



# COLLINSVILLE FAITH IN ACTION®

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**A Neighbor's Independence Depends on You.**



## OUR STORY THROUGH 2010

### Collinsville Faith in Action Mission Statement

The mission of Collinsville Faith in Action is to put our faith into action by serving adults over sixty years of age and older and disabled adults in our community. We reach out and serve one another as friends and neighbors of a united faith community, to ease loneliness and isolation, and to make a difference in the lives of others.

### Who we are and what we do:

Collinsville Faith in Action (FIA) accomplishes its mission by offering transportation for medical and other needs, shopping, companionship, respite for family, seasonal yard maintenance, and minor home repair to neighbors in Caseyville, Collinsville, Maryville, or State Park who are challenged by age or disability. Our services are also extended to those living in nearby communities who are affiliated with a congregation within our service area. There is no charge for Faith in Action services.

This ministry is made possible through the combination of willing volunteer caregivers, recruited primarily from congregations within our service area, and a core of staff, who receive requests for assistance and match them with appropriate volunteers. Staff also recruit, screen and train volunteer caregivers; interview care receivers; assist care receivers with complex needs to locate additional resources; maintain the database; and support the Board with fund raising.

Late in 2004, we expanded our services to include Answers on Aging, a phone line (344-7788) and staff person dedicated to providing information on senior services. (drug benefits, Medicare, Circuit Breaker, home-delivered meals and other care and support). Through a combination of one staff person, an assistant, and a volunteer, Answers on Aging responded to 1,709 calls, reached 601 in five outreach events, and gave information to 1,881 individuals through newsletter events in 2010.

In 2009, we added an outreach coordinator to strengthen our bond with the community and area churches. This outreach also includes the ElderConnection, a program focusing on social events to ease loneliness and isolation to those we serve. A schedule of get-togethers, such as trips to local eateries and places of interest, is planned on a monthly basis. An Adopt a Senior program is also in the pilot stages offering a link between our schools and seniors in the community.

In 2010, Collinsville Faith in Action mobilized 129 volunteer caregivers who reported 5,746 hours of service and drove 42,236 miles to appointments and shopping. Our volunteers directly touched the lives of 274 care receivers, 81 whom used FIA for the first time in 2009. We estimate that we have helped at least over 1,600 neighbors since February 14, 1998, our first day of service.



The Southwestern Illinois Area Agency on Aging does not discriminate in admission to programs or activities or treatment of employment in programs or activities in compliance with the Illinois Human Rights Act; the U.S. Civil Rights Act; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act; the Age Discrimination Act; The Age Discrimination in Employment Act; and The U.S. and Illinois Constitutions. If you feel you have been discriminated against, you have a right to file a complaint with the Illinois Department on Aging. For information, call 1-800-252-8966 (Voices &TDD), or contact the SWI Area Agency at 1-618-222-2561.

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United Way of Greater St. Louis

## Our financial needs and how we fund them:

Collinsville Faith in Action needs about \$125,000 annually to assure our services are easily accessible to those who need us. Over \$5,000 is received as in-kind donations of office space and utilities (St. John UCC); newsletter printing (Meadow Heights Baptist Church), and volunteer insurance (RSVP). Of course, all direct caregiving is donated by our volunteers, by far the most vital in-kind contribution, which cannot be measured in dollars but is calculated at \$49,000 for reporting purposes.

Donations of items and services to our annual dinner auction are difficult to value, but generated \$18,500 in 010. Our \$149,000 cash needs were funded and expended in 2010 as shown below.

<u>2010 Revenue</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>2010 Expenses</u>	<u>%</u>
Special Events	17%	Staff	68%
Individual Donations/Memorials	37%	Mileage	3%
Congregation Donations	3%	Postage	2%
Business and Civic Groups	1%	Telephone	2%
Area Agency on Aging of SW IL	32%	Special Events	9%
United Way	8%	Audit/CPA	4%
Grants*	2%	Outreach	2%
Misc.	1%	Insurance	2%
		Misc. (Conf, Printing, Supplies)	8%

The staff expense category includes salaries, employment taxes, and benefits. In 2009 *FIA* staff included a full-time Program Director, and part-time Executive Director, Answers on Aging Specialist, Financial Secretary, Outreach Coordinator, and clerical staff, totaling 3 1/2 full-time equivalent staff positions.

These facts and figures are an important reflection of *Collinsville FIA*, but they do not convey the true significance of this ministry. The real meaning of the national slogan, "A neighbor's independence depends on you," is illustrated by the impact on individual lives — care receivers who are secure in the knowledge that one call to *FIA* will get them to the doctor, beauty shop, bank or grocery store as needed, and always provide a caring listener.

Equally important, the lives of volunteers are enriched by the relationships built as they put their faith into action. These quotes from our 2010 survey of care receivers show *FIA's* importance on an individual level.

*"I think it is the best! Just to know someone cares is wonderful."*

*"They are there when you need them most."*

*"FIA performs a service that is desperately needed by seniors and disabled people. Thank you."*

*"Very helpful. Without Faith in Action, I would not be able to keep my appointments."*

*"We are very blessed to have FIA in our town."*