

INTERFAITH NEWS

34 years of linking older adults with a caring community

Winter 2011

YOU DID IT!

Our deepest thanks to all those who responded so generously to our request for “Golden” donors. Thanks to you, we were able to end 2010 in the black for the first time in three years! Some of you were so generous we even had to create new donor categories! We also noticed that several people had given \$100 or more over the course of the year in multiple smaller donations. So listed below is everyone who gave \$100 or more in 2010. Thank you from myself, the Cudahy-St. Francis Interfaith Board of Directors, and most especially our clients, whom we could not serve without your financial support. For a list of other donors in the past quarter—and our new acknowledgement policy— please see page 5.

Mark Peters

GOLDEN DONORS CLUB

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* \$250-\$499

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OFFICE LOCATION: 3767 E Underwood Ave
 Cudahy, WI 53110

OFFICE HOURS: Mon-Thurs 9 AM - 4:00 PM

PHONE NUMBER: 414-483-4474

WEB ADDRESS: www.interfaithcudahy.org

STAFF: Mark Peters, Director

Tax Filing Scam Targets Milwaukee County Seniors

According to our friends at the Social Development Commission, which operates our Senior Companion program, many of our seniors believe that they can file tax forms and get a "Economic Stimulus Recovery Rebate" from the IRS. A group of scammers is spreading the word that seniors can file a tax form that will get them hundreds or even thousands of dollars from the IRS. They even advertise in the free papers you can pick up at a gas station.

The scammers promise that for a fee of up to \$300 (paid in cash), they will fill out and file a tax form that will result in an IRS payment. The seniors are assured that they're entitled to a rebate that "very few people know about." After getting their cash payment and the victim's signature, the scammers mail in tax forms to claim tax credits the senior is not entitled to. When that happens, the victims have to pay back the money with penalties and interest..

Worse yet, the scammers have their victim's social security and bank account numbers. With the Social Security printout, they also know when the victim's social security money will be deposited into their bank account.

The SDC believes this problem may be widespread. Many of their Senior Companions say they know of several people who've filed for these rebates. Please help to spread the word about this scam. If you know anyone who has already fallen victim advise them to take some steps to protect themselves from further losses:

- 1) Notify Social Security that their number may have been stolen
- 2) Notify their bank that a third party has their account information and ask for a new account number before their bank account is drained.
- 3) Contact the IRS.



Poverty Among the Elderly

The current official poverty rate does not provide adequate information about who is poor or whether key programs are helping to make progress against poverty, according to the AARP Public Policy Institute.

The current official poverty measure understates persons age 65 or older in poverty, largely because it is based on outdated food consumption patterns and ignores the cost of health care. In 2008, the experimental poverty rate for persons age 65 older was 18.7 percent, which was almost double their current official poverty rate.

A new U.S. poverty measure is sorely needed. The Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) that will be produced by the Bureau of the Census in 2011 and the Measuring American Poverty (MAP) Act of 2009 provide significant opportunities to generate a new official poverty measure.



Interfaith News is published four times a year by Cudahy-St. Francis Interfaith to increase awareness of resources available to older adults and caregivers.

Every effort is made to verify content. Please let us know of any errors. If you have comments, please call 483-4474 or write to:

Cudahy-St. Francis Interfaith
3767 East Underwood Avenue
Cudahy, WI 53110-1934

Mark Peters, Editor

Please Note: The information in this newsletter is not a substitute for professional medical, legal or financial advice. If you have specific concerns, please consult a trusted professional or contact our office to find out where you can go for assistance.

Medicare Update



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced on January 21 that three million Medicare beneficiaries nationwide have received prescription drug cost relief through the Affordable Care Act. To date, three million eligible beneficiaries who fell into the drug coverage gap known as the donut hole during 2010 have been mailed a one-time, tax-free \$250 rebate check.

Eligible beneficiaries who fell into the coverage gap during 2010 are continuing to automatically receive rebate checks. These checks are only the first step in how the Affordable Care Act will reduce prescription drug costs for beneficiaries in the donut hole each year until it is closed in 2020. Starting this year, eligible beneficiaries in the coverage gap will receive a 50-percent discount on covered brand name medications while in the donut hole. In addition, in 2011 Medicare will begin paying 7-percent of the price for generic drugs during the coverage gap.

The closing of the donut hole is just one of the ways seniors benefit from the Affordable Care Act. In addition to savings on prescription drugs, the law provides new benefits to Medicare beneficiaries when they visit their doctor starting this year:

* As of January 1, 2011, Original Medicare no longer charges out-of-pocket costs for the "Welcome to Medicare" physical exam and, for the first time since the Medicare program was created in 1965, Original Medicare now covers an annual wellness visit with a participating doctor, also at no cost.

* In addition to these annual wellness visits, most people with Medicare can now receive critical preventive services, including certain cancer screenings such as mammograms and colonoscopies, for free.

* Also this year, the Affordable Care Act will provide qualifying doctors and other health care professionals providing primary care to people on Medicare a 10-percent bonus for primary care services. This will help ensure that those primary care providers can continue to be there for Medicare patients.

People with Medicare can learn more about these new benefits, search for participating doctors in their area, and find other helpful information by contacting a trained customer service representative toll-free at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) or visiting www.Medicare.gov.

Chaplain Service Available

Interfaith is pleased to announce that we have a trained chaplain volunteer who will be available to visit clients starting in February. Chaplain Lisa works part-time at Froedtert Hospital and is also happy to visit with you. If you have recently lost a loved one, are feeling lonely, or would just like to have someone to talk or pray with, Lisa is available for you. Please call the Interfaith office at 483-4474 to set up a visit.

Sign Up Now for the "Southridge Express!"

Starting April 6, 2011, we will be offering a monthly trip to Southridge. Participants will be picked up between 10:00 and 10:30 AM and will leave for home at approximately 2:00 PM. This will take place the first Wednesday of every month. This will NOT count as one of your four regular rides per month; it is an additional service offered by two volunteers from Cudahy United Methodist Church. This is a trial offer. Seating is very limited so make your reservations early! Call the Interfaith Office at 483-4474.

Remembered Cudahy-St. Francis
Interfaith in Your Will?

Thank You!

Made a donation because we helped
your parent or loved one and saved
you from taking time off work?

Thank You!

Considering an annual pledge of
financial support?

Thank You!

You make our outreach possible!



for Your Generosity!

The following donations were received between
November 6, 2010 and January 31, 2011

Organizations

Cudahy United Methodist	\$250
Cud. United Methodist Women	\$150
Sacred Heart Catholic Parish	\$297
St. John Ev. Lutheran Parish	\$200
St. Mark's Ev. Lutheran Parish	\$750
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans	\$740
Cudahy High School	\$626
St. Francis Lions Club	\$200
Wixon Corp.	\$250
Ladish Foundation	\$6000

Individuals

Anonymous
Raymond Adamsky
Kenneth J & Diann Andreska*
Dolores Aragon*
Eleanore Barrette
Ruth Bartz
Penny Becker
Joanne Beyer
Ruth Beyer
Bill Bigler
James Bowe
Peter & Lisa Caputa*
Joseph Casper
Donald Cassidy*
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Joseph & Rita Chovanec
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Eleanore Mankowski
Ronald & Mary Marks
Leonard & Adeline Maslowski
Paul & Judith Mikolajczak
Jerome & Mary Ellen Mikulay
Craig Miller
Loretta & Damian Mogilka
Eleanore Mongold
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John & Joyce Nelson*
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Dennis & Ann Thompson
Florian & Lorraine Tomkowiak
Donald & Patricia Tracy
Burt & Nancy Treweek
Bev Tryba
Pearl Tutaj
Julie Uebelher
Olga Uher*
Barbara Ann Wegner
Charlene Weinhold
Al & Essie Weitekamp
Neal & Eileen White
Ruth Wunrow
Betty Zambo
Vivian Zielke

*\$50-99

(For donations over \$99, see cover)

If you were a donor during the above time period and don't see your name, please call 483-4474. February donors will be listed in our next issue.

New Acknowledgement Policy

As a cost-saving measure, C/SF Interfaith will no longer send thank you notes to donors, unless you specifically request it.

Instead, we will send out one end of the year statement of your total contributions for the year each January, beginning in 2012 for this coming year.

As always, donors will be listed on this page unless you request anonymity.

In Loving Memory of...

Tom Bindas

LaDonna (Casey) Bowe
Tony & Cheryl Day
Ray & Mary Glowacki
Barry & Marilyn Moore
Dennis & Ann Thompson

**Rita & Henry Finco
Eleanor & Joseph Andreska**

Kenneth & Diann Andreska (children)

Valeria Goglio

Lisa Goglio-Zarczynski

**Harold & Eleanore Kolodzek
Austin & Alma Doberstein**

Patricia & Donald Doberstein

Donna Simerson

Mike & Pamela Simerson
Ronda Schoeppe & Keman Simerson

Bob Zambo

Betty Zambo

Irene Zoerner

Donald Zoerner



In Honor of...

Lawrence & Rozanne Lee

Karen Lee Wrench & Ed Wrench

Cudahy-St. Francis Interfaith is happy to accept memorial and honorary donations on behalf of loved ones and special occasions such as anniversaries, birthdays and holidays.

New Volunteers

Bill & Noreen Klopp

Phil Tarantino

Penny Bishop

Arlyn Doehler

Cheryll Gibson

Lisa Gilvary

Kimberly Stefl

Carol Parrett

Volunteering is Good for Us!

According to a survey reported in the September 2010 issue of Success Magazine, of people who volunteer:

73% say it lowers their stress level

92% say it enriches their sense of purpose in life

68% say it makes them feel physically healthier

88% say it provides networking/career development opportunities

"A volunteer is a person who can see what others cannot see; who can feel what most do not feel.

Often, such gifted persons do not think of themselves as volunteers, but as citizens - citizens in the fullest sense: partners in civilization." ~Anonymous

We gratefully acknowledge Wheaton Franciscan Medical Group Fine-Lando Clinic for making the printing of this newsletter possible

Fine-Lando · 3533 E. Ramsey Ave · Cudahy · 769-6600

Accepting new patients: Anna Lamnari, MD, Geriatric & Integrative Medicine; Gilberto Marquez, MD, Internal Medicine; and Victoria Yorke, MD, Family Medicine

Worth Noting...

Best wishes to Denise White, who left our office at the end of November to take a position at Interfaith's Central Office. She was a valued staffer for a year and a half. Our wall is plastered with many thank you notes from clients who she helped while employed as Service Coordinator. We continue to hear every day from clients and volunteers who miss her. We are in the process of hiring a new Service Coordinator who we hope will be in place by the time you get this issue.

If you know any woman currently undergoing chemotherapy, please tell her that there is a service that provides FREE housecleaning - once a month for 4 months while she is in treatment. All she has to do is sign up and have her doctor fax a note confirming the treatment. **Cleaning for a Reason** will have a participating maid service in her zip code area arrange for the service. This organization serves the entire USA and currently has 547 partners to help. Be a blessing to someone and pass this information along. The website is: <http://www.cleaningforareason.org/>

Did you know that C/SF Interfaith is eligible as a write-in choice for the United Way Donor Choice Program? It's true! Why not write us in the next time you enroll?

Congrats to driver **Neil Arndt**, who recently served his 200th client. What an awesome milestone!

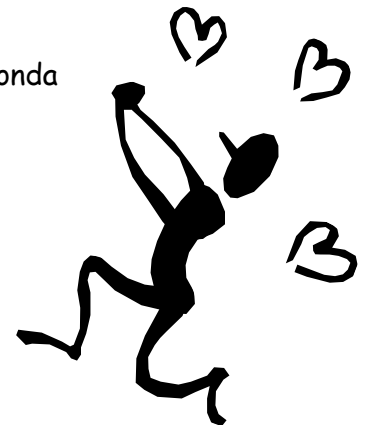
Thank You!

... to the students and staff of Cudahy High School, who held a "Penny War" for C/SF Interfaith this fall and collected \$626.58, and especially to Julia Goldberg and Phil Martell, who coordinated the event.

... to Bonnie Brodzik, who has been coordinating the mailing of this newsletter for many years now, and who helps keep our mailing list up to date. She is an unsung hero! Also to all the ladies (and one or two gents) who are always there to help.

...To Kathy Gordon and Rhonda Thompson, who helped coordinate this year's Snow Shoveling Program.

...To Kathy, Rhonda, Bev Tryba, Casey Bowe, Barb Rothe, Marion Albers and Jenny McNutt, who are helping in our office while we're short-staffed. You have been a Godsend!



Thank You's Recently Received...

Thank you for always being there for me. Just keep up the good work you are doing!

I wish to thank you and the girls that helped rake leaves and wash windows for me on Nov. 6th. What a great help they were and so neat! I am 90 years old and could never do that work anymore.

Please thank all the volunteers that drive me to doctor appointments. The drivers are very nice and polite. I am sending a small donation in appreciation for rides received.

A man named "Dan" came over to my house and did some plumbing work. He did a very good job. This donation is my thank you for services performed. Thank you again.

Thanks so much for your kind services when we applied for help with your program. We appreciate it very much.

Interfaith's 34th Annual Prayer Breakfast

When: Saturday, April 9, 2011

Where: St. John Ev. Lutheran Church
4850 South Lake Drive

Time: 8:30—10:30 am (doors open at 8)

Tickets: \$6/person

All are welcome! Join us for all-you-can-eat pancakes and sausage and an inspirational talk by Sr. Marianne Muscott of the St. Anne's Center, followed by presentation of the Kiwanis Human and Spiritual Values Award. Home-baked treats for sale after, too! Call 483-4474 to reserve your tickets or for more info.

An Early Christmas Present

by Rhonda Thompson, Interfaith Volunteer

This year I received an early Christmas present from Interfaith. They introduced me to a very interesting lady who can't go out in the cold.

Each week, I stop by to pick up her grocery list and we visit for awhile. A couple weeks ago she gave me some delicious homemade soup. The other day she gave me some sweet potatoes. What a delightful treat and a wonderful gift!

Even with all of her health problems she has a positive attitude life. And we have been making plans to do some things together once the weather is warmer, like going out for breakfast. Also we both like to shop at rummage sales. And we both have Norwegian Ancestry. Who knows, maybe we are related?!

Life Lesson from a 10 Year Old



In the days when an ice cream sundae cost much less, a 10-year-old boy entered a hotel coffee shop and sat at a table. A waitress put a glass of water in front of him.

"How much is an ice cream sundae?" he asked.

"Fifty cents," replied the waitress.

The little boy pulled his hand out of his pocket and studied the coins in it.

"Well, how much is a plain dish of ice cream?" he inquired.

By now more people were waiting for a table and the waitress was growing impatient..

"Thirty-five cents," she brusquely replied.

The little boy again counted his coins.

"I'll have the plain ice cream," he said.

The waitress brought the ice cream, put the bill on the table and walked away. The boy finished the ice cream, paid the cashier and left. When the waitress came back, she began to cry as she wiped down the table. There, placed neatly beside the empty dish, were two nickels and five pennies..

You see, he couldn't have the sundae, because he had to have enough left to leave her a tip.

**Inside: "Golden" Donors Put Us Over the Top!
New Donation Acknowledgement Policy
34th Annual Prayer Breakfast April 9
Medicare Update**



United Way
of Greater Milwaukee

60 or Better? You are eligible for our services! Up to 4 free rides per month, help with home chores (as volunteers are available) and information about helpful services, programs and resources.

Retired? "Pay It Forward!" Volunteer a little now, use us later when you need us. Interfaith is a great organization for volunteers - you set your own hours and work as little or often as you like. Call 483-4474 for info.

Help Us Make Our Budget! Mail your contribution in the enclosed envelope or drop off at our office (see box on cover). Your donation is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Call the office if you'd like info on automatic deduction.

**Interfaith Older Adults Program's Mission:
Linking Older Adults with a Caring Community**

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