the museum and watched the river flowing by the Melvin Price Lock & Dam. From the comfort of the indoor spotting scopes, we looked for eagles hunting for fish in the river. All that bird watching made us hungry, so we found the delightful Taylor Made Treats and Tea Room in Alton and

had an extremely satisfying lunch. Care receivers and volunteers joined in the lively conversation around the table.

We boarded our bus, thoughtfully provided by Meadow Heights Baptist Church, and headed back to Collinsville. A hearty thank you goes to the church's Ken Ramsey who drove the bus. We marveled at his skill in parking in tight places, and we appreciated his smiling, friendly and caring attitude. All in all, it was a glorious day.



Nancy Kaprelian
Outreach Coordinator
(618) 799-9085
outreach@fiacollinsville.org