

INTERFAITH NEWS

32 years of linking older adults with a caring community

Fall 2009

C/SF Interfaith Newsletter Goes City-Wide!

Greetings, residents of Cudahy and St. Francis! Eight of nine of you are receiving this newsletter for the first time. For years, it was sent to about 1500 clients, volunteers and friends of C/SF Interfaith, but this time it is going to every postal customer.

So... allow us to introduce ourselves! Cudahy-St. Francis Interfaith is sponsored by six local churches — Nativity of the Lord and Sacred Heart Catholic, St. John and St. Mark's Lutheran, Changing Lives Assembly of God and Cudahy United Methodist. These same 6 sponsor Project Concern, the community food pantry. C/SF Intefait has been serving these communities since 1977.

Our mission is to serve anyone 60 or older living in these two communities by providing information about senior issues, making referrals to helping agencies, and coordinating volunteers to provide free transportation, in-person visits, and assistance with things like yardwork, minor home repairs and other household chores. Our primary goal is to enable our seniors to live independently as long as possible.

We are blessed with over 50 wonderful volunteers, who give more than 4000 hours a year in service to the elderly. We provide over 1000 rides a year to medical appointments, stores, and other destinations within a few miles of town.

Our hope is that by expanding the reach of this newsletter, we will not only make many more seniors aware of our services, but also help us find the volunteers and financial assistance to keep up with the increased demand. To request services or find out about volunteering, call 483-4474. If you can help us with a donation of \$5, \$10, \$25 or more, an envelope is enclosed for that purpose. Thank you so much for your support!

Mark Peters
Director

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OFFICE LOCATION: 3767 E Underwood Ave
Cudahy, WI 53110

OFFICE HOURS: Mon-Thurs 9 AM - 1:30 PM

PHONE NUMBER: 414-483-4474

WEB ADDRESS: www.interfaithcudahy.org
www.interfaithmilw.org

STAFF: Mark Peters, Director
Denise White, Service Coordinator

How Does Interfaith's Free Ride Program Work? What Should I Expect When I Call?

By far, the biggest service we provide at Cudahy-St. Francis Interfaith is transportation. We fill over 95% of ride requests that meet our guidelines: resident of Cudahy/St. Francis, 60 or older, at least one week's notice and destinations within about 5 miles of the Cudahy/St. Francis city limits (as far south as Hwy 32 and Ryan Rd; southwest to Howell and Drexel; west to 35th & Layton; northwest to St. Luke's on 27th; north to downtown).

When you call for the first time, we will need to make sure you meet our criteria and that you are able to walk to the volunteer's car and get in and out on your own. While we will arrange rides for first-time clients, we are required to do an initial assessment, which will involve the director visiting your home or doing a phone interview. Questions asked will include emergency contact info, income information to help us determine if you are eligible for any government assistance, medical history, and needs other than transportation. You will not have to share any information you don't want to.

If you call the office and we are busy on another line, you will get our voice message. ***Be sure to give us your name, address and phone number, the day, date and time of your appointment, the location of the appointment, and how long you estimate the appointment will take.*** Do not expect a call back immediately. We will call you within a few days with your driver's first name. He or she will call you the morning of the day before your appointment to confirm the ride and work out details such as when and where to meet and what their car looks like. If we don't call you at least 3 days before your appointment, or if the volunteer doesn't call by noon the day before, call our office.

To respect volunteer privacy, we do not give out their last names, addresses or phone numbers. Clients should never call volunteers directly (even if you get their number off your caller ID!), but

always go through our office, for two reasons. First, volunteers don't appreciate getting calls at all hours from many different people. Second, unless the ride is scheduled through our office, the driver is not covered by Interfaith's supplemental \$1 million liability insurance.

If your appointment will take a while, the volunteer may choose to run another errand or go home until you're finished, and return at a agreed-upon time or when the office lets them know you are ready.

It's as simple as that. There is no charge for this service, and our volunteers do not accept payment. However, we do welcome free will donations to Cudahy-St. Francis Interfaith by clients and their families who want to help us continue to offer this service. We serve people 60 and older regardless of their income, and hope that those who have the ability will contribute what they can. However, no one will ever pressure you to give.

Some Things to Keep in Mind

Whenever possible, arrange your ride on a **Monday** or **Tuesday**. By Wednesday, many of our drivers are already booked, and even with a week's notice, drivers may not be available. This is especially true on Wednesdays, when many people like to do their grocery shopping. The one time in twenty that we have to tell someone we couldn't find them a ride, it is usually because 6-8 other people had already asked for rides on the same day before them.

If we find ourselves with too few volunteers for the number of clients needing rides, we may impose the following guidelines. We appreciate your understanding if this happens.

- Medical appointments receive top priority, followed by grocery shopping. In rare cases, we may be forced to cancel a non-critical appointment to take care of an critical need.
- No more than two shopping trips per month.
- We may ask you to schedule a shopping trip at a slightly different time, or on an evening or weekend, if that is the only way to match you with a volunteer. The more flexible you can be, the easier it is to find a match.



Snow Shoveling Assistance

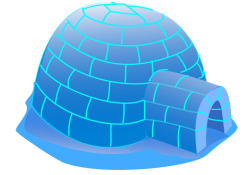
Because of the large size of this mailing, this newsletter needed to be to the printer by mid-October, even though you will not be receiving it until between Thanksgiving and Christmas. By that time, we will probably have already seen the first big snow of the season. C/SF Interfaith normally receives 60-70 requests from seniors for snow shoveling each winter. In Cudahy, the city council has built money into their block grant to enable us to pay minimum wage (\$7.25/hr) to snow shovelers. ***Chances are, we will still be in need of shovelers by the time you read this. If you are a student, unemployed, in need of extra income or just wanting to help, you can call us at 483-4474 to be matched with a senior in need.***

The city of St. Francis does not have money in its budget for this, so for St. Francis residents, we are completely dependent on volunteers. If you want to help, call us at the number above.

If you are in need of shoveling assistance but did not register with Interfaith in fall, it may be impossible to find someone to help at this late date. But you can still call to be put on our waiting list. You can also call the Good Neighbor Project at 414-220-8660 to see if they can help. *Please note that shovelers are only paid by Interfaith to clear the front walk and the walk to your front door. For clearing of driveways and other side-walks, you must negotiate with the shoveler.*

	<p>The Seniors EyeCare Program offers eye exams and info to seniors who are without an ophthalmologist. Those eligible receive a dilated medical exam and up to one year of treatment at no out-of-pocket cost. You must be 65 or older, not have seen an ophthalmologist in three years and not belong to an HMO or the VA. For a Seniors EyeCare Program referral, call 800-222-EYES (3937).</p>										

Energy Assistance Updates:



Homebound individuals who did not apply for Energy Assistance last year and have no one to apply in person on their behalf should call Community Advocates' Homebound line at 875-2009. Community Advocates will contact you within 3 weeks.

Homebound individuals who received Energy Assistance during the 2008-2009 heating season will automatically be contacted during the course of this season's Energy Assistance program. There is no need for them to call Community Advocates.

Homebound individuals in need of Crisis funding should call Community Advocates at 875-2011, state their need and expect to wait up to 2 days for a return phone call.

All Keep Wisconsin Warm Funds have been expended for the time being.

“Extra Help” with Prescription Drug Costs



Some Medicare beneficiaries are eligible for Extra Help to pay for the costs—monthly premiums, annual deductibles, and prescription co-payments—related to a Medicare prescription drug plan. Extra Help is estimated to be worth an average of \$3,900 per year. To qualify for Extra Help, a person must be on Medicare and have limited income and resources. For information, call 1-800-772-1213 (toll free) or go to www.socialsecurity.gov/prescriptionhelp/. To learn more about Medicare prescription drug plans and when you can join, call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) or visit www.medicare.gov.

Question: Where can you find FREE help and solutions for problems with Medicare.. SSI.. Medicaid.. FoodShare.. Part D.. Title 19.. Disability.. Social Security ??????

Answer: *The Benefit Specialists*
 Milwaukee Legal Action
 230 W. Wells St. #800 Milwaukee, WI 53203
 (414) 278-7722



For Your Generosity!

The following donations were recorded between
August 16 and October 15, 2009

Corporate & Organizations

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish*
St. Francis Assoc. of Commerce**
St. Mark's Lutheran Parish***
South Milw. Chapter of Thrivent
Financial for Lutherans****

Individuals

Anonymous
Thomas & Carol Bindas
Christopher & Jackie Bonin*
Lucy Brem
Helen Brodarich*
Sharon Brunner
Margaret Chevrier
Joseph & Rita Chovanec
Doris Christensen
Peter & Nancy D'Amato
Robert & Michelle DeBrabant**
Sharon Decorah
Stella Dembowski
Richard & Lorraine Dembowski
Ann Drapac
Hubert Dretzka
Scott Drewianka & Laura LaRose
Marcella Duellman
Grace Ghelfi
Geraldine Gibas
Grace Golata
Margaret Gordon
Alice Gotz
Marilyn Grabarczyk
Esther Grochowski
Mary Harder
Antoinette Hill
Howard & Beverly Hoffmann
Irene Hoppe
Robert & Alma Igowski
Grace Jennaro
Jean Jones
Elizabeth Knoff
Darinka Kohl

Richard & Regina Koronkowski
Sharon Krahn
Katharine Kramarich
Avalon Krygier*
Thomas & Lois Kujawa*
Sylvia Kulik
Gerald & Virginia Lahr
Celina Lambert
Irving Larsen
Orville & Marian Lemke
Robert & Irene I Lewandowski
Thomas & Kaye Lietz
Robert & Edith Litkowiec
Vivian Littman
Margaret Luczywko
Paul Maranan
Leonard & Adeline Maslowski*
Jerome & Mary Ellen Mikulay
Harold Mischka
Edwin Misovie*
Damian & Loretta Mogilka
Alvina Novacin
Chester & Alice Nowicki
George Opper
Norma Orlikowski
Thomas & Joan Paul
Judith Phipps*
Vicki Rick
Barbara Rothe
Antonio & Marcia Rottino
Catherine Rutland
Ruth Schalk
Lois Schleif
Delores Schoessow
Virginia Sedlarek
Theresa Simon
Norma Sinner
Dolores Straseski
Ann Taucher
Susan Thillemann
Blanche Truss
Frank Tryba
Adeline Tuskowski
Pearl Tutaj
John Vugrinovich

Virginia Walczynski*
Bess Waters
Kathryn Waystedt
Carmen Wheeler
Henry & Evangeline Wojtysiak
Charles & Arlene Wolbert
Dorothy Wyp*
Marvin Zingler
Richard & Darlene Ziol*

* Donations of \$50 or more
** Donations of \$100 or more
*** Donations of \$200 or more
**** Donation of \$400

Interfaith By The Numbers

Clients Served Year to Date: 110
Active Volunteers: 70
YTD Volunteer Hours: 3450
YTD # of 1 Way Rides: 1904
YTD Shopping Trips: 257
YTD In-Person Visits: 217
YTD New Client Assessments: 14
YTD Info/Referral/Advocacy/
Followup: 126
YTD Home Chores/Repairs/
Yardwork/Etc: 12*

* This number is small not because of a lack of requests, but a lack of volunteers. If you want to be put on our call list for yardwork, minor household repairs, or light housekeeping, call 483-4474 for a volunteer application.

Memorials/Gifts

In Loving Memory of...

Richard Graybar

Helen Brodarich
Sharon Brunner
Marilynn Grabarczyk
Sharon Krahn
Thomas & Kaye Lietz
Margaret Luczywko
Vicki Rick
Susan Thillemann
John Vugrinovich
Dorothy Wypp
Richard & Darlene Ziol

Irene Helstowski

Christopher & Jackie Bonin
Scott Drewianka & Laura LaRose
Marvin Zingler

June Lemke

Orville & Marian Lemke

Gloria Lorenz

Irene Pytlik



Cudahy-St. Francis Interfaith is happy to accept donations in the form of memorial gifts, remembrance of loved ones and special occasions, such as anniversaries, birthdays, holidays, and special events.

New Volunteers

Theresa Dyson
Marge Gosline
John Jancar
Gary Krahn
Dottie Kukor
David & Coralie Magnus
Eleanore Mankowski
Rhonda Thompson
Greg Witkowski

Cudahy-St. Francis Interfaith Board Members

Kathy Barker
Rev. Jon Bender
Dick Buschmann
Rev. Bruce Cheever
Rev. David Eichler
Diane Goryl
Ginny Grossman
Carl Hepp
Kathryn Johnson
Irma Koscielak
Bryan Martin
Rev. Philip Reifenberg
Rebecca Roepke
Pat Rozek



Cudahy -St. Francis Interfaith gratefully acknowledges St. Luke's South Shore for their donation of the printing of our envelopes

Our Wish List

- Good donated computer
- New telephones
- Stamps
- Afternoon office help
- \$10,000 to wipe out our deficit!**

HELPED WANTED

PERSONAL CARE WORKERS

For Interfaith Older Adult Programs
 Call 414-291-7500 for application and
 job description. Training provided.

Over 60 and Still Working?

Interested in forming a support group?
 Call 483-4474.



Interfaith News is published four times a year by the Cudahy-St. Francis Interfaith Program for Older Adults to increase the awareness of older adults and their caregivers regarding services and resources available to them.

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 personal medical attention, diagnosis or treatment. If you are concerned about your health, please consult your health provider.

State of the Agency Annual Report

By Mark Peters, Exec. Director

In the year since I became director of C/SF Interfaith, we've faced some big challenges, made some progress, and still have a good ways to go. Here's a quick report:

- 1) At its peak in 2002 (our 25th year in existence), 120 volunteers gave 10,289 hours in service to older adults. By 2005, those numbers began to drop off, and in the last 2 years, as the former director became ill, retired, and other staff left, volunteers and services fell by 50-75%. We lost all our home chore volunteers. Files became badly out of date. Then the recession hit, and individual donations to Interfaith fell by nearly half. Finally, we were hit by government cuts to our block grant funding, our largest single source of income.
- 2) Our first move was to streamline our governance. C/SF Interfaith and Project Concern remain two separately incorporated entities, each with its own budget, but they now share common members on their boards, which meet together every 2 months.
- 3) We've strengthened our volunteer base, going from 13 drivers to 32, and found a few people willing to make visits and help with odd jobs. We've also begun to re-organize the office and update computer files.
- 4) We've worked hard to meet our financial challenges, applying for new grants and planning an appeal to local businesses and professionals. Our Jewelry Sale and Grand Time Out dinner/dance netted \$2000. We Are working with other neighborhood programs on a major fund-raiser in November. But individual donations remain down, and our sponsoring churches are not in a position to help us out of our deficit, which is projected to be \$10-12,000 by year's end.
- 5) Our #1 goal is to balance our budget next year. We also want to double our volunteers and service hours within two years. To do this, we will need the support of the entire community. Sending this newsletter to all residents of Cudahy and St. Francis is a calculated gamble to get that support. If we get dozens of new calls for help, but no new resources of people and money, we'll be overwhelmed. But we are counting on a caring community to come through for its senior citizens. Will you join us?

Life may not be the party we
 hoped for, but while we're here
 we might as well dance!

The Cabbie's Tale



So I walked to the door and knocked. “Just a minute,” answered a frail, elderly voice. I could hear something being dragged across the floor. After a long pause, the door opened. A small woman in her 90's stood before me. She was wearing a print dress and a pillbox hat with a veil pinned on it, like somebody out of a 1940s movie.

By her side was a small nylon suitcase. The apartment looked as if no one had lived in it for years. All the furniture was covered with sheets. There were no clocks on the walls, no knick-knacks or utensils on the counters. In the corner was a cardboard box filled with photos and glassware.

“Would you carry my bag out to the car?” she said. I took the suitcase to the cab, then returned to assist the woman. She took my arm and we walked slowly toward the curb. She kept thanking me for my kindness. “It's nothing,” I told her. “I just try to treat my passengers the way I would want my mother treated.” “Oh, you're such a good boy,” she said.

When we got in the cab, she gave me an address, and then asked, “Could you drive through downtown?” “It's not the shortest way,” I answered quickly. “Oh, I don't mind,” she said. “I'm in no hurry. I'm on my way to a hospice.”

I looked in the rear-view mirror. Her eyes were glistening. “I don't have any family left,” she continued. “The doctor says I don't have very long.”

I quietly reached over and shut off the meter. “What route would you like me to take?”

For the next two hours, we drove through the city. She showed me the building where she once worked as an elevator operator. We went through the neighborhood where she and her husband had lived when they were newlyweds. She had me pull up in front of a furniture warehouse that had

once been a ballroom where she had gone dancing as a girl. Sometimes she'd ask me to slow in front of a particular building or corner and would sit staring into the darkness, saying nothing. As the first hint of sun was creasing the horizon, she suddenly said, “I'm tired. Let's go now.”

We drove in silence to the address she had given me. It was a low building, like a small convalescent home, with a driveway that passed under a portico. Two orderlies came out to the cab as soon as we pulled up. They were solicitous and intent, watching her every move. They must have been expecting her.

I opened the trunk and took the small suitcase to the door. The woman was already seated in a wheelchair. “How much do I owe you?” she asked, reaching into her purse. “Nothing,” I said. “You have to make a living,” she answered. “There are other passengers,” I responded. Almost without thinking, I bent and gave her a hug. She held onto me tightly. “You gave an old woman a moment of joy,” she said. “Thank you.”

I squeezed her hand, and then walked into the dim morning light. Behind me, a door shut. It was the sound of the closing of a life.

I didn't pick up any more passengers that shift. I drove aimlessly lost in thought. For the rest of that day, I could hardly talk. What if that woman had gotten an angry driver, or one impatient to end his shift? What if I had refused to take the run, or had honked once, then driven away?

On a quick review, I don't think that I have done anything more important in my life. We're conditioned to think that our lives revolve around great moments. But great moments often catch us unaware-beautifully wrapped in what others may consider a small one.

PEOPLE MAY NOT REMEMBER EXACTLY WHAT YOU DID, OR WHAT YOU SAID, ~BUT~ THEY WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER HOW YOU MADE THEM FEEL.

Your volunteer and financial help is needed.



United Way
of Greater Milwaukee

Older adults in Cudahy and St. Francis need help with transportation, shopping, home repairs, yardwork and snow shoveling. Lonesome, homebound individuals would appreciate a friendly visitor or telephone call.

Financial support from individuals, congregations, businesses and organizations helps ensure that Cudahy-St. Francis Interfaith continues its services to our communities' older adults — especially the frail elderly.

To volunteer call 483-4474.

To make a donation, mail your contribution in the enclosed envelope or drop off at: Cudahy-St. Francis Interfaith Program, 3767 E. Underwood Ave., Cudahy, WI 53110. Your donation is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Thank you for your contribution!

**Cudahy-St. Francis Interfaith Program for Older Adults Mission:
To link older adults with a caring community**

Postal Customer

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