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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Faith in Action of McHenry County Brings Birthday Blooms and Blessings to Seniors with Assistance from Local Florists and McHenry County Community Foundation

Faith in Action of McHenry County (FIAMC) volunteers deliver birthday floral bouquets to their senior care receivers as a part of their Flower Power program, generously supported by area florists Apple Creek Flowers of Woodstock, Countryside Flower Shop of Crystal Lake, and Locker's Flowers of McHenry. When the representatives of the Minno and Carol Halma Family Fund of McHenry County Community Foundation discovered what Faith in Action was doing in the lives of County seniors, they wanted to help, and presented FIAMC with a check for \$500 to establish a gift fund to help celebrate senior birthdays. FIAMC now is able to surprise seniors with an extra special gift for their birthday.

Rhonda Anderson, Faith in Action's Executive Director is overjoyed by the response from the Halma family. "It was such a welcome surprise," said Anderson, "We are able to supplement our already successful Flower Power program. Now we are able to deliver not just flowers, but a whole party!"

The seniors that FIAMC serves are thrilled to receive these "senior surprises". Each day, the organization receives calls and letters with expressions of gratitude. Care receiver Barbara writes: "I received a surprise visit and some gifts, including a beautiful bouquet of flowers. I want to thank all involved. It was so kind and thoughtful – it made my day and prolonged my Birthday Celebration! Thanks to one and all!"

For more information about Faith in Action, become a volunteer, or inquire about services for yourself or a family member, 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.

FIAMC currently utilizes approximately 350 volunteers from faith congregations and the community at large to provide 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 transportation, 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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