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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FAITH IN ACTION MCHENRY COUNTY RECEIVES GIFT FROM CRYSTAL LAKE COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1952

Five lively septuagenarians gathered at the office of Faith in Action McHenry County (FIAMC) on December 12 to join the organization's Holiday Open House. There is nothing unusual about the connection between FIAMC, a faith-based service organization dedicated to working with McHenry County Seniors who live at home, and anyone past the age of 60. But the group of five was unique. Instead of attending the event as a FIAMC care receiver, or one of FIAMCs many senior volunteers, this group came to present a gift.

Crystal Lake residents Jim Dercole, Gail Colby Hopkins, Arlene Rudsinski, Allan Visin and Carl Woerner are all members of Crystal Lake Community High School's Class of 1952, and comprise the core of the school's reunion committee. The group, who just celebrated their 55th high school reunion in October, found that they had additional funds in their treasury and decided to make a donation to FIAMC.

"We all graduated from Crystal Lake Community High School in 1952 and all live in the community," says Visin who was president of the class of 1952, and president of the reunion committee. "This is a way to give back to the community that we raised our children in and now some of us are raising our grandchildren in. When we heard that FIAMC was for people 60 and older, we thought 'that's us!'"

The gift of \$500 was presented to FIAMC Executive Director Rhonda Anderson and Board President Tom Gelinias. "We are extremely grateful for the graciousness of the Class of 1952," says Anderson. "It's gifts like these that enable FIAMC to keep our costs to the current rate of \$5.81 per hour, none of which is paid by the care receiver."

In addition to financial donations, and income from corporate grants, FIAMC currently utilizes approximately 300 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 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.

After identifying Visin as the reunion committee president, and Dercole as treasurer, Gail Colby Hopkins, who refers to herself as the Class of 1952 reunion committee “troublemaker” explains why the her graduating class chose to donate to FIAMC.

“We had extra money left after the reunion,” says Colby Hopkins. “We thought, ‘why let it sit in the bank?’ We discussed who was most deserving, and we decided to donate the money to FIAMC. It made sense. It’s a case of seniors helping seniors!”

For more information about FIAMC, please call Rhonda Anderson at 815.455.3120 or e-mail at Rhonda@fiamchenrycounty.org.