



CAREGIVERS

The Buenaventura *INTERFAITH* Volunteer Program

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 4, NO. 1, FEBRUARY 1987

RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY'S ROLL IN VOLUNTEER CAREGIVERS

Volunteer Caregivers is a volunteer association of religious communities and individuals who recognize the responsibility to do God's truth. We exist to obey God's commands in the world. We have been fashioned to act out God's purposes in human society. This calls for priestly service to all people without regard for their condition, creed or color. It calls for a person-to-person witness that is intelligible to secular people and their cultural area.

If the religious communities were, in fact, doing God's truth valiantly in His strength today, there would be sharper tensions and deeper conflicts between secular society and the religious community.

Biblical stewardship requires us to

please God rather than people. Too often, in contemporary religious life, it's the other way around. Getting God's good news into the world requires a disciplined and dedicated group of people. A religious community's outreach will never equal human needs. There is no ceiling in a world like ours.

As a member of Volunteer Caregivers' Board of Directors, it is a thrill for me to know that our community has persons who are willing to give of their time and energy to meet the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of older members of our community.

Rev. Luther Tolo
Trinity Lutheran Church

CALENDAR

Feb. 24 (Tues) - Volunteer Quarterly Support Meeting - 7:00-9:00 p.m., Speaker: Jo Bell, Mental Health Nurse, Ventura County; Topic: "Loss and How to Cope"

Mar. 2 (Mon) - Board Meeting - Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Site Visit with Virginia Schiaffino and Barbara Craine

Mar. 5 (Thurs) - Advisory Board Meeting - 7:30-9:00 a.m. at Josephs

Apr. 1 (Wed) - Executive Board Meeting - 7:30 a.m.

Apr. 7 (Tues) - Cluster Meeting - 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Apr. 16-17 - Holidays (office closed)

Apr. 21 (Tues) - Board Meeting - 7:30 a.m.

May 6 (Wed) - Executive Board Meeting - 7:30 a.m.


May 19 (Tues) - Board Meeting - 7:30 a.m.

May 19 (Tues) - Volunteer Recognition and Annual Dinner Meeting - 6:15-8:30 p.m.

May 25 - Holiday (office closed)

June 1, 2, and 3 (Mon - Wed) - Volunteer Orientation Training - 9:30-11:30 a.m. or 7:00-9:00 p.m.

June 16 (Tues) - Board Meeting - 7:30 a.m.



"I work with an 86-year young woman ..."

Shared personal experiences provide the thread linking all the volunteers in our Caregivers' program, and can provide strength, motivation and a renewed sense of purpose.

I am 30 years old, an owner of a small business, and my wife is expecting our first child next August. I became a volunteer in the program through my membership in the Church of the Foothills. After experiencing the need in my own family, I chose to work with the elderly. I see this as a very positive means of channeling my energies.

Currently, I work with an 86-year young woman principally providing transportation to the doctor's office, doing the grocery shopping, and assisting with a variety of errands. Recently widowed, she has been actively coping, not only with the loss of her husband, but also with bookkeeping and financial matters previously managed by him. She has no family or children, but is supported by some caring friends and neighbors. She is remarkable in both attitude and energy, and is truly a pleasure to visit.

The elderly and disabled often find it difficult to ask for help from friends and family in order to maintain their independence, as they don't want to be "demanding" or a "nuisance". As a Caregivers' volunteer, an avenue is created to provide help in an unbiased relationship. In

turn, those served feel more independent and secure knowing that someone truly cares for their well being.

by Jack Collings



NOTES FROM THE VOLUNTEER DIRECTOR

Because our volunteers are growing in number, so, too, is that special group of Volunteer Coordinators growing! Volunteer Coordinators have assumed the responsibility of reminding volunteers of upcoming meetings, securing data, and generally developing a bonding in the small cluster groups. The coordinators have successfully maneuvered through the computer printout sheets that have facilitated their work. A BIG thank you to our COORDINATORS -- Carol Basralian, Debbie Bergstrom, Daphne Brooking, Jack Collings, Marge Johnson, Florence Multer, Becki Pendell, Patricia Sandwall, Mary Solomon, Ken Wood and Doug Houston!

Sister Veronica

FREE!

A hospital bed is available for a needy person. Contact Caregivers' office.

NEEDED!

One of our frail elderly persons needs a small refrigerator for her one-room apartment.



ALMA YOUNG

WITH

VOLUNTEER



KEN

WOOD



Participating Religious Groups

Last year, some of the religious groups that are participating in Volunteer Caregivers were especially supportive. We wish to thank the Knights of Columbus (Ventura), the Assumption Church, First United Methodist Church, First United Methodist Women, Sacred Heart Church, Trinity Lutheran Church and San Buenaventura Mission for their contributions to the ministry of the homebound elderly.

We also wish to thank the following people and organizations for their donations:

Veva McCord, Ellen Blair, Leona Stephens, Myrle Kirk, Daphne Brooking, Cecilia Millette, Evelyn Mercer, Florence Multer, Robert Crumley, Sisters of the Holy Cross, Sylvia Mack, Ann Diacos, Mary Riordan, Anna MacGillivray, Mary Anne Childs, Mr. and Mrs. Orlando Caputo, Elaine Van Akin, Harriet Gaughenbaugh, Louise Forgey, Marcie Naas, Paul Fulop, Louise Moore, Mae Maher, Helen Young, Ward and Gladys Fowler, Bill Dover, Maria Teresa Gutierrez, William Caldwell, Irene Humphrey, Mary Harrison William Callanan, Mr. and Mrs. W. N. Hodgson, Julius Gius, H. K. Guthrie, Dolores Patrie, Jeannette Longwell, Helen Carlese, Ada Mirra, Louise Beller, Clare Wibbelmann, Helen Goelz, Marguerite Atmore, Helen Barber, Neta Becker, Margaret and Robert Willey, Emma Rose Rush, George and Ellen Appel, Gospel Light Publications, Alma Young, Dolores Acosta, Joe and Alice DuRoss, Nick and Mary Pichotta, Louis and Leona Stephens, Louise and Charles Morsman, Florence and Roland Schultz, Sylvia Chilton Martin, Vera Collins, Jane and Charles Chenery, Mary Riordan, Howard Dye, Susan

Buchter, Betty Patterson, Nova Hayes, Claire Drysdale, Aili Sysma, Bob and Jody Wilson, Lois Spaulding, Marjorie Johnson, Kay Peterson, Bette Robinson, Anna Langes, Joan Vance, and Mildred Ely.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU to:

Kenn and Barbara Ritza, Robert and Margaret Willey, Mr. and Mrs. R. Ottenstein, Ben Wolfe, Jr., Melba Vanoni, Kathleen Boegen and anonymous donor.

Donations received IN MEMORY OF:

William Badoni by Mrs Leo Rheume
Lillian Myers by Edith Sachia
Sarah Osborne by her daughter Sarah Fitzgerald
William E. Scherrei by his wife, Agnes Scherrei
Perce Hobart by Mr. and Mrs. Orlando Caputo
George Barnhill and Dave Phelpsby
George and Ellen Appel.

If you give to the United Way, you may designate all or part of your contribution to BUENAVENTURA INTERFAITH VOLUNTEER CAREGIVERS.

A contribution envelope is included with this newsletter for your convenience in contributing to this worthy program. THANK YOU ONE AND ALL FOR YOUR GENEROSITY.




WELCOME NEW VOLUNTEERS

Since our last Newsletter we have been blessed with the following new volunteers:

**Chris Valesquez
Jerrye Stumpf
Anna Langes
Laura Collings
Grant Inglett
Kathy Roush
Alice Clayton
Neepa DeVries
Rosemary Vigoria
Peggy Weigand
Douglas Houston
Greg Secor
Eda O'Dell
Laurel Carpenter
Peter Orlov
Tom Foley
Faith Cathcart**

We know that their new ministry will bring them many blessings, and we pray for them.



"Christ has no body on earth but yours; no hands on earth but your hands. Yours are the eyes through which He looks with compassion upon the world. Yours, the feet with which He chooses to go about doing good." Teresa of Avila



LETTERS FROM PERSONS SERVED

My dear Sister Veronica,

You perhaps do not remember me, but you came to interview me when I applied for your help, and personally took me to my eye doctor when you were short of help. I shall never forget your graciousness and kindness.

I am blind and on Medi-Cal. I can write from memory and habit, but cannot read. My rent went up to \$600 recently, and I may have to relocate. H.U.D. helps me, but I doubt if they can go that far.

I have been very ill the past year - in and out of Community like a yo-yo - but I'm hanging in there. I'll be 77 New Years Day, and thankful for what is left to enjoy, and that includes your wonderful volunteers. Mr. Kenneth is the kindest, most generous gentleman I have ever met. His kindness and willingness to help cannot be surpassed. Thank you is so inadequate, but what can I say?

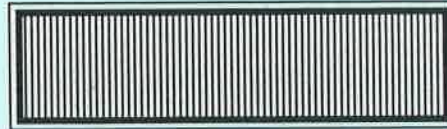
It is difficult for me to contribute much financially, but I shall do the best I can. My new rent increase exceeds my income.

I want you to know also how very kind and helpful Daphne has been --

May God be with you, and may 1987 be better for all of us.

Most Sincerely,

Lois C. Spaulding



GROWING OLD WITH GRACE AND CHARM

When Alma was in her 70s she inspired friends and family with her paintings. Now in her late 80s, her beloved art has been given up -- poor eyesight prohibits any more effort in that field. Normal aging problems have been compounded by numerous surgeries and continued deterioration of the eyes. I list these endless ills only because when I first met Alma, I thought that maybe crippling arthritis was her greatest handicap. My impressions were based on her wonderful outgoing spirit. Truly a fun-loving attitude, constant concern for frail neighbors, appreciation of good friends, and warm hospitality minimized Alma's daily struggles to cope. Her Volunteers, Rose and Ken, have brought not only much needed help and relief, but have added variety and joy to a woman alone in her sunset years. A woman who in the springtime of her life ministered in the health care field, now benefits from Caregivers' concern. Alma and her volunteers have enjoyed deep friendship, because of the spiritual gifts that they have shared with each other.

Sister Veronica



NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR

This year, with site visits from both the national office for the projects and Fordham University's Third Age Center, we can really appreciate the impact the 25 Caregiver projects made in helping the homebound frail elderly. Both Virginia Schiaffino and Ken Johnson from the national office, and Mary Anne Lewis from the Third Age Center, are very pleased with the impact and have assured us that no volunteer program they have dealt with has been as effective as ours.

Bringing the projects' effectiveness a little closer to home, I would like to share some very encouraging information.

Number of Persons Served: First year - 79; Second year - 159 (105 new and 54 continuing from first year); First 10 months of Third year - 186 (113 new + 23 from first year + 50 from second year).

Volunteers' contribution: First 10 months of the third year - 15, 119 units or hours of service. Ninety percent (90%) of the services are matched one-on-one, and represent on-going weekly help. I wish to thank all of our volunteers, and I look forward to the final year reports, so we can really see and celebrate our accomplishments.

Also, as the Board of Directors begin their third year this month, I would like to welcome Mike Solomon, who is a Financial and Budget Analyst for the City of Ventura, Sister Adrienne Clare, Vice Principal of Santa Clara High School in Oxnard, and Jack Collings, who is a self-employed mechanical engineer. Jack came to us from the Church of the Foothills, and is also a volunteer and a volunteer coordinator.

We would also like to thank the retiring Board members, whose terms have expired: David Schuepback, Sister Sara Michael and Vicky Michelson. We appreciated having these wonderful people share their talents with us in the ministry of the frail elderly homebound.



FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

October 3, 1986 - February 10, 1987

We wish to acknowledge the following groups for their donations to Volunteer Caregivers:

California Community Foundation

In the Fall of 1986, Volunteer Caregivers received a \$6,000 matching grant from the California Community Foundation to help continue their services to the homebound elderly. The foundation has targeted several objectives which include projects to prevent inappropriate or premature institutionalization, as well as those that develop self-reliance and cooperation with other services. We are grateful to the members of the foundation for their interest and support.

Swift Foundation

Recently Harry Walsh and Sister Patricia attended a reception hosted by the Swift Foundation which was to acknowledge those grantees who will receive assistance from them. It was a delight to meet Mr. Gair Foell

and the Board members who are interested in helping the community meet its social service needs in the County. We are thankful.

Mervyns

Mervyns annually recognizes outstanding employee volunteers. Last year, their Employee, Beth Walsh, was honored for her outstanding community volunteer service. As a result of her efforts, Mervyns presented Buenaventura Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers with a \$500 check. We appreciate Mervyns' interest in their employees' positive activities in the community, and our thanks to Beth for going the extra mile.



Left to Right: Cathy Brudnicki, Manager of Mervyns Dept. Store in Ventura presenting plaque of appreciation for outstanding volunteer community service to employee, Beth Walsh.

P.S. I now have to pay for most of my medicine which comes to more than \$100 a month, but I'll do my best for your wonderful Caregivers. Don't know what we'd do without them.

Dear Sister Veronica,

At this special month of giving thanks, Caregivers and Fran Brady heads the list this year. I am continually amazed at the efficiency and help of your organization. It often crosses my mind how wonderful it could be if Government and business were run as smoothly and caring as Caregivers! God continue to bless you, each one.

Thankfully,

Doloris Patrie

Dear Sister Veronica,

I would like to tell you how thankful I am that you sent Becki to me. She is so sweet and kind. It has changed by life, and I feel better. She helps me with things I can't do any more. God bless you all. Many thanks, Sister.
Helen Barber

Enclosed is a check for \$5. Maybe sometime I can do better

Dear Sister Veronica,

I appreciate your sending Jane to me. She is such a lovely lady. I enjoy her greatly. God bless you in this wonderful work and the dedicated folks who work together in a loving program.

Sincerely in Christian Love,

Veva (McCord)

Dear Sister Veronica,

Thank you for seeing us and arranging for Rosemary to take Mom to her doctor's appointments. It was hard for me to leave Mom (she went back to her home in Hawaii), but I feel better knowing that you and Rosemary are there. Mom was improving as I left; however, it's going to be a long time before she recovers.

I think you and your organization are doing wonderful work; you were certainly a Godsend for us.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Boegen

ETERNAL PEACE

We have been privileged to serve:

**George Prout
William Scherrei
Ada Wood
Mildred Eberts
Louis Stephens**

May they enjoy eternal peace, and may their families and friends be comforted.

Buenaventura Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers

Director: Sister Patricia Callahan CSJ
Volunteer Director: Sister Veronica
Maloney CSJ

Volunteer Caregivers matched.....with.....the homebound

- reach out to the frail and elderly & isolated in their own homes
- respite care-support the family caregiver
- link the needy with community resources
- train & support volunteers in basic caregiving skills
- provide 2-4 hours weekly of neighborly, non-professional tasks of personal care, home management, social contacts, transportation

A Ministry of the Buenaventura Interfaith Coalition

Community Presbyterian Church
First United Methodist Church
Knights of Columbus Council 2498
Sacred Heart Church
San Buenaventura Mission
Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet
Temple Beth Torah
Trinity Lutheran Church
Our Lady of the Assumption Church

**Contributions, memorials or in-kind donations can be made to
VOLUNTEER CAREGIVERS
and are tax-deductible.**

Send to:

VOLUNTEER CAREGIVERS
261 North Catalina
Ventura, CA 93001
805-652-0566

Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet
Buenaventura Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers
261 No. Catalina St.
Ventura, CA 93001
805-652-0566

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