

# SHARING THE CARING

## Collinsville *Faith in Action*

### From the Director's Chair

Sssshhh! Can you keep a secret?

Usually when a celebrity endorses his own product I am skeptical about the claim. Of course his barbeque sauce, salad dressing, electric grill, or hair conditioner is the best. It is his product to endorse. It is only natural to believe an item with your name on it is the best. At the risk of doing just that, I'd like to say that *Faith in Action's*, "Elder Connection" is one of the best kept secrets in town. Where else can you find so



much fun and new friends at such a low cost? It is simply unbeatable.

The Elder Connection's strength is that it has something for everyone. Sometimes the event is a destination - like a trip to the MO Botanical Gardens or Alton bluffs to watch eagles.



Everyone's favorite activity, eating out, is on the agenda. The Happy Cow, Fast Eddie's and the Caseyville Café have all played host to our group. For the homebodies, it's a stay at "home" with a rented  
(Continued on page 2)

### Elder Connection Continues to Provide Fun-filled Adventures for FIA Care Receivers

After a break in July, Elder Connection continued its schedule of social events for care receivers with a trip to the Collinsville Historical Museum in August and lunch at Caseyville's Happy Cow restaurant in September. An informal meeting of care receivers was held at the Happy Cow, and many par-

ticipants provided a wish list of ideas for the 2012 schedule. Staff is working on the schedule now. If you have more suggestions for the wish list, call Nancy Kaprelian at (618) 799-9085. In the meantime, get togethers are planned for the last three months of this year.  
(Continued on page 5)



2011 Issue 3

#### In this issue:

From the Director's Chair	1
Elder Connection Continues to Provide Fun-filled Adventures	1
Spreading God's Love	3
Fall Brings	4
Dates to Remember	5
Did you know?	6
New Law Strengthens Transportation for Seniors	7

**Reminder:**  
**FIA Offices will be**  
**CLOSED**  
**Thursday & Friday,**  
**November 24 & 25**  
**for Thanksgiving.**

### From the Director's Chair - Continued

movie and lunch or a holiday party. No matter what type of activity, it can be found in the Elder Connection.

Don't let the name fool you. The Elder Connection is open to all our care receivers. A care receiver need not be 60 years old to register for events. (The planning committee may have missed the boat with the name.) Our younger care receivers are more than welcome. In fact, they make up a good percentage of the group. I am reminded of the trip to MO Botanical Gardens last June. A seriously ill, younger care receiver rode with me to the gardens. She quickly made

friends with another care receiver in the group. They spent the rest of the afternoon doing a self guided tour. (I think we were moving just too slow for them as a group.) They estimated they walked five miles that afternoon. When my group was back in my car, we chattered like children all the way home. Our care receiver said, "I've always wanted to go there. I had a good day." That's an endorsement I won't soon forget.

As the holidays approach, this would be a great time to give the Elder Connection a try. Nancy Kaprelian has the trips planned



months in advance. (See page #5.) I know she has a Halloween party, worship service, and Christmas shopping on the list. The very popular trip to Our Lady of the Snows to see the light display will round out the year.

If you would like to volunteer, give me a call at the FIA office 344-8080. I can do a quick screening and orientation. We always need help with the group. Remember to keep it quiet. Sssshhhhhh. We don't want to let this secret out. We are having far too much fun!!!



**Lori Fry**  
Program Director  
**344-8080**  
volunteers @ [fiacollinsville.org](http://fiacollinsville.org)

# THANK YOU!

Special thanks to the Knights of Columbus for their outstanding fundraiser dinner for Collinsville *Faith in Action*. On October 9, the Knights served a French dinner by candlelight with table service included! Not only was the food outstanding, but it supported *Faith in Action*. THANKS!

# THANK YOU!



## SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS

Registration Fee: \$10.00  
Child Care Provided: YES  
Scholarships Available?: YES

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
1300 Beltline Rd, Collinsville, IL 62234

**Saturday**  
**November 19, 2011**  
**9:00 am - 12:00 pm**

Help for those dealing with grief during the holidays.

Call Jeanette @ 618-344-3151 for more information!

# Spreading God's Love

I can't think of a better description of what *Faith in Action* volunteers and staff do each day. Many of the thank you notes that come to the office describe both volunteers and staff as "angels".

Most of the care receivers we serve also spread God's love – with their appreciation, interesting stories, and concern for those helping them. We are blessed indeed to spend our days surrounded by such evidence of Christian concern.

One of our staff "angels" is leaving us.

**Judy Brombolich**, who assists Lori with the Volunteer



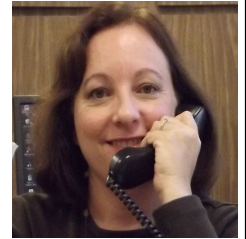
Caregiver Program, will retire from *FIA* in early November. Many of you know Judy's voice on the phone. I encourage you

to wish her well as she moves into another phase of her life. We will miss her, but know change is part of God's plan. We'll let you know when we've filled the hole Judy's resignation will create. Thanks to Judy for her years of supporting our mission.

Kudos to Lori, the Congregation and Community Relations Committee, and the many volunteers who made ***Faith in Action Sunday*** a great success once again. Twenty-two local churches lifted up our ministry in some way in September or early October! It takes a lot of vision and organization to coordinate this outreach. The fact that so many churches participated is a testament to how much Collinsville *FIA* is valued and respected.

October 2011 marks an important milestone for *FIA* –

**Lori Fry's tenth anniversary** as Program Director! We can only guess at



how many phone calls, volunteer orientations, care receiver registrations, and time sheets she has handled in those ten years. What I do know is that she has done all those – plus much more – with grace, compassion, humor, and love for this ministry. Thanks for hanging in there all those years, Lori.

As our Advisory Board works to guide our ministries into 2012, we ask for your prayers for wisdom and vision as we do our best to be good stewards of the grants, donations, and bequests which fund Collinsville *FIA*.

**Nancy J. Berry**  
Director  
(618) 344-5008  
ceo@stjohnscc.org

**Perhaps one of the greatest rewards of meditation and prayer is the sense of belonging that comes to us.**

**Bill W.**

## Memorials / Tributes

### In Memory of:

† **Ruth Wood**

Linda Benz

Collinsville Junior Service club

Robert & Donna Evans

Dave & Heather Justis

John & Gail Justis

Mike & Carla Justis

Barbara Kusmuczali

Mary Lou Wright

### In Honor of:

† **Lori Fry**

Betty Paterson





# Fall Brings

Autumn colors, pumpkins, Halloween, and the opportunity to review your prescription drug plan to be sure the plan continues to meet your needs.

Enrollment dates have changed this year: October 15 through December 7. Any change made during this enrollment period will be effective January 1, 2012. The enrollment dates are different from previous years so be sure to review and/or change plans during the new enrollment period.

An additional reminder to anyone who has not filed the application for Circuit Breaker and Illinois Cares Rx—the time to do so is now!

There have been changes to the Illinois Cares Rx program but please do contact us so we can look at your individual situation and see if your situation is affected.

Other October reminders :

- ♥ watch for your “Medicare & You 2012 Handbook “ coming soon;

- ♥ again, review your current drug plan coverage to assure the plan is meeting your needs;
- ♥ check on the filing of your IL1363 Application for Circuit Breaker and Illinois Cares Rx;
- ♥ enjoy the season!

As always, if we can be of assistance in any way, contact Kay at Answers on Aging, 344-7788.

**Kay Curtis**  
**Answers on Aging Specialist**  
**344-7788**  
[answers@fiacollinsville.org](mailto:answers@fiacollinsville.org)

**God hasn't called me to be successful,  
 He's called me to be faithful. Mother Teresa**

## ***Policy Reminder***

Our *FIA* care receivers received a cancellation policy reminder by mail recently. Our *FIA* policy is: any three cancellations in a six week period will result in a suspension of services from Collinsville *Faith in Action*. Any three suspensions in a year will result in termination of services. A cancellation will include, but not be limited to, illness, physician cancellations, physician rescheduling, mistakes in scheduling, and other issues that keep you from attending your appointment. Repeated cancellations tie up scarce volunteer resources. This may seem harsh, but we have a waiting list of persons wishing to receive service. For questions, or guidelines, please call the *FIA* office at 344-8080. We will be happy to help.

# Elder Connection Continues to Provide Fun-filled Adventures for FIA Care Receivers (continued from page 1)

On Saturday, October 15, a Halloween lunch and party is planned at Our Lord's Lutheran Church in Maryville.



Our favorite volunteer chef, Bill Dusenbery, will be serving chili and a hearty chicken noodle soup. Volunteer Margie Wright will be baking Italian cream cake and apple pie for dessert. You won't want to miss the good eats; plus there's no charge! You're invited to just come and enjoy! You'll need to make your reservation by Wednesday, October 12, if you plan to join us for good food and companionship.



Then, on Sunday, November 20, we plan to attend the Thanksgiving Service sponsored by the Collinsville Area Ministerial Association (CAMA). This ecumenical service will be held at

6 p.m. at the Collinsville High School Gymnasium. We attended last year, and it was a wonderfully uplifting and dynamic evening, with lots of music. All the churches in CAMA come together for this combined service to give thanks for the many blessings in our community. We'll all sit together as *Faith in Action's* Elder Connection group. The worship service may last up to two hours. You'll need to RSVP by Wednesday, November 16.

Sunday evening, December 4, will find us traveling to Belleville to view the Way of Lights at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows. We'll gather at 5 p.m. and board the Shrine's free trolley to tour the outdoor Christmas lighting display. When we return to the Visitors Center, we'll have supper together in the Shrine Restaurant. There's no

admission charge for the Way of Lights or for the trolley ride. Participants will pay for their own supper. Call your reservation in by Thursday, December 1.

Our second event in December is a Christmas shopping trip to Kohl's in Collinsville, planned for Saturday, December 10, at 11 a.m. After shopping, we'll head to Culver's in Collinsville for a late lunch or ice cream. You'll need to RSVP by Wednesday, December 7.



Volunteers for transportation are available for all these dates. Just ask for a volunteer to pick you up when you call Nancy K. at 799-9085 to RSVP. Any questions? Just call Nancy K.

**Nancy Kaprelian**  
**Outreach Coordinator**  
**799-9085**  
**outreach@fiacollinsville.org**

## Elder Connection Dates to Remember

Saturday, October 15, 2011 12:30 P.M.	Elder Connection Halloween Lunch and Party	RSVP to 799-9085 by October 12, 2011
Sunday, November 20, 2011 6:00 P.M.	Elder Connection will attend CAMA Thanksgiving Service.	RSVP to 799-9085 By November 16, 2011
Sunday, December 4, 2011 5:00 P.M.	Way of Lights National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows	RSVP to 799-9085 By December 1, 2011
Saturday, December 10, 2011 11:00 A.M.	Christmas Shopping Collinsville Kohl's	RSVP to 799-9085 By December 7, 2011

# Did you know?



- ◆ Big news! Kay Curtis, Answers on Aging Specialist, is now available for information and assistance and prescription help most Tuesdays from 9-1 p.m. at **our new Gateway Regional Medical Center office**. Our new office is located at Auxiliary Insurance Office, 2100 Madison Avenue, Granite City. Stop by and see her. She will be glad to help!!! Make an appointment by calling 798-3843.
- ◆ Collinsville *Faith in Action* plans to once again offer **reassurance calls** to those wishing to receive calls during winter “bad weather”. These calls are just a quick check to make sure those living alone are braving winter/storm weather and do not need assistance. If you wish to receive calls, or know anyone who does, simply call the *FIA* office at 344-8080. We will set you up with a volunteer. It is that easy.
- ◆ St. John’s Community Care is offering a **family caregiver support group** the second Wednesday of every month. The group meets at 5:30 pm for a light supper followed by a meeting from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. There is no charge and care for the disabled family member in our adult day care area is complimentary. Call Stacey Rhodes (344-5008) for more information. St. John’s also has a support group specific to dementia which meets 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month.
- ◆ We don’t report every birthday – but rarely do we have one this special. **Matilda Finley turns 100 years old on November 9<sup>th</sup>!!!** Stop by and sign the giant card we have for her here in the office.
- ◆ The Collinsville Area Ministerial Association (**CAMA**) **Thanksgiving Service** will be held at 6 p.m. on Sunday, November 20 at the Collinsville High School gymnasium. This ecumenical service is free of charge and is accessible for those with physical challenges. See the Elder Connection article for how to attend as part of this group.
- ◆ Any volunteer who wishes to receive **gas reimbursement** for their *FIA* volunteer transportation assignments should simply fill in the blank on the Monthly Volunteer Timesheet called “number of trips you are requesting reimbursement”. Then turn the timesheet in to the *FIA* office by the end of the month. Our reimbursement rate is \$0.555 as of July 1, 2011.
- ◆ Thanks to all those who worked **Senior Wellness Day** October 7. It was a huge success. Many persons of all ages receive their flu and pneumonia shots. *CAMA* Helping Hands Ministries (Collinsville Food Pantry) received the proceeds of the food drive. It also helped to raise community awareness of *Faith in Action*. See you next year!
- ◆ Collinsville *Faith in Action* **Yard Cleanup Day** will be Nov. 5 from 9-1 p.m. SIU-E students will be available for leaf raking and other general fall yard maintenance. This is available to registered care receivers only. Please call the *FIA* office (344-8080) by Friday, October 28 to request service.



## Faith in Action National Network Changes Name



### **Faith in Action National Network is excited to announce its name change to National Volunteer Caregiving Network.**

The new name was adopted to more clearly reflect the organization's mission of supporting volunteer caregiving programs, as well as its vision of having a program in every community. As Board Chairperson Janet Seckel-Cerrotti says, "This new name better describes what our local member programs do and gives an improved message about the kind of work that we, as a national network, are promoting."

*Faith in Action* National Network was founded in 2007 to support interfaith volunteer caregiving programs, which draw volunteers from many faith traditions to provide in-home

care to those most vulnerable in our communities. Types of informal care provided by volunteers often include transportation to appointments, shopping, yard work, minor home repairs, light housekeeping, and friendly visiting. For older adults, these services help them maintain independence and their ability to remain living in their own homes. For people of all ages, the relationships between volunteers and care recipients improve quality of life.

Many of the National Network's member programs (including Collinsville *FIA*) were started with seed grants from The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's *Faith in Action* initiative which spanned a thirty year period, ending in 2007. The new name is inclusive of these

traditional *Faith in Action* programs, as well as welcoming to all volunteer caregiving programs. Local program names will not be impacted by the change in the national organization's name.

Membership remains open to *all* who feel they can benefit from membership - individuals as well as programs. For more information about membership in the National Volunteer Caregiving Network, contact Kelly by e-mail at [kelly@fianationalnetwork.org](mailto:kelly@fianationalnetwork.org)

The name change will be phased in over the next three months. Answers to some commonly asked questions regarding the name change may be found at [www.fianationalnetwork.org](http://www.fianationalnetwork.org)

## New Law Strengthens Transportation Options for Seniors

On August 9, 2011 Governor Pat Quinn signed legislation to protect volunteer drivers from being denied auto coverage or paying extra for car insurance premiums simply because the driver is a volunteer driver. House Bill 1378 also prohibits insurers from imposing a surcharge on or increasing the rate for a vehicle policy solely due to the fact one or more of the vehicle's drivers is a volunteer driver.

"Many seniors rely on others when they need to go to the grocery store, pick up prescriptions or visit the doctor,

and it is important that their volunteer drivers have the insurance coverage they need," said Governor Quinn. "This legislation clears hurdles for the volunteer drivers who are helping our seniors maintain their independence."

Illinois is home to more than 2 million adults ages 60 and older. Through the Department on Aging, the state administers programs to assist the most vulnerable seniors in remaining independent. With more seniors relying on transportation services to remain active and independent, a number of

alternative transportation programs for seniors have been established in Illinois.

Volunteer drivers must verify that they hold the proper liability insurance, but differing policies among insurers have in some cases limited the number of available drivers; HB 1378 removes an impediment to the operation of nationally-affiliated transportation networks.

House Bill 1378, sponsored by Rep. Joseph Lyons (D-Chicago) and Sen. Martin Sandoval (D-Cicero), goes into effect immediately.



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# Faith in Action<sup>®</sup>

## Partner Congregations

### Caseyville

Caseyville United Methodist Church  
 St. Stephen Catholic Church

### Maryville

Copper Creek Christian Church  
 Our Mother of Perpetual Help  
 Catholic Church  
 Our Lord's Lutheran Church

### Collinsville

#### First Baptist Church

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

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Partial funding for Collinsville *Faith in Action* is received from the US Administration on Aging, the IL Dept. on Aging and the Area Agency on Aging of Southwestern Illinois. Collinsville *Faith in Action* does not discriminate in admission to programs or activities or treatment of employment in programs or activities in compliance with appropriate State and Federal statutes. If you feel you have been discriminated against, you have a right to file a complaint with the Area Agency on Aging by calling 618-222-2561.