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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FAITH IN ACTION OF MCHENRY COUNTY SERVES 77% MORE SENIORS IN 2009, EXPANDS OPERATIONS

Crystal Lake, IL – Faith in Action of McHenry County (FIAMC), an organization which provides no-cost services to county seniors, has experienced significant increases in service requests in the last year, so much so that it recently expanded its office space to accommodate additional staff.

Increased community outreach by the organization, as well as an increase in the senior population in the county have contributed to a surge in requests for services, including transportation, friendly visits, and light housekeeping. In the last six months of 2009, FIAMC experienced a 60 percent increase in the number of one-way transport trips, a 127 percent increase in the number of friendly visits, a 146 percent increase in housekeeping visits, and a 77 percent increase in the number of unique seniors served each month.

“The increased demand for Faith in Action of McHenry County services could not have been met without the partnerships of business owners, service clubs, and volunteers.” said Rhonda Anderson, FIAMC’s Executive Director. “Our Evening in Italy event raised needed funds. Donations of desks, bookcases and man hours have eased our recent office expansion. The Crystal Lake Noon Rotary spent hours painting and our volunteer Sheila Mohler, Wonder Lake, managed the project. We are grateful to Greg Ward, Huntley, for the countless hours he has given to modify the restroom. Our staff volunteered their time as well; it has been a team effort.”

Anderson explains that the organization’s care receivers are not the only ones to receive benefits. “This expansion gives us the capability to meet current and future needs. It is a privilege to serve veterans and others who have given to others. Our volunteers are not

totally unselfish; they are receiving companionship and a sense of purpose. This is especially true for those who have recently lost a job or a spouse. It's a win/win!"

To inquire about services, make a donation, or become a Faith in Action volunteer, please call 815.455.3120, or visit www.fiamchenrycounty.org.

About FIAMC

FIAMC began on November 1, 1998 with receipt of \$25,000 from the Robert S. Wood Johnson Foundation to establish an Interfaith Volunteer Caregiver Program for the elderly in McHenry County utilizing guidelines from the national Faith in Action program. FIAMC began under the umbrella of Family Services and became a stand alone not for profit organization in 2000.

In addition to 24 Legacy volunteers, FIAMC currently utilizes approximately 350 volunteers from faith congregations and the community at large to provide no-cost services to care recipients, 60 years of age and older, living in their own home, apartment, or with a family member in McHenry County. Such services include friendly home visits and phone calls, shopping and errands, home maintenance and repairs, light yard work, light household chores, respite services and daily assurance calls.

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