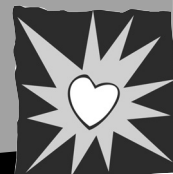




CAREGIVERS News

Interfaith Caregivers Trenton, Inc./ Faith in Action, Inc.
"Neighbors Helping Neighbors Remain Independent"



FAITH
IN ACTION

Vol. 16 No. 1 • Spring 2009

Anne Kantor - Leading The Way

By Shari Oosting

In her 8 years of service to the elderly through Interfaith Caregivers, Anne Kantor has proven herself to be a compassionate, dedicated, and outstanding volunteer. She has provided direct service to seniors in her community, while also serving as a Group Leader for Our Lady of Sorrows-Saint Anthony Catholic Church in Hamilton, New Jersey. Since Anne joined Interfaith Caregivers, she has contributed 930 hours providing transportation, shopping assistance, and home visits to seniors as well as managing a group of 80 volunteers at Our Lady of Sorrows-Saint Anthony.

As one of six Group Leaders for this church, Anne took on the additional responsibility of becoming the Coordinator of Group Leaders. In this position, Anne provides support and guidance for the other Group Leaders in her congregation. Through her service, Anne has helped respond to the growing needs of seniors in Mercer County and has contributed immensely to the Interfaith Caregivers' mission to enable the elderly to remain independent at home for as long as possible. As a result of Anne's leadership, over the past 8 years her congregation has contributed 10,800 hours of service to seniors in their community.

While each of our member congregations has a Group Leader to oversee its caregiver volunteers, Anne's position is unique. Because of the size of the volunteer group at Our Lady of Sorrows-Saint Anthony, Interfaith Caregivers needed an organized, dependable, and creative volunteer who was able to organize the caregiver group at her congregation in such a way that each volunteer would receive support and encouragement. In turn, Anne became the main contact person to provide support for the Group Leaders. At the same time, she has been able to recruit new volunteers and Group Leaders to meet the growing needs of her congregation. Many of these volunteers are active older adults.



Anne has also continued to visit and assist the elderly and has always been available to provide advice and guidance to volunteers as they work with seniors. Because of her great compassion for the elderly, Anne has inspired countless members of her community to give of their time to help those in need. Not only does

continued, page 3

Priceless Love

By Joanna Latini

On August 26 my niece, Sophia, arrived welcomed by out cheers, tears, oo's and ahh's. Her dark eyes sparkled and we thanked God for her miraculous life. Only twelve days later, however, Sophia became very ill with e-coli bacteria. Our hearts plummeted. This beautiful creation brought our family to their knees in prayer. The doctors worked quickly, gently, and reverently to heal Sophia. Today she is

a healthy, happy five-month old baby and the recipient of constant love and tenderness. Just cuddling Sophia in my arms leaves me in awe.

My Grandmother waited so patiently to see Sophia. Patience is one of her strong virtues. Grandma is eighty-three years old and has many limitations. She lives in a nursing facility because, since her stroke nine years ago, Grandma is paralyzed, has a colostomy bag, a

feeding tube, and is insulin dependent. Some people remark that her life has no quality. That's not what Grandma thinks. When she sees us, feels the warm sun on her face, laughs at our stories, or tastes a small treat of ice cream, Grandma knows love. She affirms that you can adjust to anything when you must. Adjusting to limitations is part of our journey and my Grandma is a worthy witness of the se-

continued, page 3





Welcome New Staff!



Jane Latini, Coordinator of Volunteers

A new member of the ICT team, Jane Latini comes to us with a strong background in education. She holds a BA in Elementary Education from the College of New Jersey and a MA in Administration and Supervision from Georgian Court University. Jane served as Assistant Principal at St. Gregory the Great School for four years and teacher for 10 years. Under her direction and leadership, the school obtained its initial Middle States Accreditation. In addition, she guided local, regional, and diocesan committees from their inception to fruition.

An active member of her church, Jane is a lector, lay Eucharist Minister, a catechist, and a facilitator of a small group faith sharing. Jane has three children: Janeen, Joseph, and Joanna and four grandchildren: Joey, Mia, Sophia, and Angelina. Her husband, Joe, is a deacon at St. Gregory the Great Church, and Jane assists him in his ministry.



Sam Arroyo, Coordinator of Volunteers, Hispanic Outreach.

Samuel Arroyo, Hispanic Outreach Coordinator, is from Puerto Rico. A Student at the Princeton Theological Seminary and a member of the First Hispanic Baptist Church of Trenton. He recently married Joy Arroyo and will graduate with an M.Div. in May.

Rose's 90th Birthday!



Rose Puzio recently celebrated her 90th birthday. Her volunteers from Interfaith Caregivers Trenton, Mary Lou Testa and Ann Bauersachs, were able to join her for this celebration..

Do You Know A "Shining Light"?

We are asking for nominations. Do you have someone you would like to nominate as your Shining Light? It could be a care receiver or another volunteer. It could be a clergy member. Anyone associated with our program qualifies. Just write a brief essay describing your Shining Light. If you have photos, that's great, too. We will review all nominations and will honor the runners up at our dinner in April. The winning Shining Lights will be honored at our special anniversary brunch on November 15, 2009. More details will follow.

Please submit your nomination to ICT Board of Trustees at 229 Lawrenceville Road, Lawrence, NJ 08648 Attention: Shining Lights Nomination.

Decisions by the board are final. All nominations are due by March 19, 2009.

Please send in your nominations TODAY!

A Prayer To Help Us Age Gracefully

Lord, keep me from the habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion.

Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs.

Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details – give me wings to get to the point.

I ask for grace enough to listen to the tales of others' pains. Help me to endure them with patience. But seal my lips on my own aches and pains – they are increasing and my love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by.

Teach me the glorious lessons that occasionally it is possible that I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet; I do not want to be a saint – some of them are so hard to live with - but a sour old person is one of the crowing works of the devil.

Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places, and talents in unexpected people. And, give me, O Lord, the grace to tell them so.

Make me thoughtful, but not moody; helpful, but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all – but Thou knowest, Lord that I want a few friends at the end.



SAVE THE DATE:



Succession Planning
7:00–8:30 pm
Presenter: Terry Ginther,
Diocese of Trenton

229 Lawrenceville Road,
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648.



Annual Volunteer Dinner
Celebrating our 15th Anniversary
Villa Victoria Academy

376 West Upper Ferry Road,
Trenton, NJ 08628



Basic Steps to Crisis Intervention
Presenter: Samuel Arroyo

Noon - Bag lunch workshop
7:00-8:30 pm in Spanish workshop
229 Lawrenceville Rd., Lawrence



Shining Lights
15th Anniversary Gala Brunch -
Featuring Barbara Trent

Please RSVP to Jane or Beverly at 609-393-9922. (All Volunteers are encouraged to attend one workshop a year for ongoing training.)



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Every time you use www.goodsearch.com you will be making a donation to Interfaith Caregivers Trenton/Faith in Action, as your designated charity.

A good opportunity to make a donation as you surf the Internet. **And if you shop online** please visit www.ic Trenton.org and click on the marketplace icon.

PS – Did you know that the State of New Jersey and some companies offer payroll deductions and may match your donations?

ANNE KANTOR, continued from page 1

Anne have the heart for the work that she is doing, but her outstanding organizational skills have made the caregiver group at Our Lady of Sorrows-Saint Anthony an exceptional model for other volunteer groups to follow. Our Interfaith Caregivers staff has found that we can depend upon Anne to complete any task assigned to her with great care and attention to detail. She is an outstanding volunteer who goes above and beyond the call of duty, and we are most grateful to Anne for making a difference in our community.

PRICELESS LOVE, continued from page 1

rency prayer. "God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference." The quality and worth of my Grandma's life is in God's caressing hands, not in the opinions of "experts."

My Grandpa passed away only ten days after Sophia's birth. That day, Grandma, his wife of 65 years, knew and expressed that she had lost her best friend. We all cried because Grandpa was truly God's loving-kindness to us. Funny, loving, generous and prayerful. Grandpa loved everyone and he gave joy to life. He lived the works of mercy: daily visits to the chapel, praying the rosary nightly, dropping off doughnuts, canned goods, and bread to the neighbors, providing car rides for the elderly, distributing clothes to the needy, and even providing a place to sleep for the weary.

Knowing that death is the time of glory to be with our God, redeemed and in perfect peace we cherished our priceless faith.

This essay, written by Jane Latini's daughter, Joanna is even more poignant after the death of Jane's dear mother in December and my own mother in November. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Latini Family and all who mourn the loss of their dear loved ones. We take much comfort in our faith which tells us that death is not the end, but an entrance into eternal life. – Mary Ann Isaac

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For more information about Interfaith Caregivers during 2008 please go to our web site and click on the Annual Report 2008. Also, please remember Interfaith Caregivers accepts bequests.

Nuestro Hermanos y Hermanas del Ministerio Hispano

Vivimos en un Mundo donde la vanidad y el egoísmo son tenidos en alta estima. Es refrescante saber que en nuestros medios tenemos personas que dedican su tiempo para ayudar a otros en necesidad. Manuel Calvo, miembro de la Parroquia Nuestra Señora de los Ángeles (Our Lady of the Angels) en Trenton es un vivo ejemplo de personas que muestran su amor a Dios por medio del servicio a personas de avanzada edad y/o con discapacidades.

"Felícita me invitó hace más de un año para que la acompañara a hacer visitas," dice Manuel, "luego de hacer varias visitas hice oficial mi disposición para trabajar como Voluntario de Interfaith Caregivers." Para Manuel es honor el poder trabajar en equipo y servir a otros que están en necesidad. "Mi mayor problema es que no tengo transportación," dice Manuel, quien no solamente trabaja para Interfaith sino que también es ujier en la iglesia, parte del ministerio de conteo de dinero, ministro de Eucaristía, comparte con el grupo jóvenes y matrimonios dándoles charlas. Necesitamos más personas que nos ayuden en este ministerio que es tan necesario.

Gabriela Zarate es parte de los líderes de grupo que laboran con Interfaith en Our Lady of the Angels. Por los pasados dos meses ha estado ayudando a varias personas a hacer sus compras. "No solamente les ayudamos con sus quehaceres, sino que hablamos sobre sus problemas, ó simplemente hablamos. Son personas hermosas y agradables que necesitan de nuestra ayuda. Tienen grandes historias que contar, y ellos tienen un gran deseo de que les conozcamos," dice Gabriela, quien además de trabajar en Halo Pub de Princeton, también trabaja en varios ministerios de la congregación.

El ministerio hispano de Interfaith cuenta también con la participación de St. Mary's Cathedral. La líder de éste grupo es Lucía Pérez, quién es ávida estudiosa de teología además de ser "Líder Espiritual" para aquellos que necesitan ayuda en su relación con Dios.

El Apóstol Juan en su epístola Universal nos enseña que el amor a Dios lo mostramos amando a nuestro prójimo. ¿Quién es éste prójimo? Tu vecino, tu compañero de trabajo, un familiar, un anciano en necesidad, un inmigrante sin hogar. No olvidemos nunca amar a Dios y amar a nuestros hermanos y hermanas en necesidad.

If you need more information about obtaining assistance or if you would like to volunteer, please call Samuel Arroyo at 609-393-9922.



From the Executive Director

Dear friends of ICT,

2008 seems to have sped by in a whirlwind of activity here at ICT! We are now settled in our new office space, located in the PEI Kids, Inc. building on 229 Lawrenceville Rd in Lawrenceville. (Right behind the Hair Illusions beauty pallor- how fortunate for me to get quickie haircuts! ☺) I hope you drop by to see us in 2009. We always welcome your comments, suggestions and continued support to strengthen our outreach to homebound elderly and people with disabilities.



Mary Ann Isaac
Executive Director

Change really has been the by-word over this last year as we have said goodbye to Deanna Womack, now Rev. Womack, (you can see her current story by going to our web site at www.ICTrenton.org) and welcomed our new Coordinator of Volunteers, Jane Latini. Jane comes to us with a very strong background in education/administration. She is a life long resident of Trenton and has an incredible knowledge of the community. She also knows first hand, the many challenges of care-giving as do the rest of our staff. Already, she has revised our volunteer training manuals and produced a wonderful power point to go along with it. She has conducted numerous workshops for our group leaders and has been visiting churches to share our story. If you belong to a church that would be interested in starting an interfaith ministry to the homebound, please call us at 609-393-9922. And if you need assistance in Spanish, you can call our Hispanic Outreach Coordinator, Samuel Arroyo to assist you.

Another new initiative has begun in 2008. A new program, Project Connect, was successfully implemented in 2008. This project involves a major collaborative effort among eight area community organizations. These agencies are: Mercer Street Friends,

Jewish Family and Children Services, Mount Carmel Guild, ARC Mercer, Enable, Mobile Meals of Trenton, Catholic Charities and Interfaith Caregivers Trenton. Through this collaboration, sponsored by the United Way of Mercer County, seniors have access to multiple services and are followed-up by a social worker on a monthly basis. Because of our collaboration, we were able to connect seniors who needed transportation to church services/shopping on Sundays. Now there are two new van routes that alternate on Sundays to cover seniors who need transportation. One route is within the City of Trenton, the other covers Lawrenceville and West Trenton. Through this collation there is also help for care receivers who need mental health counseling. In 2008, over 50 additional elderly care receivers coordinated assistance through our partnership in Project Connect.

Please mark your calendars and SAVE THE DATE for November 15, 2009. We are having a very special **15th Anniversary Celebration** of Interfaith Caregivers, called Shining Lights. It will be a lovely brunch, featuring Barbara Trent, and will be in honor of our very own Shining Lights. We are asking you help with this. Do you have a Shining Light in your life? Do you have a faithful volunteer who has been of help to you? Or have you had the pleasure of meeting a wonderful senior who has had an impact on your life? Perhaps you have a rabbi or pastor who has greatly inspired you. If so, please send in your nomination (see flyer enclosed). Our board will review the nominations and we will honor those exceptional people at our 15th Anniversary celebration. We hope as many people as possible will be with us to celebrate this exciting evening! In spite of these uncertain times, we still have much to be grateful for and YOU are first on that list. Thank you for your faithful support to the elderly throughout all these years. May God bless you in the New Year ahead with good health, good humor and peace.

Mary Ann

Mission Statement:

Interfaith Caregivers is dedicated to promoting the independence and dignity of homebound elderly and people with disabilities by matching them with caring volunteers who assist with the tasks of everyday life.

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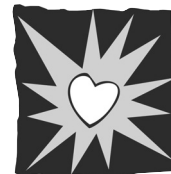
 Celebrating **15** years
of service to seniors!

CAREGIVERS News

Interfaith Caregivers Trenton, Inc./ Faith in Action, Inc.

"Neighbors Helping Neighbors Remain Independent"

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