



Jackson County Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers

News Release

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Volunteers Make the World Go Around

Interfaith Volunteers and Jackson County Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) held their annual volunteer appreciation luncheon on April 8th at Evangelical Lutheran Church. Over 100 volunteers came together for food and fellowship. The theme was Volunteers Make the World Go Around.

“This year’s theme seemed extremely fitting as our volunteers come together to help in this big world. It reminds me of the saying **‘To the world, you may only be one person, but to one person you may be the world’** and in the case with some of our care receivers that is so true,” stated Lori Chown, Interfaith Program Director. “Having someone to visit, help with shopping, or transportation is vital when you are homebound.”

April 7th – April 13th is National Volunteer Appreciation week. Each year Interfaith and ADRC partner on this event because many of their volunteers assist both agencies. “Our partnership with ADRC makes it easier for us to help families in our community. We can share resources, make referrals, and make sure that the people we all help and care for are safe.”

“Our volunteers are so vital to our programs,” says Pam Johnson, Elder Benefit Specialist for ADRC. “They are committed, kind and always caring. It’s because of them we are able to offer some of the services we have.”

ADRC of Jackson County provides older adults and people with physical or intellectual/developmental disabilities with the resources needed to live with dignity and security, and achieve maximum independence and quality of life. Volunteers for ADRC provide medical transportation, deliver Meals on Wheels, assist with tax preparation, and much more. For more information on ADRC, or to volunteer visit

<http://www.adrcjacksoncounty.org/>.

A lunch meal was catered by L&M Café featuring Swedish Meatballs over potatoes, French Style Green Beans, Italian Salad, and Lefse. Mary Valentino prepared cupcakes and flavors included German Chocolate, Tres Leche, and Tiramisu. Fortune cookies were provided by Oriental Kitchen and bottled water was provided by Ripp Distributing.

There was a display table containing items from over 20 countries, including Ireland, Peru, Africa, Russia, Ghana, and many more. Mary Cooley, Mary Valentino, Pat McGowan, and Nyla Musser were some of the individuals contributing the table display. A world map was posted for guests to scratch of the places around the globe they had visited and there was color from one end of the world to the other!

“Interfaith has some truly amazing volunteers. They are selfless, generous, thoughtful and appreciated. It was a great day to say thank you for all they do. Our volunteers truly do make our world go around,” stated Interfaith Program Assistant, Carol Jarrett. Jarrett works part time at the Interfaith office, taking calls and coordinating volunteers to meet the needs of Interfaith’s participants.

Interfaith began in 1989 with a handful of volunteers and in 2018 their volunteers provided over 7,400 hours of assistance. “With over 200 volunteers it is great to be able to celebrate them. Having one week a year to celebrate them is wonderful, but we are so appreciative of all them every day,” states Chown.

For more information on Interfaith Volunteers, visit www.jcivc.org or call 715-284-7058.