



Faith in Action of McHenry County Winter/Spring 2008  
Preserving the Independence of Our Senior Citizens Since 1998

## Money Can't Buy Me Love ...

Pull up to this lovely Prairie Grove residence and you will find—what?!! A Faith in Action of McHenry County (FIAMC) volunteer shoveling the driveway for the delighted homeowner sitting comfortably inside? “How is this fair?” you are tempted to mutter under your breath as you join the other FIAMC volunteer already hard at work.

The perceived injustice is one that every so often rears its ugly head in the FIAMC community; requests for help from seniors who appear to have the means to pay for services, but use FIAMC volunteers instead.

There are many reasons why presumably well-heeled seniors request FIAMC services. Sometimes these care-receivers are among those who once had the means to afford a luxury home, but now are struggling to maintain it. Other times seniors may have the ability to pay for services and in fact do, by donating to FIAMC, which enables us to help other seniors who would not be able to afford to pay for such services.

Because FIAMC does not discriminate based on income, volunteer help is available to those of all income levels. The reason we do this is because FIAMC isn't merely about providing service—it's about providing quality of life. Our care givers truly deliver what their name implies—care. And as we all know, in the words of four guys from Liverpool, England, three of whom lived to be old enough to qualify for FIA services themselves—'Money can't buy' ... well you know the rest.



Pictured above, care giver, Ken Anderson, and husband of Executive Director Rhonda Anderson, shoveling a driveway for a special member of the FIAMC community.

## Who Put the 'Faith' into Faith in Action?

In 1984, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation launched the Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers Program, which became the foundation for Faith in Action (FIA) in 1993. So why, you might ask, would a secular organization, the nation's largest philanthropy devoted exclusively to health and health care, support, even encourage a 'faith' based initiative, and what did they intend by the word 'faith' anyway?

The answer to this question can be traced back to the challenge the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation had at FIA's inception, which is the same challenge all foundations have; how to make the most out of limited resources.

(Continued on next page)

### Words of Gratitude

A note of thanks to Faith in Action for providing a caregiver for my elderly mother so that I could get to a function I so wanted to attend.

I appreciate the work your caregivers provide to those of us who at times need a little extra help as we try caring for parents or spouses on our own.

Our caregiver (Peg from Woodstock) was outstanding as have been past volunteers.

I'm so grateful for Faith in Action and these extraordinary volunteers.

—Maryanne H.



[www.fiamchenrycounty.org](http://www.fiamchenrycounty.org)

Never a Charge for Services

Phone 815-455-3120  
Fax 815-455-3813

## Who Put the 'Faith' into Faith in Action?

(Continued from front page)

"What a wonderful surprise when the other day I saw Kevin C. cleaning the snow off my driveway and sidewalk. ... Thanks to your wonderful organization who help people in my situation."

—Lois H.

"Thanks, and my sincerest gratitude for providing the crew that raked leaves in my yard... And please give my thanks to the crew members themselves for a job well done, and for their kind consideration."

—Hugh E.

Considering the structure of US communities the Foundation hit on an idea that harnessed a vital resource – American houses of worship. Nationwide, churches, synagogues and mosques could serve as clearinghouses for identifying seniors in need, as well as recruiting volunteers who could help meet those needs. The usage of the word 'faith' was intended to reflect the fact that people who volunteer for Faith in Action may come from many different faith backgrounds. But volunteers also come to FIA as members of no religious group at all. The bond that ties volunteers together is the desire to love one another and to share that love instrumentally by helping to meet the needs of others.

The 'faith' part of the FIA name also reflects a holistic approach to health care.

In the ten years that Faith in Action McHenry County (FIAMC) has served our community, we have partnered with many houses of worships including the Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish faiths. In addition to mobilizing volunteer efforts through houses of worship, we also have also enlisted volunteer caregivers through a number of civic organizations, such as the Rotary, Jaycees, Lions, and Knights of Columbus. FIAMC does not proselytize any religious faith, nor does it discriminate based on faith for caregivers or care receivers. Regardless of what spiritual background people come from, most religious faiths have in common a belief in loving and helping their neighbor. FIAMC is a place where people can live out what they believe.

Our deepest sympathy to the loved ones of:

**Carrie Booker**  
**Don Dolatowski**  
**Margaret Ehrke**  
**Rose Elliott**  
**Larry Engelbrecht**  
**John Gilbo**  
**Jane Hyden**  
**Bernice Jerls**  
**Emily Koster**  
**Julie Moss**  
**Brian Peterson**  
**Gretta Sward**  
**Pat Tryboski**  
**Donald Vomacka**

### Do You Remember?

1.) On the front page of this issue we referenced the four guys from Liverpool, England who swept our nation and began the 'British Invasion' in rock and roll. Which of the following was the date they first appeared on the Ed Sullivan Show?

- (a) August 17, 1962                      (b) February 9, 1964                      (c) January 28, 1966

2.) In our Volunteer Heroes article, we note that Guy M. played the role that Cary Grant played in the movie, His Girl Friday. Who played the female lead in that movie?

- (a) Rosalind Russell                      (b) Katharine Hepburn                      (c) Ginger Rogers

3.) In this issue's Legacy article, we feature the AmeriCorps event that was held on Martin Luther King Day. At the age of 35, Dr. King was the youngest man to ever have received the Noble Peace Prize. What year did this take place in?

- (a) 1957                                      (b) 1960                                      (c) 1964

Answers on back page.

# Volunteer Heroes

## Actor Meets Model

Guy M. once played Walter Burns, in *Front Page*, a part made famous by Cary Grant in the movie version, *His Girl Friday*.

Ruby R. once had a runway modeling career and was chosen as one of 15 young women nationwide to go to the Charles of the Ritz school in New York for 'blending' powders.

So how did this seventy-something actor meet this ninety-something model? You guessed it ... Faith in Action of McHenry County!

"She's an interesting gal!" says Guy, FIAMC caregiver to the nonagenarian former model. "Ruby was a fashion model, spent time in New York, she loves fishing and owned the Dairy Mart in Huntley with her late husband."

"Real nice man to drive me places," says Ruby, FIAMC care receiver, of the actor turned chauffeur.

Guy, who retired from a career in advertising in 1992 began working with FIAMC after talking to FIAMC Board President and long time friend Tom Gelin. Guy had been serving with another non-profit as a volunteer, but the hours were inflexible and didn't work well with Guy's schedule. After talking to Tom, Guy came on board with FIAMC and was able to choose the hours that worked best for him.

In the two years since Guy has been volunteering with FIAMC he has worked with a dozen or more care receivers on a regular basis, either as a volunteer driver or providing respite care. His wife of 52 years, Carol, also volunteers with FIAMC taking in-take for new care receivers.



Pictured above, 'actor' and FIAMC caregiver Guy M. with 'model' and FIAMC care receiver Ruby R.

Guy enjoys the diversity of the care receivers that he meets through FIAMC. As is the case with Ruby, he was equally fascinated with one care receiver, a woman named Carrie, who like Ruby, was also in her nineties. Guy ran into Carrie at McHenry County College where he currently takes an art class. Carrie, who has since passed away, had been working toward her Associates Degree.

"They're all very interesting people!" says Guy of the care receivers he meets through FIAMC. "It's such a learning process. I also enjoy helping people. It's a fulfilling thing in that regard."

And what does his model friend Ruby say about Guy? "I really like talking to him. He's such a nice man. Then again I haven't met anybody through FIAMC who wasn't outstanding!"

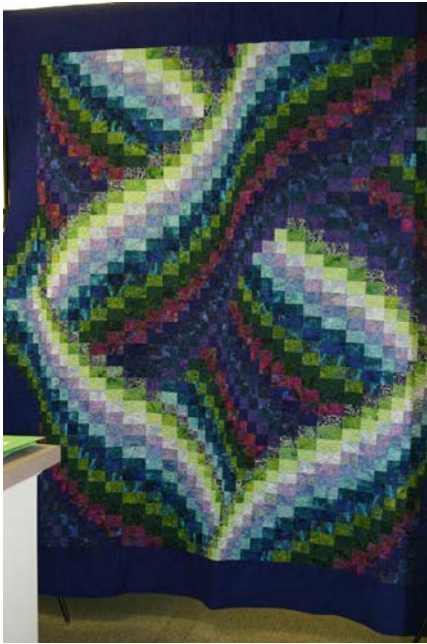
## Leaving a Legacy

Faith in Action McHenry County Board President and Legacy Volunteer Tom Gelin sat at a table 'typing' feverishly onto a cardboard keyboard, while Eric Cowgill, Youth Coordinator for McHenry County Mental Health Board Family Care sat off to his left tapping wildly onto a cardboard 'laptop'. The two men were engaged in a dramatization depicting an angry internet exchange based on racially derogatory language instigated by Cowgill's character. The interchange was supported by three McHenry County student 'actors' and one senior citizen. The script was one of four based on novellas designed to address different elements of discrimination which was the centerpiece of the 'We R All Targets' program presented by Faith in Action McHenry County (FIAMC) Legacy Corps and Family CARE-AmeriCorps of McHenry County on January 19, 2008 in honor of Martin Luther King's birthday.

(Continued on next page)

Spring 2008

## Bargello With A Twist Queen Size Quilt



Tickets \$1.00 each  
or 6 for \$5.00

Faith in Action of  
McHenry County

815-455-3120

[www.fiamchenrycounty.org](http://www.fiamchenrycounty.org)

Faith in Action

...today

### Leaving a Legacy

(Continued from front page)

The initial concept for this event, which involved participants, ages 10 through 80, grew out of a collaboration between Elizabeth Bean, AmeriCorps Program Coordinator, McHenry County Mental Health Board Family Care, and Karla Chandler, AmeriCorps Program Coordinator for FIAMC.

The Faith in Action partnership with Legacy Corps of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) has existed since 2005. Legacy is one of the first AmeriCorps programs that specifically utilizes the skills, experiences and talents of adults 50 years and older. Approximately 24 Legacy Corps members have served caregivers in McHenry County through FIAMC.

The primary service of Legacy Corps members is to provide caregivers a break from their care giving responsibilities each week. They also provide an array of support and informational services to sustain and enhance the quality of life for the identified caregiver, in addition to reaching out into the community and partnering with other AmeriCorps Programs as was the case with the We R All Targets event.



FIAMC Legacy Volunteer Howard E. with student volunteers, Alex and Aaron at the We R All Targets, AmeriCorps, Martin Luther King Birthday Event.

“Our goal in this event was to experience multigenerational and multicultural interaction and to experience that discrimination is universal,” says Karla Chandler. “As a Legacy member you have the opportunity to impact not only seniors, but the community in general.”

#### Interested in Leaving a Legacy the AmeriCorps Way?

Members receive:

- Training and opportunities for skill development
- Serve 450 hours in a year
- Receive a living allowance of \$2,000 (paid out every two weeks)
- Earn a \$1,250 educational award for lifelong learning opportunities

Training begins April 7 - Call for details today!  
815-455-3120

## Rhonda's Reflections

I can still remember the excitement in Rich Mercure's voice as he proposed his plan. As a volunteer driver for FIAMC, Rich began to notice how often and how many care-receivers needed to purchase a cane or walker which was only to be used for a short term injury.

Rich had an idea. Why not gather up all of the secondhand canes, walkers, and other durable medical equipment in the area and take them to a convenient location where the senior population of McHenry County could assess the items free of charge? 'Nothing short of genius'—I thought, but still had questions as to how we could manage this and who would pay for the space needed to store the used equipment.

Enter our dear friends at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in McHenry who granted us \$2500 for this project. Their generous gift allowed us to rent a storage unit on Route 120 in McHenry for the purpose of storing the used items. 'Great!' I thought at the prospect of moving ahead with this fabulous plan. The only thing still missing was the items themselves.

Enter some other good friends, David Parmer and the Grand Knights of St. Mary of Huntley, Council 11666, who offered to canvas the Del Webb, Huntley community and St. Mary's Parish for medical equipment not currently being used. Finally all of the pieces of the plan fell into place and FIAMC's Durable Medical Equipment Loan Closet was born.

Synergism is generally defined as two or more agents working together to produce a result not obtainable by any of the agents independently. Synergism was at work in the development of the Durable Medical Equipment Loan Closet as it is in all of the services, events and plans at FIAMC.

If you or a loved one has a cane, walker, wheelchair, or any other useable medical equipment that you'd like to donate or if you or someone you know wants to borrow an item from our Durable Medical Equipment Loan Closet, please give us a call.

Likewise, if you want to be part of our synergistic team of volunteers who are making a difference for the seniors in McHenry County, please contact us at

**815-455-3120.**



The Durable Medical Equipment Loan Closet will enable us to supply McHenry County Seniors like Roseal O. with wheelchairs and other medical equipment.



Johnston Photography

### Executive Director

Rhonda Anderson  
815-455-5362

### Board of Directors

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Joy Martin

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William Layer

Dan Savas

Michelle Wood

Joy Martin, Board Liaison

**“Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisors they succeed.”**

**Proverbs 15:22 The Holy Scriptures**

THANK YOU

Memorials Received:

- Margaret Ehrke
- Bernice Jerls
- Susan Muggli
- Aileen Smart

Tributes Received:

- Kathryn Beernink  
From Eva S.
- Louise McCarry  
From Marianne S.

In Kind or Financial Donors:

- AT&T Exclerator Grant
- BCU—Baxter Credit Union
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- Retirement Research Foundation
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- St Paul's Episcopal Community Outreach Grant
- Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

We are grateful to the many contributors to our "Evening In Italy"

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# Faith in Action Events

## LEGACY TRAINING

April 7 - 9 - 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM - American Community Bank  
Crystal Lake (4/9 Training is from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM)

## VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION—Monthly

2nd Tuesday - 1:30 PM - BCU Credit Union, Crystal Lake  
3rd Thursday - 7:00 PM - Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Crystal Lake

## CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

3rd Thursday - 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM - St. Thomas Pastoral Center  
272 King St., Crystal Lake

The group is led by a Gerontology Nurse.  
Transportation and respite care is available for those attending.  
Please call to reserve your seat today: 815-455-3120

## Inside

- Actor Meets Model
- Money Can't Buy Me Love
- Who Put the 'Faith' Into Faith in Action?
- Durable Medical Equipment Loan Closet
- And More...



Memories of our "Evening in Italy"

Answers to "Do You Remember?"  
Question 1: (b)  
Question 2: (a) Question 3: (c)

Faith in Action of  
McHenry County  
7105 Virginia Rd, Ste. 21  
Crystal Lake, IL 60014

