



CAREGIVERS

The Buenaventura *INTERFAITH* Volunteer Program

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 4, NO. 2, JUNE 1987

*Thank you,
Sister Veronica!*

The last three years are full of so many fond memories - beginning with the initial idea from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and our clothing it with ministry, dedication, and many long hours. It was your concern, interest and compassion for the frail elderly shut-ins that has enabled them to continue their journey toward God. And then there was that subtle persuasion with the volunteers - "Do you think you would have

some time to ...?" How could they refuse? And off they were on yet another Caregiver assignment. It's these quiet and gentle accomplishments that I will always remember. Thank you for your generosity and presence. I pray that your future will be filled with many of God's very special blessings.

Sister Patricia

"I consider it to have been, by rendering aid to another in dire need, a convincing demonstration that, in this world of opposites, life is stronger than death; that light will vanquish darkness; that unselfish love will overcome hatred, and in the light of truth, there is no room for conflicts of opinion on which bigotry, intolerance and wars thrive. It renews one's faith and hope in the meaning and purpose of life. I thank the Volunteer Caregivers for what they have done for us."

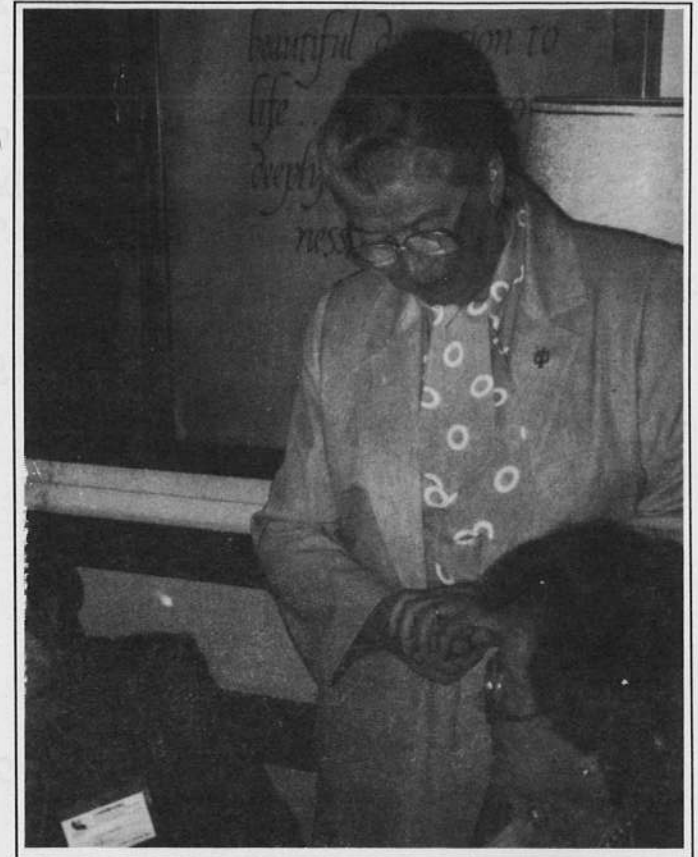
Editor's note: This writer and his wife have since moved out of town to join their family.

"Helps me locate, identify, file, or dispose of important papers. Helps me with bank statements. Occasionally drives me to a bank, store, or Post Office. Helps me keep track of me! With Greg, you have the best."

"Relief for husband so that he can get out and do things which need to be done. Someone to converse with - encourage, and food items."

"Checks mail, bills - let's me see the Ventura I hadn't known existed - shopping. I had Christmas dinner at his home where I met his wife and children. I am legally blind."

"My wife, Anita, has Alzheimer's disease. Your Caregiver provides companionship and cares for her when I must be away for business or doctor's appointments or some shopping...."



Financial Contributions

February II, 1987 - May I2, 1987

Thank You

Arnold, Pearl
Ascher, Lilo
Atmore, Marguerite
Barber, Helen
Batley, Jeannette
Beller, Louise
Borgen, Cleo
Brooking, Daphne
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Christner, Bettina
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Drain, Nicholas and Marie

Draper, Otis and Frances
Dunn, Charles and Margaret
DuRoss, Joe and Alice
Foley, Tom
Fulop, Paul and Iona
Gehle, Mabelle and Fred
Gius, Julius
Gonzales, Toni
Gutierrez, Maria
Hamm, Edna
Hanson, Wilma
Haskett, Miriam
Hayes, Nova
Henneberry, Michael
Hillermann, Carl and Ruth
Jarecky, Lee
Johnson, Marjorie
Kasik, Gilbert
Kirk, Myrle
Landberg, Ken and Emily
Mack, Sylvia
Maher, Mae
Mason, Sophie

We are grateful to the following people and groups for their support:

*Matakas, Natalie
McCord, Vera
McDonald, Anita-Ulloa, and Stephen
McKnight, Helen
McNulty, Dorothy
McRae, Evelyn
Michelson, Vicky
Millette, Cecilia
Morsman, Charles and Louise
Osmus, Mira
Patrie, Doloris
Poole, Verna and Vincent
Prout, Helen
Riggins, Loretta
Ritza, Kenn and Barbara
Robinson, Bette
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Schneider, Irma
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Smith, Marion
Snowden, Mildred
Steyer, Caroline
Thow, Marie and John*

*Urdaneta, Ann
Vielbig, Judith and Leslie
Voelker, Barbara
Von Akin, Elaine
Wagner, Lucille
Wibbelmann, Richard and Clare
Young, Helen*

A Special Thank You To:

*Ron Ascher
Eastminister Presbyterian Church
Knights of Columbus - Council 2498
Karen Patterson
Robert and Margaret Willey.*

In Memory of:

*Ada Mirra
by Filly Silva.*

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION DINNER

The third annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner to recognize and thank the many volunteers for their dedicated service to the

program was the former Director of Volunteers, Sister Veronica. This was the first opportunity many of the guests had since her retirement in February to wish her well and Godspeed. The accolades were many.

Wayne Dugan, one of the Directors of the Board, did a masterful job as Master of Ceremonies. Among other things, he had each volunteer introduce him or herself and give a brief account of their ministry and experiences with the persons they serve.

Supervisor Susan Lacey, as guest speaker, spoke of the dignity of our older citizens and how important it is to preserve it. She feels Volunteer Caregivers is doing an outstanding job in this regard.



Left to Right Top: Sister Marilyn Binder, Susan Lacey, Wayne Dugan; Middle: Sister Veronica, Herman Schneider, Shirley Ottenstein, Fran Brady; Bottom: Maureen Walsh, Keith York, Louise Forgey, Joan Rollins, Ellen Appel

frail elderly in our community was held Tuesday evening, May 19, 1987 at Caregivers headquarters at Josephs in Ventura.

Also honored for her contribution to the

Sisters Marilyn Binder, Diane Pedroni and Mary Allen from the Provincial Council of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet in Los Angeles were also present. Sister Marilyn gave the invocation, and in her

remarks later in the program mentioned that the Ministry of the Volunteer Caregivers in Ventura is very much in keeping with the charism of the Sisters of St. Joseph, and how happy they are to be involved in the program. She affirmed the work of Caregivers with gratitude and encouragement.

Sister Patricia recalled the trials and joys that she and Sister Veronica encountered in developing Caregivers, and how elated they were when they got their first volunteer. She also praised the volunteers for the fine work they are doing, and passed out awards to those volunteers with over 300 hours of service.

Joan Neuhaus stated that she is very pleased to be associated with the program as the new Director of Volunteers, and looks forward to meeting all the volunteers personally. Although she met quite a few at the dinner, she is also looking forward to the Volunteer Orientation Training in June to meet others as well.

Jack Collings - Volunteer, Coordinator and Director Extraordinaire - was kind enough to pick up the delicious manicotti, which was ordered and enjoyed by everyone. Joan Neuhaus and Irma Schneider prepared the luscious strawberries for dessert — and a good time was had by all!



MEETING THAT NEW “PERSON TO SERVE”

Are you apprehensive about knocking on that door, or pushing in that doorbell? I am - that first day is a little unnerving, but it's all

worth it. I find that after I have introduced myself and ask them how they are — the nerves melt away. I also approach each situation like an adventure and each person like the opening of a new book to be read and cared for.

After establishing a relationship, LISTENING becomes one important role. If you are frustrated by the “same story” week after week, focusing in on why you are there in the first place can be very helpful!

Carol Basralian
Volunteer



WELCOME NEW VOLUNTEERS

We have been blessed this Spring with the following new volunteers:

Jean Webb
Jane Blankenship
Colleen Scott
Maureen Welsh
Irene Luizzi
Mary Braitman
Bette Robinson
Sam Henry
Mary Martin Goodwin
Grace McSparron
Joan Burke
Carol Dann
Leo Kleefisch

We know they will be blessed with their new ministry to the elderly. Please keep them and all the volunteers in your prayers.



CALENDAR - HAVE A GOOD SUMMER!

June 1, 2, and 3 (M, Tu, W) - **Volunteer Orientation Training**, 9:30-11:30 a.m. or 7:00-9:00 p.m

June 2 (Tu) - **Executive Board Meeting**, 7:30 a.m.

June 9 (Tu) - **Coordinators Meeting**, 11:30 a.m.

June 16 (Tu) - **Board Meeting**, 7:30 a.m.

June 29, 30 (M, Tu) - **Coordinators' Reports due**

July 3 (F) - **Holiday**, office closed

July 7 (Tu) - **Executive Board Meeting**, 7:30 a.m.

July 21 (Tu) - **Board Meeting**, 7:30 a.m.

July 21 (Tu) - **Cluster Meeting**, 7:30-9:00 p.m.

Aug 4 (Tu) - **Executive Board Meeting**, 7:30 a.m

Aug 8, (Sa) - **Fundraiser: Family Sports-A-Thon**

Aug 17-28 - **Office closed for Vacation**

Aug 18 (Tu) - **Board Meeting**, 7:30 a.m.

Sept 1 (Tu) - **Executive Board Meeting**, 7:30 a.m.

Sept 7 (M) - **Office closed, Labor Day**

Sept 15 (Tu) - **Board Meeting**, 7:30 a.m.

Sept 15 (Tu) - **Quarterly Support Meeting**, 7:30 p.m.

Sept 28-30 (M, Tu, W) - **Volunteer Orientation Training** 9:30-11:30 a.m. or 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Oct 6 (Tu) **Executive Board Meeting**, 7:30 a.m.

Oct 20 (Tu) - **Board Meeting**, 7:30 a.m.

NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR

SPONSORSHIP OF THE CAREGIVERS

After over three years of developing the Volunteer Caregivers, we have again the opportunity to further its continued existence. With the intention of remaining very strongly interfaith and under the direction of our present Board of Directors, the Sisters of St. Joseph have become the sponsoring body of the corporation in a new way. To quote from recent correspondence from Sister Catherine Marie Kreta, the Provincial Superior, "...The members of our Provincial Council had no hesitation in responding to the request of the Board of Caregivers to become the sponsoring body of your corporation....I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and the Board of Directors for your confidence in the Sisters of St. Joseph. As the initial agent for the Caregivers program, we have a particular interest and concern in its continued progress and wish to assure you of our ongoing support. We know that the program already has many supporters and friends in the Ventura area and has provided many needed and appreciated services to the elderly. We look forward to our new relationship with Caregivers."

NEW DIRECTOR OF VOLUNTEERS

As with all else - time marches on, and I am pleased to say that we have been fortunate to find a very capable replacement for Sister Veronica. Her name is Joan Neuhaus.

Joan has an excellent background in working with the elderly and volunteers. Prior to joining CAREGIVERS, she worked for the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program. I feel that Joan, too, will be an asset to our program. Please join me in wishing her a very warm welcome.



During the period between volunteer directors, Irma Schneider, our secretary, and I made a valiant effort to fill the void. To make our task easier, we devised new forms and set up a new system for matching volunteers with persons to be served that worked quite well for us. We would like to thank the volunteers, coordinators, and the people we serve for being patient with us during this interim period.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Frank Ratner's term on the Board expired in February. We appreciate the efforts he expended on behalf of the program, and wish him Godspeed. Mike Solomon has also departed from the Board. We wish to

thank him as well for the contributions he made to Caregivers. To take their places, we welcome Mary Braitman and Leo Kleefisch. They bring with them many years of interest and involvement in church and community needs. With their continued support and efforts in fundraising, public relations, and policy, the caregivers should continue to grow in its interfaith commitment to serve the frail and vulnerable homebound.



"...Every flower holds the whole mystery in its short cycle..."

by May Sarton

*Ada Mirra
Charles Morsman
Cleo Borgen
Rupert Leininger
Helen Claxton
Marie Thow
John Gaughenbaugh*

We thank you, Lord, for their presence among us and ask that you bless them with eternal life .



NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR OF VOLUNTEERS

I want to express my heartfelt thanks to each of the volunteers and coordinators who have made my first few weeks with Caregivers go smoothly. I am especially grateful to the coordinators who met with me to discuss each of their matches, as well as providing data for our reports. It is my pleasure to work with you, and I share your commitment of working with our growing elderly population.



SMILE!

A smile is quite a funny thing,
It wrinkles up your face,
And when it's gone, you never find
its secret hiding place.

But far more wonderful it is,
To see what smiles can do,
You smile at one, he smiles at you,
and so one smile makes two.

He smiles at someone since you smiled
And that one smiles back,
And that one smile until in truth
you fail in keeping track.

And since a smile can do great good,
By cheering hearts of care,
Let's smile and smile and not forget
that smiles go everywhere.

"I DO TRULY APPRECIATE ..."

Caregivers have been assisting Lucille Wagner since March 1986 by taking her to Mass, doing her grocery shopping, taking her to the doctor and beauty shop, and even



LUCILLE WAGNER WITH VOLUNTEERS, MAURA AND KEN PARSONS

sprucing up her yard. Lucille suffers from several physical ailments, but not, we're happy to say, an impairment of the mind. Following is an excerpt from a letter.

"I do truly appreciate all the assistance I receive from my Caregivers. Without Ken, it would be almost impossible for me to continue living in my own home, and this I want above all else. He and Maura are so

kind to me. I don't have to worry about appointments. I get to go to Mass regularly. Before they came, I had the Blessed Sacrament brought to me. It's so wonderful to be able to attend Mass again. I feel like I am back in the land of the living. I don't drive anymore. My reflexes are so bad, I don't trust myself.

Ken and Maura even see to it that I get to the hair dresser. That does a lot for my morale. I can't raise my arms enough to do it myself. Were it not for these kind, wonder-

ful people, I would look like I combed my hair with an egg beater.

I wish I had the words to express how much I appreciate all this kindness. God bless you all."

Lucille Wagner

Buenaventura Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers

Executive Director: Sister Patricia
Callahan CSJ
Director of Volunteers: Joan Neuhaus

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:

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