

Heart & Hands

CONNECTION

Fall 2005

Just a Note . . .

As the new executive director for CARE-GIVERS: Volunteers Assisting the Elderly, I find myself working with a wonderful collection of caring and committed individuals. This includes the Board who leads the agency, a staff working to further our mission, and extraordinary volunteers who give generously of their time to help elderly men and women have more comfortable, happier days.

Shortly after arriving, I met several volunteers at an open house, including some from our youth program. It was a very special day for me. Each of their heartwarming stories reminded me that life is infinitely better when shared with others, especially those in need.

As we go about making a living, raising a family, being active in school, church and other organizations, it's easy to forget about other's needs. How can we assist others when we already have so much to do? There aren't enough hours in a day! Yet, our volunteers find a few hours every week to help an elderly person who, without their help, may not be able to remain in the comfort of their own home. What a sweet, sweet gift to give!

In the days ahead, I hope to meet many more of you. I also hope you'll remember that CAREGIVERS is here only through donations (financial and volunteered time) of people like you. YOU are the heart of our agency. You allow our services to continue for those who so desperately need them.

With appreciation and gratitude,
Dianne



Howard Boroughs came to us a few years ago with a request for assistance. His wife had died a few months before and he was lonely; he felt lost. Today he is living a full life, involved with many people and providing CARE-GIVERS with his wonderful wit and wisdom, as he serves on the Advisory Board. Howard and his volunteers, Jessie and her mom Rexalena, have become great friends! He is one of many who have found a renewed joy in life, thanks to the CAREGIVERS program.



**CAREGIVERS
Sponsor
September
Oxnard Chamber
of Commerce
Mixer**

What a great group of business folk. We had a great time as you can see! From left: Carol Boatner, Director of Volunteers, Courtney Darrough, Oxnard Program Coordinator, Veronica Daube, Fund Raising Coordinator, Dianne E. Kleppinger, Executive Director, and Terri Keffer, Secretary. Marion Holzworth, Building Bridges Director was in Houston helping the Red Cross with Hurricane Katrina's victims.

**Save ►
the Date**

Sail-a-thon at the Ventura Harbor Sunday, October 16

Women of Jewelia Gala Event Sunday, November 6th

Working With The Young

By Marion Holzwarth
Youth Program Director

With the school year starting, the rush to capture new teen student volunteers is in full swing. We thank our supportive teachers, Rotarians, Lions Club members, parents, CARE-GIVERS board members and former students who use words like "compassion, patience, understanding" and "you will be old someday" that catch potential student volunteers' attention. Once we have their attention, the rest is easy:

- Students are picked up after school in a van, generously donated by the Los Angeles Times Foundation, and returned to the school within two hours.
- An adult supervisor is with them throughout the visit to the senior.
- Students receive recognition for their generosity.
- Snacks are provided!

For more information on the student program, please call me directly at (805) 658-8530.



Carol's Corner *By Carol Boatner, Director of Volunteers*

I became involved with CAREGIVERS in 1985. While reading the paper, I saw a small ad: "Volunteers Being Sought for Caregiver Program. Could you help a senior in need?" I had children in school at the time, but thought that two to three hours out of my week wouldn't be that hard. I drove to the CAREGIVERS' and was interviewed by Sr. Veronica Maloney. She was, and is, a warm, compassionate woman with twinkling eyes. I was convinced that I could accomplish any assignment offered, and thus, I started my career of helping seniors in need.

I remember being apprehensive walking up to the first front door. But the greeting I received was so warm, I continued, and I continue to be encouraged by seniors who appreciate the services we provide, all for free!

We offer non-medical assistance. Sometimes the request is small: "I'm 87 years old and am so lonely; all my friends are gone. Can someone visit with me?"

Without volunteers, CAREGIVERS could not exist. This is why we ask for your help. When, you volunteer, your life will be infinitely better for the gift you give.

With a Little Help From our Friends

Wm. Frank and Katherine Anderson
in memory of Betty C. Lientz
Thomas and Laura Andreoli
L. Arreola
Barbara Backus
Zelma Baer
Gertrude Bale
Edna Bartley
in memory of Bertie Gaertner
Sharon and George Berg
Phyllis Berger
Jim and Carol Boatner
in memory of Bertie Gaertner
G.C. Brown
Maureen Buchanan
in memory of Bertie Gaertner
Jewell Butcher
Danilo Cabana
Laura and Richard Calzada
Jesus and Virginia Camarillo
*in memory of Conception Botello,
Bill and Irene Waldo, and Marian
Safer Sager*
Kathryn Carbonetta
Marie Carter
Betty Chapman
*in honor of Marion Holzwarth
and the Youth*
James and Susan Cheek
Frank and Anna Cingrani
in memory of Mary Greco
Barbara Clifford
Linda Cohen
Mildred Colvard
Barbara Contreras
Kathleen Crowe
Vincent Cummings
Veronica Daube
*in memory of Bertie Gaertner
in memory of Gladys Malabey
and Ironton Daube*
Mary Davis
in memory of Bertie Gaertner
Mary and Ann Dennis
in memory of Bertie Gaertner
Sheila Dingman-Schrupp
Maria and Arnold Dowdy
Sr. Barbara Dugan, CSJ
in honor of Jennie Dugan
Berdean Eaton
Lorraine Edgar
in memory of Bertie Gaertner
Helen Ellison
in memory of Gordon King
Warren and Ardella Faue
Michael Fechtner
Lucile Ferrie
in honor of The Youth Program
Dorothy Fisher
in memory of Bertie Gaertner
Hal and Norma Fulkerson
Bertie Gaertner
Giselle Gallagher
Lea Girsch
Lester Goldberg
Bernadine Gross
in honor of Jennie Bray

Evelyn Grove
*in memory of Glen Marcus,
long time friend*
Betty Harris
Harvey and Jessica Harris
*in honor of Armando Cordenas
in memory of MSG. Patrick O'Brien*
Jim and Mary Harrison
William and Heather Hendren
Tracy Hendrick
Susan Herron
Marcella Hoffman
in memory of Elsa Charise
Marion Holzwarth
in memory of Bertie Gaertner
Geraldine Jones
Brian P. Kliner
Peter and Nell Knusto
in memory of Bertie Gaertner
Lu Kurtze
in honor of Snacks for The Youth Program
Jordan and Sandra Laby
Marcia Landberg
*in memory of Marie Chase, former
Sister of St. Joseph Carondelete*
Ken and Letty Landberg Jr.
Marguerite Laturner
in memory of F.H. Laturner
Evelyn Lea
in memory of George A. Lea
Wendy and Bob Lefkowitz
*in honor of Edith Cullen on
her 100th Birthday*
James Love
Ray and Margaret Ludwig
in honor of Robert and Kathryn Soars
Nick Luzzi, D.D.S.
Eugenia Lynch
Cie Macias
Barbara Maitland
in memory of Bertie Gaertner
Ruth and Dier Maulhardt
in memory of Maria Bazzi
Richard Maulhardt
in memory of Maria "Nonna" Bazzi
Sharon McGahan
Joseph D. and Miriam C. McGrath
Ernie and Suzy Melonas
in memory of Nick and Olga Melonas
Patricia Meredith
in memory of Bertie Gaertner
Lori Michiel
in honor of Accent on Seniors
Jay Midgley
William and Marlene Miley
Kathryn and Dan Murphy
in honor of Vicki Stowell
Michelle and Martin O'Donnell
in honor of Barbara A. Weinberg
Renee Pelletier
Alma Plank
in honor of Rae Lundeen
Paul Power
Virgina Przeski
in honor of Paul and Joan Burke
Janet Reeling

Caroline Reimbold
*in memory of Sister M. Anthony C.S.C.,
"Auntie Babe"*
Jeanne Reiver
Judy Remley
Jack Revoyr
in memory of Janine Werner
Bob and Beth Reynolds
Hilda Rogers
in memory of Bertie Gaertner
Ann Romero
in memory of Agnes and Gordon Walton
John and Ann Romero
Emma Romp
Bernice Rosenstein
in honor of All Volunteers
Carmella Salvatore
*in honor of Marion Holzwarth
and the Youth Program*
Carmella Salvatore
in memory of Alene Dysart
Ruth Schaff
Dorothy Schupbach
Nina Seibel
in honor of Mae Bennett
John and June Shelsky
in memory of Bertie Gaertner
Marcia Snider
Wendy Spasiano
Berta Steele
*in memory of Goldie Defren,
Esther Gelb, Freda Gelb*
Lucille Stultz
Laura Swenson
Delorine Thompkins
Bruce Thomson
Roy Todd
in memory of Elva Mae Smith
Ellamae Towers
Claudette Tully
in memory of Bertie Gaertner
Mary Turnbow
Harold and Vivian Ullman
in memory of Bertie Gaertner
Josephine Valles
Laverne Venus
John Vincent
Bernard Visser
Rose Marie Voelker
in memory of Bertie Gaertner
Barclay Wade
in honor of Blake Wade
Mary Wallace
Barbara Weinberg
in memory of Bertie Gaertner
Stan Weisel
Norm and Lynn Weitzel
*in memory of Larry Meister,
an asset to the community*
Norm and Lynn Weitzel
in memory of Bill Swisher
Linda White
in memory of Ofelia Dietel
Richard Wibbelmann
Ron and Mariaemma Willis
Margaret Wissinger
in honor of Rae Lundeen
Frances Yoong
in memory of Bertie Gaertner

Making the Rounds

By Courtney Darrough,
Oxnard Program Coordinator

Charlotte Raitt and Ann Ontiveros-Campos met through CAREGIVERS and have spent time together for 13 years! When I asked the lively pair what they like to do for fun, together they exclaimed, "Talk! We just really enjoy each other's company."

Charlotte called CAREGIVERS when problems with vision loss limited her ability to read—one of her passions. "I was also no longer able to address my greeting cards, and was delighted when Ann came into my life to help me."

Ann responded to CAREGIVERS after seeing a plea for volunteers in her church bulletin. She was inspired to visit someone, and because she had the love of books, she wanted to read to someone else. CAREGIVERS matched Ann with Charlotte, based on common interests.

"We know a lot about each other's family histories, because we've spent so much time together talking!" In addition, they are mothers, grandmothers, and retired career women. "We are Christian ladies who like church and church-related activities."

CAREGIVERS' ultimate goal is to create a one-on-one friendship between the volunteer and the person served, and in our eyes, this match is just one of our many successes!

We can always use more volunteers! If you live in the towns of Santa Paula, Fillmore, Port Hueneme or Oxnard and have a few hours to spare, call me!



Putting Fun into Fund-Raising

By Veronica Daube, Fund-Raising Coordinator

Here are a few upcoming events. We hope you will support CAREGIVERS by participating.

4th Annual Sail-a-thon

Sunday, October 16, 2005

This is fun for the entire family! Boat captains will solicit sponsorships for their laps around buoys off the Ventura Pier. The Sail-a-thon is an excellent way to enjoy sun and salt air. There's really no charge...just come and enjoy. However you might want to buy a raffle ticket for one of the great prizes! If you can't make it to the event, but want the chance to win a 17" color television/DVD player, you can purchase tickets by mail. Call us for details. As a spectator, you can join in the fun from the pier and later attend the chili and corn-bread dinner and raffle at the Ventura Yacht Club.

An Enchanting Evening with "The Women of Jewelia"

November 6, 2005

If you read People Magazine you know about this wonderful group of philanthropic women who hold special, and definitely elegant, events to benefit non-profit agencies. This year CAREGIVERS was chosen as a beneficiary for an event at Table 13 in Ventura. The Women of Jewelia will make it enjoyable for all who attend. For an invitation, call (805) 658-8530.

14th Annual "Wearin' o' the Green" Golf Tournament

March 6, 2006 at Spanish Hills Country Club, Camarillo

Mark your calendars and spread the word! Many of you helped make last year's tournament a HUGE success! We are already signing up four-somes, gathering sponsors and volunteers. If you are a golfer (or know one) with a passion for the game, get involved and get them involved. Call for sponsorship opportunities today!

Thank You!

CAREGIVERS: Volunteers Assisting the Elderly, is a 501(C) 3 nonprofit agency serving frail elderly residents of Ventura County with free, non-medical, volunteer services. Federal Tax ID: 77-0081692

OUR MISSION: To promote the health, well being, dignity and independence of frail, homebound elders through one-on-one relationships with trusted volunteers.

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Executive Director

Dianne E. Kleppinger

Staff

Carol Boatner
Courtney Darrough
Veronica Daube
Marion Holzwarth
Terri Keffer

CAREGIVERS

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www.vccaregivers.org

United Way of
Ventura County



Helping Many in 2004-2005

In our last fiscal year, CAREGIVERS volunteers provided 355 frail seniors in Ventura County with many types of assistance as the following numbers indicate!

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Personal Assistance . . . | 3,440 hours |
| Home Management . . . | 5,719 hours |
| In-Home Visits | 8,195 hours |
| Telephone Calls | 6,573 |

In addition, volunteers provided:

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Transportation | 76,338 miles |
| Home Management | 562 hours |

CAREGIVERS welcomed 97 adult volunteers, and 111 youth volunteers into our program.

There were 339 active volunteers during the year, including board members, many of whom volunteer beyond their board duties. Many provide transportation, and do what they can, above to help the seniors who call CAREGIVERS for help!

YOU can help someone too! Give us a call to find how you can make someone's life easier by donating a few hours a month. Consider volunteering – your gift will always be greatly appreciated!

(805) 658-8530



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