



Helping you put your Faith in Action!

CONNECTIONS

A Jackson County Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers, Inc. Publication



February 2020

Interfaith Board of Directors

Each November at our Annual Meeting, Interfaith welcomes new Board Members. This year we had two slots to fill when Board Member Michael Rohrbach moved back to South Dakota and Board Member Hattie Walker completed her three year term. New board members joining us are Brandi Shramek, Executive Coordinator for Jackson Electric, and Pastor David Shudy, Pastor for Saint John's Lutheran Church in Black River Falls and Grace Lutheran Church in Alma Center.



Pictured is the 2020 Board of Directors for Interfaith Volunteers: Back Row: Shawn Callisto, Time for You Program Coordinator, Ron Danielson, Rozanne Ruzic, Pastor David Shudy, Ron Perry, Greg Eddy, Dave Oreskovich, Rick Dobbs-Treasurer, and Lori Chown-Program Director. Front Row: Julie Drace, Brandi Shramek, Brooke Aldach-Secretary, Robyn Matousek, Judy Hansen-Vice President, and Marianne Torkelson-Board President. Board Members not pictured: Kathy Powell and Steve Schreiber.

Our 30th Anniversary Celebration

The community came together on October 19th to celebrate Interfaith Volunteers 30th anniversary, marking the impact it has had over three decades in Jackson County, while also looking ahead to the future.

Interfaith shared a video, created by Taylor Media highlighting some of the many volunteers and care receivers. Joanne Borreson is one of those care receivers. Joanne has good days and bad days. Some days, she just needs to laugh. Fortunately for her, a visit from an Interfaith Volunteer can give her the uplift she needs. "They do so many wonderful things ... They support us in wonderful ways," says Borreson. "The way they serve us really shows us the faith that they have and encourages us to have faith." This video is still available on our website at www.jcivc.org.

Presenters at the 30th Anniversary celebration included Judy Hansen, Board Member; Julie Drace, Board Member and Volunteer; Buck Paulsrud, Volunteer and Time for You Family Participant; Eric Chrisinger, Community Partner and Co-

op Credit Union President/CEO.

Judy Hansen has been a part of Interfaith since we began 30 years ago. "It took two years to lay the groundwork for Interfaith and begin the recruiting and training of volunteers," Judy stated. "The primary factor in Interfaith's success has been our faith commitment and God's leading to serve." Judy currently serves as Interfaith's vice-president, the position she held in 1989 when Interfaith was developed.

Julie Drace shared a story titled Friends to Family. This heartwarming story reminded all of us of the impact one person can make. Julie began volunteering in 1989 but it was in 2004 that she was called upon to assist Sam

and Shirley. "Sam and Shirley adopted me into their family," Julie said, with tears in her eyes. "We gave love and support to each other. Shirley passed in the spring of 2018. I still keep her voicemail message that she left me when my father was dying from Alzheimer's."

"Hooray for us!" was the message from Presenter Buck Paulsrud, who spoke of the seasons of Interfaith. "Interfaith is still in the spring of their development. Thirty years is a great accomplishment, Hooray for us!" stated Buck. "The seeds planted 30 years ago continue to bloom. We need to be vigilant and ensure the future of this vital organization." Buck is a longtime volunteer at Interfaith and his wife, Sue, participates in our Time for You Program.



Among those attending Interfaith's 30th Anniversary Program on October 19th, 2019 were Wanda Amo, Kathy Perry, Charlotte Overlien, Mary O'Brien and Gil Homstad.

A·N·N·U·A·L R·E·P·O·R·T

President's Report



2019 has been a great year at Interfaith! Through our commitment to service, we've continued to meet the needs of the community through the many volunteers who have believed in giving back for 30 years. Without the support of these caring individuals, the work we do and the service we provide wouldn't be possible. We're so honored to be able to be a part of the lives of the care receivers.

Our community continues to grow and change. Through these changes, we've seen an increased demand for new programming and services. With these changes, the Board of Directors

felt it was time to update our Mission Statement and develop Core Values that accurately represent the agency.

Our updated mission statement clearly supports the dedication of our volunteers. Interfaith really does give our volunteers the opportunity to put their faith in action to serve those who need us. Our newly developed core values help us stay the course to live up to our mission. While identifying these core values, we wanted to highlight the qualities of our volunteers. Words like compassion, collaboration, serving all are highlighted. Additionally, the board of directors is committed to fostering

independence and innovative programming. You can count on Interfaith to use these values and our mission to meet the needs of those living in our community.

Thank you to all who are living out their faith through service. "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10. Your faithful service impacts lives.

– Marianne Torkelson

Program Director's Report



The New Year is always a great time to reflect on the past year and be thankful for all of our blessings. At Interfaith, we have so much to be thankful for. In 2019 we had over 200 amazing volunteers who gave 8,100 volunteer hours. It is because of all of these wonderful volunteers that Interfaith was awarded with the Black River Area Chamber of Commerce's Service Organization of the Year Award.

In May, the Board of Directors and staff completed a Strategic Plan, evaluating our mission and our core values. While we revised our mission, what we are doing hasn't changed. We are still assisting health impaired older adults, individuals with disabilities, and those with unmet needs.

Our new mission reads: Volunteers of Jackson County Interfaith put their faith in action by using their gifts and talents to serve those living in our area communities. I am so proud of the board and staff for their leadership in developing our strategic plan. Their guidance and support is such a blessing to us.

With the extended programs and continued growth that Interfaith has been seeing, we divided the Program Assistant position into two positions. In November, we welcomed Denise Lahodik as the new Volunteer Coordinator for Interfaith, working two days a week and assisting with our ongoing matches. Laura Hansen started in December as the new Bookkeeper for Interfaith, working the other two days of the week. Denise and Laura are definitely two of our blessings at Interfaith and we are so happy to welcome them.

Yes, in 2019 Interfaith was extremely blessed. We are blessed beyond measure for the helping hands that come in so many forms --From staff, to our volunteers, our community partners, board members and donors who ensure that Interfaith continues to be a part of the wonderful community that we call home.

With many blessings and thanks.
– Lori Chown

Black River Area Chamber of Commerce's 2019 Service Organization of the Year Award was presented to Interfaith during the Chamber's Annual Meeting and Banquet in March 2019.



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.

Time For You Report

With winter well upon us, you may find the changing seasons have an effect on people dealing with dementia, especially moving into the winter months when the days shorten. These behaviors are known as sundowning and can affect the day-to-day life of someone suffering with dementia.

When the seasons begin to change to fall and winter, we receive less sunlight during daytime hours. The increased amount of darkness can cause confusion, wandering and irritability for dementia patients. Generally, sundowning begins to show signs once the sun has set, therefore upsetting the circadian rhythm of the individual. The person with dementia may experience increased pacing, restlessness, shadowing, hallucinations, wandering and paranoid behavior. Increasing the lighting in the house before the sun begins to set may hold off signs of sundowning.

Establishing a firm and reliable routine is very important. A schedule can keep Alzheimer's sufferers on task and comfortable and even improve their quality of life. Adjust daily plans to make sure that appointments and visits are kept to sunny daytime hours. Preparing for sleep may involve reducing noises or stimulating activities in late afternoon and evening hours. When making any changes to your health and routines, it's important to talk with your doctor. No one approach is the best, so a physician may give you the information you need to manage these symptoms safely.

At Time For You, we do structured activities in a safe, non-judgmental environment. We do try to focus activities on the time of the year and work to increase physical and mental activities with our attendees. This activity can help reduce some of the behaviors that can occur during sundowning. The time spent at Time For You gives caregivers much needed respite while caring for loved ones with memory loss.



This year we have grown to having an average of eight participants daily. We have over 30 volunteers who share their time and talent to assist with our respite program. We have many community volunteers who have provided us with music, art activities, animal therapy, memory stimulation activities and companionship.

Our community has been very generous, supporting our program with donations and supplies. Family Worship Assembly has been gracious to provide us with a wonderful space for our program. We could not do our program without our volunteers and community support.

"The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away." — William Shakespeare.

If you would like more information on how the Time For You program may benefit you or you are interested in volunteering for our program, please contact us at Interfaith.

– Shawn Callisto

Total Volunteer Hours

	2019	2018
Household Assistance	1,145	1,229
Time For You	1,555	1,106
Transportation	1,112	1,101
Friendly Visits	890	819
Visually Impaired Program	1,026	810
Jackson United Mentor Program	340	773
Board, Fundraising, Office	918	772
Groceries To Go	505	304
Outreach	328	236
Library To Go	100	165
Reassurance Calls	70	66
In Home Respite	15	64
Support Groups	118	0
TOTAL	8,122	7,443

Facts:

On average, each month, 100 different volunteers helped Interfaith, providing assistance to over 85 different individuals monthly.

In all of 2019, 217 different volunteers helped 183 different individuals for a total of 8,122 total volunteer hours.

Treasurer's Report



Rick Dobbs

2018–2019

INCOME

Fundraising	\$ 48,526.77
Memorials	\$ 15,930.33
Grants	\$ 13,750.00
Individuals	\$ 11,081.00
Businesses	\$ 7,430.60
Investment Income	\$ 4,189.82
Churches	\$ 2,947.00
Organizations	\$ 2,860.00
TFY Program Donations	\$ 2,730.00
Total Income	\$ 109,445.52

EXPENSE ACCOUNTS

Payroll	\$ 70,725.58
Program Expense	\$ 6,639.37
Office Expense	\$ 4,759.63
Fundraising	\$ 4,741.79
Insurance & Dues	\$ -699.13
Publicity & Printing	\$ 5,182.72
Staff & Volunteer Training	\$ 3,514.63
Utilities	\$ 1,678.48
Other Expenses	\$ 902.52
Accounting Services	\$ 1,950.00
Advertising	\$ 875.41
Total Expense	\$ 100,271.00

2020 Board Members

Marianne Torkelson – President

Judy Hansen – Vice President

Brooke Aldach – Secretary

Rick Dobbs – Treasurer

Ron Danielson

Julie Drace

Greg Eddy

Robyn Matousek

Dave Oreskovich

Ron Perry

Kathy Powell

Rozanne Ruzic

Steve Schreiber

Brandi Shramek

Pastor David Shudy

New Volunteers

Beverly Baneck	Kathy Perry
Sandra Flick	Brandi Shramek
Naomi Lloyd	Pastor David Shudy
Luane Meyer	Shannon Sullivan
Sue Millis	Peggy Wyss
Deb Nichols	

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT

Interfaith kicked off their Direct Mail Campaign in November. Our Direct Mail Campaign is our largest fundraiser of the year, bringing in over 20% of our yearly budget. With the growth in our programs, increased needs of health impaired older adults and the even greater needs for volunteers and staff, this funding is vital to Interfaith's growth. We have been blessed with an outpouring of support and want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all who have donated!

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 Verna Arndt, Arlie Babcock, Dr. Richard Holder, Phyllis Nesbitt, Marie A. Olson, and Steve Smith for doing so.

Donations included in this insert include October 1st, 2019 to January 28th, 2020.

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

IN MEMORY OF

Dan Adams

- ♦ Jim & Diane Anderson
- Gerald Adsen
- ♦ Joanne Adsen
- Glenn Anderson
- ♦ Patsy Anderson
- Roger Anderson
- ♦ Bob & Jan Eckles
- ♦ Mark & Brenda Miles
- Kathy O'Reilly Arndt
- ♦ Dave & Kathleen Johnson
- Verna Arndt
- ♦ Cory & Joyce Arndt
- ♦ Tom & Renee Arndt
- ♦ Brad & Lori Chown
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- ♦ Don & Charlene Galston
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- ♦ Joan Langford & Family
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- ♦ Beverly Arneson
- ♦ Jim Arneson
- ♦ John Arneson
- Brian Atkinson
- ♦ Don & Mary Glasenapp
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- ♦ Shelly Crawley
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- ♦ Ida Dolsey
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Continued

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- ♦ Skip & Grace Nordahl

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- ♦ Pastor & Mrs. Erik Zingelman

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- ♦ Carol Dougherty

- ♦ Bette Marshall

Roselyn Zeller

- ♦ Joyce Steien

Kathleen Zeman

- ♦ Winston Zeman

Don Zlesak

- ♦ Geri Zlesak

IN HONOR OF

Black River Falls Cleaning

Service

- ♦ Stephanie Pipkin

BRF School Work Groups

- ♦ Lee Seul

Co-op Credit Union

Service Day

- ♦ Gene & Judy Ransom

Jim & Doris Dingeldein

- ♦ Jim & Diane Anderson

Richard "Dick" Deno

Retirement from WWIS

- ♦ Nyla Musser

Jo Ann Dougherty

- ♦ Mary Van Gorden

Jan Eckles

- ♦ Geri Zlesak

Karla Engbretson's 50th

Birthday

- ♦ Mary A. Peterson

Karen & Bill Foust

- ♦ Charlotte Thompson

Pat Gardner's 90th

Birthday

- ♦ Dean & Delores Severson

- ♦ Jim & Diane Anderson

- ♦ Nyla Musser

Joel & Sheryl Gilbertson's

50th Wedding

Anniversary

- ♦ Joel & Sheryl Gilbertson

Jeff Harkner Family

- ♦ Tom & Judie Harkner

Joel Harkner Family

- ♦ Tom & Judie Harkner

Tom & Julie Harkner

- ♦ Mary J. Hansen

Lillian Hart's Birthday

- ♦ Merlin & Lucy Anderson

- ♦ Karen Foust

- ♦ Mary J. Hansen

- ♦ John & Char Overlien

Don & Dorothy Havlicek's

55th Wedding

Anniversary

- ♦ Don & Dorothy Havlicek

LaMon & Karen Horby's

50th Anniversary

- ♦ Dave & Luane Meyer

Interfaith Staff &

Volunteers

- ♦ Bill & Karen Foust

- ♦ Mary O'Brien

Interfaith Volunteers

- ♦ Joel & Rae Ellen Hickey

John & Sue Lindahl

- ♦ Tim & Mary McCann

Little Norway WELCA

Officers -

- ♦ Anonymous

John & Sharon Lund

- ♦ Lillian Hart

Tim McCann

- ♦ Pat Springer

Nena McNulty

- ♦ Jerome & Mary McNulty

Dennis & Marie Ruda

- ♦ Dolores Pokorny

Bob Perry's 30,000

Loaves!

- ♦ Chuck & Ruth Buswell

- ♦ Brad & Lori Chown

- ♦ Co-op Credit Union

- ♦ Dr. Jerry & Lori Kitowski

- ♦ Robert Perry

- ♦ Troy & Marianne Torkelson

Arlene Quinlan

- ♦ Margaret Peterson

Clara Smetana

- ♦ Dave & Mary Overlien

Becky Steine's Birthday

- ♦ Mary J. Hansen

Kathy Thompson's

Retirement

- ♦ Nyla Musser

Marianne Torkelson's

Viterbo Graduation MA

- ♦ Barb Knutson

Troy & Marianne

Torkelson

- ♦ Mary J. Hansen

Troy Torkelson Family

- ♦ Tom & Judie Harkner

Joyce Valentino's Birthday

- ♦ Steve & Dena Stenulson

Roger Wiste

- ♦ Pastor & Mrs. Erik Zingelman

INDIVIDUALS

- Steven & Diane Aldach

- Gary & Rhonda Ammann

- Marjorie Anderson

- Richard Anderson

- James Arneson

- Trudy Arrington

- Arlyce Bahnub

- Mike & Betty Bills

- Evelyn Boos

- Joanne Borreson

- Duane Bowen

- Sally Burgau

- Rosella Burlingame

- Shawn Callisto

- Lori A Chown

- David Clark

- Alice Comstock

- Cynthia Crutchley

- Beth Darst

- Chuck & Marcia Devendorf

- Axel & Joanne Dressler

- Bob & Jan Eckles

- Randy & Mary Eddy

Meet Our New Interfaith Staff



Denise Lahodik is the new Volunteer Coordinator.



Laura Hansen is the new Bookkeeper for Interfaith.

Women In History

The Women In History celebration will be on March 10th at 2:00 pm at the Skyline. Since 1996 Jackson County has celebrated Women In History. The purpose of the Women In History is to recognize and honor the achievements of women in Jackson County. Women are nominated by individuals or agencies for making a difference in our community. Past recipients and community members are invited to join us for the Induction Ceremony celebrating this year's recipients.

Jackson County Women In History is coordinated by Jackson County Health and Human Services, Black River Memorial Hospital, Jackson County Sheriff's Department, and Interfaith Volunteers.



Prayer for the New Year

Come take my voice, may the words I speak be filled with encouragement and goodness. Come take my hands, may the work they create be generous and giving. Come take my feet, may the journeys I walk be led by your Spirit within.

CONNECTIONS

Connections is a publication of Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers. We welcome any comments or suggestions.

Jackson County Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers, Inc.

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