

Caregivers' News

Vol. 9 No. 1

Interfaith Caregivers of Greater Trenton, Inc.
"Neighbors Helping Neighbors Remain Independent"

FALL 2002

What's New At ICGT?

Hi! My name is Sandra Maribel Pinto. I have been living in the U.S.A. since 1999, and am currently studying Business Administration at Mercer County Community College. I had studied English in my native country, Guatemala, since I was 13 years old. Little did I know at the time, that I would be applying my new language skills at Interfaith Caregivers in Trenton.

Since last spring I have been doing volunteer work at "El Centro de Recursos para la Familia", a place where Spanish people are helped by providing classes such as English, computer basics and GED. It was while volunteering there that I heard about Interfaith Caregivers and their desire to reach out to the Hispanic community, particularly those who are elderly and disabled.

The Latino community in the Trenton area is increasing. As you can imagine, being an immigrant includes many problems and needs, the largest of all being the language barrier. Interfaith Caregivers wants to help this growing population. As a Latino, I find working here both a challenge and a pleasure. It is my hope to make the mission of ICGT ("neighbors helping neighbors") a reality for all Spanish speaking congregations in the Trenton area.

ICGT Receives First Bequest

On August 22, I opened the mail and was surprised to find a letter from Ms. Virginia M. Dietrich, informing ICGT that we were one of the beneficiaries of the Estate of Ms. Anna E. McGuire who passed away on June 10, 2002. We are sorry to learn of Ms. McGuire's death, but we also realize that God has the final word of when we must come home.

What a total surprise for ICGT! Although Ms. McGuire had been one of Interfaith Caregivers' first carereceivers and had sent donations from time to time, we had no idea she had made provisions for us in her will.

Estate planned giving is something special anyone can do for the people and organizations they love. If you have any questions regarding this very special act of kindness, please call Dale McCants, ICGT (609) 393-9922 or Rosemary Durkin, Estate Planning Specialist, Stark & Stark, (609) 895-7314

SCHEDULED GROUP LEADER MEETINGS

September 24, 2002	7PM @ Lawrenceville Library
October 5, 2002	10 AM - 12 Noon @ ICGT Grace Lutheran Church

207 Hillcrest Ave., Trenton, NJ 08618

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A THOUGHT FOR YOU

Dear Friends,

I'D LIKE TO SHARE A STORY WITH YOU THAT WAS TOLD TO ME BY Wesley Taylor of the Tualatin Methodist Church in Oregon. He was talking about how his father used to make him and his brothers go out and work in the corn field of their family farm. "My father sharpened a hoe for each of us and sent us to the field. One hot August morning, I was sure of one thing; my father couldn't love me and at the same time ask me to do this awful task. My plans were laid. When the noontime sun reached its zenith, I would declare my freedom. At the dinner table I announced my intention: 'Papa, I'm not going to hoe corn for anyone this afternoon. It's too hot.' He smiled and said simply, 'Is that so?' (which meant that I was going to hoe corn). That afternoon found me hoeing corn. About a third of the way up the row, I stopped, cropped my hoe, took out my handkerchief and wiped the sweat and the tears. When I looked at the weeds, thick and heavy, I was sure that my father didn't love me. Then I saw him hoeing corn down my row with his arthritic hands. I knew that every stroke of that hoe meant a streak of pain for him. So, we met in the middle of the field. Papa and I sat down. It was one of the most memorable moments in my life that stretched into eternity."

In the lives of the people who are a part of **Interfaith Caregivers**, there are a lot of moments that stretch out into eternity. I have often heard people say that it's hard to tell who receives more from their involvement with **Interfaith Caregivers**; the caregiver or the care receiver. Perhaps the most important thing ICGT does is provide the opportunities for eternal blessings; blessings that come when we connect with those around us.

Rev. Jim Pruner, Chairman, Board of Trustees

DIXIELAND CONCERT A BIG HIT!

This year's concert on Sunday, July 14th by Art Frank and The Ambassadors of Dixieland to benefit

ICGT and Greenwood House was a huge success. As feet tapped and heads bobbed in time to the jazzy tunes, smiles lit up the room of about 60 to 70 patrons. I remember seeing a few people (me included) up and dancing in the aisle to tunes that touched our hearts. There was a young man of about 15 or 16 years, who was helping out at the event. He danced his way down the aisles and even requested a special song. Before that moment, I didn't realize he even had a clue about this type of music.

We all know that music has the ability to transcend generations, cultural boundaries, and languages. Art and the band really parlayed that ability to a good time had by one and all. Our sincere thanks to Art, his family, Al Rae, Joe Gibilisco, Jerry Rife and Mitch Frank for playing their hearts out to make this a very special afternoon. We look forward to next years' event. Until then, "Keep on Swinging!"



In our mailbox . . .

"I want to thank you for sending Lorraine my way. Driving me to Princeton and back eliminates so much tension that I'm sure her sacrifices will help in my recovery. God bless you for coming to my aid."

Hugs! Agnes Golembiewsk i
8/19/02

OPERATION COOL HEAT

We have been experiencing extreme weather changes this past year and the heat wave over the past few months has brought us to the conclusion that we must get the word out that our Seniors need help.

Some of our elderly had to make do with a single table fan and the grace of GOD to send a breeze throughout these scorching days when the temperatures rose toward 100 degrees plus.

You can help by donating fans, air conditioners, small heaters and gift cards to purchase equipment to make their lives easier.

Send your donations to **ICGT – OPERATION COOL HEAT**.

HISPANIC OUTREACH BEGINS

ICGT noted after the last census data was released that one of the fastest growing segments in Mercer County is the Hispanic community and our services to this population have not been proportionate to the increase.

To this end, with the support of a generous grant from Bristol-Myers Squibb, we have hired a part-time assistant volunteer coordinator, who will have the responsibility of: compiling contact information; conducting information-sharing sessions (laymen and clergy); assessing the needs among the Hispanic elderly and disabled population; Spanish translations of ICGT literature, training materials and presentations; providing public presentations to Hispanic congregations and community groups; identifying needs, recruit volunteers; and compile a preliminary report for ICGT's board of trustees on cultural differences in the Hispanic community related to volunteer caregiving and aging, including recommendations for program adaptations.

This is the beginning of an exciting time that will enhance ICGT's mission to provide services to everyone In the Greater Trenton Area.

An Urgent Call for Blood . . .

The American Red Cross has asked our help in getting the message out to our constituents that there is a dire need for

blood donations – Please call Felicia Laskey at 215-451-4148 to get more information

Welcome To Our Newest Members:

Trinity Episcopal Church
Woodlands Community

NJ YOUTH CORPS TO THE RESCUE

Noah Crome, Program Coordinator for New Jersey Youth Corps called to say he wanted to partner with ICGT to be of service to the elderly in the community. His group is part of a statewide program designed to help young people improve their academic skill, while working towards their GED. Corps members also gain valuable life skills and experience.

Noah and his young people are now putting the finishing touches on sprucing up Grace Lutheran Church with paint and landscape clean up. It has been wonderful to see young people acting in a responsible, dedicated manner.

ICGT hopes other community connections can be made to help NJYC touch the lives of the elderly in our community who need odd jobs, painting, leaf removal, etc. at their residences.

My sincere thanks to everyone at NJYC for a job well done!

FAITH in ACTION on PBS

On Wed., October 9, 2002 and again on Oct. 13th, PBS will air "And Thou Shalt Honor", a public awareness program highlighting interfaith volunteer programs that help people with long-term health needs stay independent for as long as possible. Please mark this on your calendar as it is a wonderful opportunity for you to see some of the other programs across the county.

ICGT and ECHO PARTNER WORKSHOP

"To Move or Not to Move" can sometimes be

translated as "To get rid of all my stuff or not to get rid of all my stuff". To consider such an undertaking can be a real milestone during the retirement years. On October 8th, we are hosting with ECHO, not just a professional organizer but one who specializes in clutter. Audrey Rockman will be offering insights as well as techniques on this insidious problem. Be sure to mark the date on your (very cluttered) calendar and remember where you put the car keys – then come down to ECHO/Covenant Presbyterian Church, 471 Parkway Ave., Trenton from 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM. There will be a fee of \$4.00 that will be applied to Ms. Rockman's honorarium. Please BYOBB (Bring Your Own Brown Bag). Drinks and dessert will be available. Don't forget to remember!!

Dottie Richardson, Program Assistant
Dale T. McCants, Executive Director

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