



Helping you put your Faith in Action!

CONNECTIONS

A Jackson County Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers, Inc. Publication



June 2020

Women in History

Interfaith was delighted to assist with the Jackson County Women in History event held on March 10th at Skyline. This event is always so uplifting, with five community women being recognized for their selfless work, helping others. This year's award winners were Bonnie Harmes, Lori Johnson, Lorraine Leffingwell, Patricia McGowan, and Audrey Wathen.

Congratulations to these wonderful ladies for showing us the true meaning of compassion. This event is coordinated each year by Jackson County Sheriff's Department, Aging and Disability Resource Center of Jackson County, Black River Memorial Hospital, and Interfaith Volunteers.

2020 Women in History Winners – Back, l to r, Bonnie Harmes, Audrey Wathen, and Patricia McGowan. Front, Lori Johnson, and Lorraine Leffingwell



Mask Angels

Groups coordinated through Spaulding Place and Interfaith Volunteers have given out over 1,300 masks to date. That is only counting the ones who were making them through this group but dozens of others were sewing for their families, friends and neighbors. The designs ranged from Badger fabric to Christmas fabric and everything in between. Some had strings, some with elastic, but all were made with love.

Thank you to the following people who gave of their time, talents and supplies.

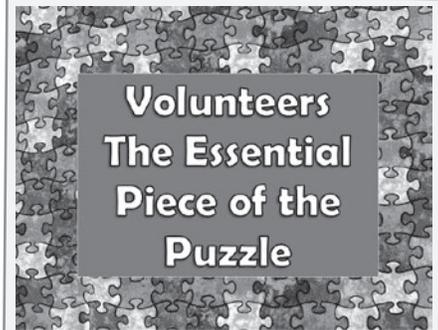


Wanda Amo
Mona Baker
Debbie Chase
Lois Corey
Judy Dugan
Katie Edwards
Cheryl Gabrielson
Pam Gearing
Valerie Jacobson
Bev Kirschner
Christine Krumholtz
Kevin Lahodik
Denise Lahodik
Sally Laubach

Anita Lien
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Cindy Olson
Mary Overlien
Jessica Partlow
Judy Pomeroy
Susan Schwab
Renell Smith
Lori Spaude
Joan Staffon
Carolyn Steien
Kathy Thompson
Bev Waldera

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7

Some of the 1,300 masks made by our Mask Angels. High school student, Trey Emery even created an ear saver using his 3D printer. These work great on the elastic masks.



Volunteers – The Essential Piece of the Puzzle

We were sad to postpone our Volunteer Appreciation event but we will find a way to hold a safe event in the future to celebrate all of our wonderful volunteers. We always knew how valuable you were, but the Covid-19 pandemic has definitely affirmed how essential each and every one of you are! We picked the theme in January, well before Interfaith and all of you were designated as "essential workers".

Interfaith's Program Director

Interfaith is so proud of our community for the strength and resilience that has been shown over the last few months. While there are struggles that make life seem more difficult, we are here to help you navigate through them. Whether you are a volunteer, a care receiver, a family member, or a community partner, together we will find the resources to meet the needs of our community.

Like so many times in Interfaith's history, we have seen things just miraculously fall into place. With over 75% of our volunteers being over the age of 60 we have many volunteers that aren't able to help with their usual transportation runs or grocery delivery. While many of our services have been put on hold during the pandemic, we are still providing medical transportation and grocery delivery. Fortunately,

the first thing many people thought of after being laid off from work was volunteering. So, while our 100 regular volunteers couldn't help, we had a dozen or so that stepped in to fill the needs.

In the last few weeks of the Covid-19 situation, we have seen so many acts of kindness and God moments that reaffirm we are not alone. We have had individuals call for unmet needs that seemed far out of our grasp, only to receive a phone call or a new resource that would miraculously meet that need. I have quoted Mr. Rogers many times in the last few months, when times are scary, "Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping."

To protect our most vulnerable populations, Interfaith has had to put our home visits, our Time for You Program, and our support groups on hold, but our volunteers are still stepping up in some

pretty amazing ways! We have many people making regular phone calls to provide a friendly, uplifting conversation. Our Grocery to Go delivery with Hansen's IGA has been greatly expanded and we are even doing some Wal-Mart pickups. With the help of our many mask makers, we have given out over 1,300 masks that have been sewn by local community members with their own supplies. These are some of the many wonderful connections we have been able to witness over the last few months. Thank you to each one of you for playing a special role in strengthening Interfaith during this critical time. We are sending special blessings to all of you and praying for health and wellness to you and your loved ones.

– *Lori Chown, Program Director*



Time For You Respite Program

I hope all of you are safe and healthy during this trying time dealing with COVID-19. One bright spot of these otherwise dreary times is the civic-mindedness that has been shown in our community. Since the mandated "Safer at Home" restrictions to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, our Time For You program has been closed. We certainly miss our participants, their families and our volunteers! We have been doing telephone calls to check in with people to keep in touch. It has been reassuring to hear updates on how the participants

and families are managing. Many are eager to get back to the group. No date has been set for reopening of Time For You but we will keep everyone updated when we can insure that it is safe for all to come back. "He who has health has hope and he who has hope has everything."– Arabian proverb.

– *Shawn Callisto, Time For You Program Coordinator*



Interfaith Staff

Lori Chown, Program Director
Laura Hanson, Bookkeeper
Denise Lahodik, Volunteer Coordinator
Shawn Callisto, TFY Coordinator
Bev Zinc, TFY Respite Support

2020 Board Members

Marianne Torkelson – President
Judy Hansen – Vice President
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Robyn Matousek
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MISSION STATEMENT

Volunteers of Jackson County Interfaith put their faith in action by using their gifts and talents to serve those living in our area communities.

CORE VALUES

Put Faith In Action

- ◆ Provide an opportunity for our communities, congregations, organizations, businesses, and individuals to serve others.

Share Compassion

- ◆ Have compassion to understand where we are needed and to discern how and whom we can best help.

Foster Independence

- ◆ Assist the elderly and disabled to safely live independently as long as possible.

Collaboration

- ◆ Collaborate with area human service agencies and area partners to serve our communities.

Innovative Programming

- ◆ Develop creative programs that address unmet community needs, while avoiding duplication of services.

VISION STATEMENT

Interfaith will lead in providing programs and volunteer opportunities to meet the evolving needs of our area communities.



Hello Summer



Thank you Naomi and Congratulations!

Volunteers are a huge part of all of our growth. In October we were fortunate to have an intern from Black River Falls High School's Work Based Learning Program. Senior Naomi Lloyd volunteered at Interfaith this year.

Naomi volunteered in the office Monday through Wednesdays and on Thursdays at the Time for You Respite Program. With so much growth, an intern has been instrumental in helping with new tasks.

"I absolutely love interning at the Interfaith office and attending the Time for You Program," stated Naomi. "The energy within the organization is so positive and there is no better feeling than knowing that you made a difference in someone's life, whether big or small!"

While your senior year may have been cut short, the time you gave to Interfaith was priceless. Congratulations and best wishes for what we know will be an incredible journey for you.



New Volunteers

Darren Durham	Susan Reshel
Suzanne Goldsmith	Dalela Sarban
Mario Floyd	Lisa Schmitt
Mike Kutcher	Susan Schwab
Gunnar Lahodik	Mark Wingard
Kevin Lahodik	Kelly Zillmer

"When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.'"



May Day Basket

Spring came with lots of beautiful sunshine and even more acts of love! Our volunteers, staff, and partners delivered over 120 May Day Baskets to our homebound friends. Interfaith and the Aging and Disability Resource Center sent care packages and a beautiful plant from Falls Florist to our Dementia Support Group and Time for You families.

"Our soul is like a soft and gentle flower, it needs to be nurtured, cared for, tended to, with sufficient sunlight, fresh air and freedom to bloom. This, my friend is self-love!"

Miya Yamanouchi

Finding the Perfect Match

When Lori Johnson said she was interested in being a phone friend, Terrie Stevens came to mind right away. Lori and Terrie both have such positive energies despite physical limitations, and they both love helping people. We had a feeling they were going to click and it proved to be right!

Terrie grew up in Taylor but has lived in MN, PA, and FL. She moved back to Black River Falls 7 years ago after spending the majority of the last 20 years in the metropolitan area of St Paul. Terrie states, "It was God's timing that brought me here. One of my first contacts here was Interfaith and I already had been hearing wonderful things about them through my mom."

Terrie is grateful to Interfaith for providing assistance with the Library to Go, housekeeping, grocery delivery, medical rides, and general transportation. Terrie is always ready to give back with various donations to Interfaith's Bear Essentials program, bake sales and other things as she is able. When she heard about telephone visits, she thought it sounded intriguing and expressed her interest in trying that too.

Lori J. had health and mobility issues of her own that limited her from doing the "hands on" volunteering she had enjoyed in the past and was looking for something that would be of service to others that she could do from home. She has been proofing newsletters and press releases for Interfaith via email for over two years now. When she mentioned wanting to do more last spring, we knew she would make a wonderful phone friend.

"Anyone who knows me, knows I love talking on the phone," Lori J. laughed. When Lori C. suggested it, the idea appealed. "I am pretty well homebound during the winter and I know how long the days can get. Phone conversations with friends were highlights of my day and if I could do something like that for someone else, it would be very satisfying to me."

"When I called Terrie for the first time, I was a little nervous," Lori J. admitted. "I am not good with initial 'getting to know you talk' and sometimes that doesn't come across well. But after a few minutes of casual questions and answers, reading was mentioned and we were off to the races from there. We found out we have a lot more in common--we both need walkers but Terrie actually gets around better than I do. We're both 'foodies.' She loves to bake and is always finding great sounding recipes to share. We talk about our kids, our aches and pains, our philosophies on life. Faith is important to both of us and she truly inspires me."

The two "Phone Friends" were able to meet face to face around Christmas time. "We enjoyed a good visit, a hug when it was time to go, and plans made for them to come again. The only thing we forgot to do was get a picture of us together and promises were made to do that when Terrie is able to visit again."

What started out as a volunteer opportunity turned out to be a treasured friendship! Terrie and Lori J. both agree--It was definitely a win-win for them both! They would definitely recommend "Friendly Phone Calls" - to both volunteers and recipients.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT

Interfaith relies on the generous support of our community to continue our mission of helping health impaired older adults and the disabled. Without the support of our volunteers and our donors, none of this would be possible.

In lieu of thank you letters, we utilize our newsletter to recognize donations and memorials. Many families have requested Interfaith for their family's memorials. This edition, we thank the families of Bill Meyer and Dorothy Ott for doing so.

In addition, Interfaith receives many memorials, and in honor of tributes, which are given to Interfaith to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, and other happy occasions. Every effort is made to include all donations during this time period. If your name is omitted, please accept our apologies and let us know so we can promptly correct our records. Donations included in this insert are through May 31st, 2020.

We extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to the following for their support.

IN MEMORY OF

Glenn Anderson

- John & Connie Smetana

Ham Anderson

- Sam Young

Verna Arndt

- Mark & Tracy Aksamit
- Bill Arndt
- Cary & Joyce Arndt
- Tom & Rene Arndt
- Chuck & Marcia Devendorf
- Ed & Darlene Dugan
- Bob & Jan Eckles
- Family & Friends
- Alex Galston
- Don & Charlene Galston
- Patty & Roy Haney
- Jay & Katherine Laabs
- Nancy Laabs
- Dave & Luane Meyer
- Mike & Kay Millis
- Karen Noard
- Dean & Delores Severson
- Judy Sheppard
- Margie & Gene Slosser
- Ralph & Kari Tubbs

Aloha Barlow

- Dr. Al & Jeanette Lahmayer
- Nyla Musser

Sophia Benrud

- Nyla Musser

Myrtle Berget

- Genell Severson

Mary Jane Brague

- Joyce Blaken

Helen Brauner

- Arlene Dunnigan
- Bob & Jan Eckles
- Dave & Mary Mack
- Dave & Luane Meyer
- Nyla Musser

Ethel Burnett

- Ruth Burnett
- Charlotte Heller

Caryl Bowen Bulter

- Nyla Musser

Rachel "Suzy" Callihan

- Calvin & Kathy Thompson

Janet Dalby

- Duane Bowen
- Brad & Lori Chown
- Bob & Jan Eckles

Michael Davidson

- Nyla Musser

Ruth "Holcomb" DeKnikker

- Don & Lori Holcomb

Mike Dolesy

- Don & Lori Holcomb

Ruth & Merrill Doud

- Mary Lee Doud

Steve Dougherty

- Dave & Mary Mack
- Arlene Quinlan

Dale Downer

- Bob & Jan Eckles
- Jane Szymanski

Faith Esser

- Bob & Jan Eckles

Margaret "Margie" Fait

- Marilou Peterson
- Marlene Steinbach

Darryl "Fuzzy" Farnsworth

- Brad & Lori Chown

Carl Foust

- Chuck & Ruth Buswell
- Brad & Lori Chown
- Ev & Alice Larkin

Larry Gaede

- Brad & Lori Chown
- Avanel Gomer Family

Norma Jean Gillette Vinger

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- Arlene Dunnigan
- Bill & Connie Gates
- Dave & Mary Mack
- Lorraine McDonald

Robert Habelman Sr.

- Nyla Musser

Don Halverson

- Sam Young

Betty Hansen

- Carol Anderson
- Duane Bowen
- Chuck & Ruth Buswell
- Bill & Karen Foust
- Elizabeth Harebo
- Nyla Musser

Beverly Hagen

- Duane & Jean Mosley

Floyd Heckadon

- John & Connie Smetana

Joan Herbert

- John & Connie Smetana

Sue Herman

- Dave & Mary Mack

Joanna Hollier

- Bill & Karen Foust
- Eugene Hart
- Al & Lois Spaulding

James "Jim" Huber

- Brad & Lori Chown

Delila Johnson

- Jim & Lori K. Johnson

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Verna Johnson

- Arlene Dunnigan
- Bob & Jan Eckles

Wayne Johnson

- Erin & Gary Hegeman
- Shawn Johnson
- Stuart Johnson

Jerry Kappen

- Sam Young

Rev Donald Kling

- Nyla Musser

Gary Kniseley

- John & Connie Smetana

Jerry Korkow

- Brad & Lori Chown

Carol Matson

- Don & Lori Holcomb

Dr. W. Mark Meacham

- Joyce Blaken

Bill Meyer

- Mike Brauner
- Mary Diehl
- Carol Haugen
- Gil Homstad
- Georgia Mehr
- Dave & Luane Meyer
- Sandra Stai

Duane & Marian Millis

- Mary Waughtal

Marian Millis

- Nancy Burchard
- Bob & Jan Eckles
- Bill & Karen Foust
- Tom & Kathy Tomter

Dan Mills

- Paul & Barb Hanson
- Ronald B. Hanson
- Sam Young

Richard Moldenhauer

- Mary Waughtal

Alec Muth

- John & Connie Smetana

Mary Nandory

- Arlene Dunnigan

Vera Nerby

- Steven & Diane Aldach

Phyllis Nesbitt

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- Stan & Shirley Kuberka
- Donna Larson

Blanche Olson

- Bob & Jan Eckles
- Dr. Nick & Bobbi Kitowski
- Kristine Olson
- Thomas & Linda Olson
- Dave & Lou Schneider

Marie Olson

- Mary Waughtal

Bob Onstad

- Sam Young

Continued on next page

IN MEMORY OF *Continued*

Dennis Oslie

- Nyla Musser

Dorothy M. Ott

- Brad & Lori Chown
- Don & Charlene Galston
- Nyla Musser
- Bruce & Carmen Ott
- Ted & Dawn Severson

Dean Overby

- Nyla Musser

Arlene Peterson

- Avanelle Gomer & Family

Lucille Peterson

- Dave & Mary Mack

Tom Pfaff

- Bud & Kathy Dunn
- Brenda Heuer

Carol Prindle

- Bob & Jan Eckles

Mark Radcliffe

- Joyce Blaken
- Joel & Sheryl Gilbertson

Phyllis Relyea

- Don & Lori Holcomb

Carol Hurza Smart

- Nyla Musser

Paul Smetana

- John & Connie Smetana

Faye Smith

- Dave & Luane Meyer

Steve Smith

- Bud & Kathy Dunn
- Mary J. Hansen
- Sally Jacobson
- Dennis & Shirley Johnson
- Richard & Barb Loomis
- Clayton & Clarine Nelson
- Chuck & Nancy Nibbe
- Tom & Kathy Tomter
- Chuck & Roxie Torgerson
- Mary Waughtal

Ervin Sprinkle

- Arlene Dunnigan

Arlene Bloczynski-Mankus

- Nyla Musser

David Stevens

- Dean & Delores Severson

John "Jack" Thompson

- Chuck & Ruth Buswell

Deanna Wik

- Joseph Nunnally & Sharon Lammert

Denver Will

- Larry & Georgia Button
- Clayton & Clarine Nelson

Marlene Wold

- Joyce Blaken

IN HONOR OF

Lee & Debi Goehring

- Nyla Musser

Rona Jacobson Retirement from Krohn Clinic

- Nyla Musser

Margie McNulty's Birthday

- Arlene Dunnigan

Rozanne Ruzic

- Dolores Pokorny

Chief Steve Schreiber's Retirement

- Friends & Family
- Bill & Karen Foust
- Brad & Lori Chown

Teachers

- Jim & Jane Prindle

INDIVIDUALS

- James Arneson
- Connie Bergerson
- Alice Bowen
- Duane Bowen
- Tom & Mary Jo Clark
- Rich & Patsy Elrod
- Mildred Evenson
- Tim & Kay Finch
- Dixie Gansel
- Carl & Bernadine Gavelek
- Albert & Ilene Gutknecht
- Judy Hansen
- Dennis & Joan Hansen-Mays
- Ruth Hart
- James Hendrickson
- Gil Homstad
- Jeff Johnson
- Mary Ann Johnson
- Delores Joten
- Mayland & Alice Klevgard
- Dave & Sam Krause
- Rolland & Amanda Lee
- Darlene & LaVern Lighthizer
- John & Jean Louis
- Robert Mickelson
- Dale R. Olson

- Clara Pasek
- Buck & Sue Paulsrud
- Linda Putman
- Judy Radcliffe
- Anthony Rebarchik
- Al Barnes & Maggie Rewald
- Bill & Clarice Salsbery
- David W Schmidtke
- LaRayne Seguin
- Margaret Severson
- Gene & Margie Slosser
- Pat & Phyllis Tangney
- Hattie Walker
- Deanna Wik
- Steve & Rebecca Young-Meyer
- Ralph & Linda Zabel

BUSINESSES

- Black River Country Bank
- Millis Transfer
- Torgerson Funeral Home

CHURCHES

- Community Christian
- Family Worship Assembly
- Little Norway
- Squaw Creek Lutheran
- Deborah Circle - Little Norway ELCW
- Family Worship Assembly
- St. Joseph's Guardian Angels Parish
- United Methodist Alma Center
- Upper Pigeon Creek Lutheran

ORGANIZATIONS

- Amazon Smile
- Black River Falls Rotary
- Jackson County Historical Society
- Network for Good



Time for you
RESPIRE PROGRAM

Coordinated by interfaith

Providing stimulating activities for those experiencing memory loss, valuable resources for family members and a few hours of respite for caregivers.



Time For You offers individuals with early memory loss or dementia social interaction which helps them enjoy a better quality of life.



Families interested in participating or volunteers looking for a rewarding experience should contact Interfaith at 715-284-7058 or email interfaith@jcivc.org for more information.

Amazon Smile

Did you know you could support interfaith while you shop online? Simply go to Amazon Smile when shopping and select Jackson County Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers as your charity. Interfaith will receive .5% of your purchase, and you will still pay the same price. Small donations add up to bigger donations and every one counts!



CONNECTIONS

Connections is a publication of Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers. We welcome any comments or suggestions.
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interfaith@jcivc.org • www.jcivc.org
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Football Helpers

Each spring and fall Interfaith coordinates a Neighbors Helping Neighbors clean up. While this year presented many challenges, we were so appreciative to have the Black River Falls Tiger Football Team help with some much-needed yard work for individuals and for Pine View Nursing Home. Players and Coach Vangen's family helped some neighbors with yard work and spent some time at Pine View Nursing Home planting flowers, and putting bird feeders outside residents' windows. With all the restrictions with Covid-19, it will be nice for them to have something bright to see out their windows. Thank you School District of Black River Falls Tigers! You definitely are a good neighbor!



Annual Golf FUNdraiser Cancelled

We are sad to announce that our annual Golf Outing, coordinated by Co-op Credit Union will not be held this year. This is easily one of our favorite days of the year, and we will miss it but with the uncertainty of things we feel this is best at this time. Thank you to all of our community partners, businesses and friends that support this event each year! Please put June 18th, 2021 down for next year's event.

June
18th
2021

**2021 ANNUAL
GOLF FUNDRAISER**

Mark your calendar for
next year's golf outing!



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