



CAREGIVERS

The Buenaventura *INTERFAITH* Volunteer Program

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 4, NO. 3, NOVEMBER 1987

Is Ministry and Service the Same?

In this day of catch phrases and tricky jargon, formerly meaningful words often become overused and trite. One such word is "ministry". We minister; we are ministers; and to many people the word is synonymous with "service".

However, the gas station attendant serves; the waitress serves; the tennis player serves; and we do not say that they "minister". The difference, perhaps, is that service is what one does, while ministry is why one performs the service. Ministry is service in terms of another person— actions performed with care and concern for another is translated into action and service

becomes ministry. It takes on a lifestyle beyond the scope of one's job.

For Volunteer Caregivers service becomes ministry. Each event shared, every story told, all actions reported are colored with the "why" which has made the action or event ministry. Love and concern for the other has been translated into action and ministry has been performed. A need has been identified, and there has been someone caring and concerned enough to minister.

Sr. Adrienne Clare
Board of Directors

LETTERS FROM PERSONS
SERVED

"Dear Sisters:

I am enclosing herewith a \$20 contribution in gratefulness for the transportation that Jerrye Stumpf so graciously extends to me as we have no transportation, and me being eighty seven has the care of a ninety-four year old husband, who has become inactive and needs transportation for medical assistance and some personal needs.

We wish to express our gratefulness.

Blessings of Divine Love

Mabelle A. Gehle"

"Dear Joan,

"Thank you very much for your kindness to me.

Caroline Ellis has been a God-send to me ever since I had surgery on July 2nd and have had to go back to the doctor every week for check-ups.

Caroline has been here without fail for every Dr. appointment - even when her own car wouldn't run and she borrowed her husband's. There was another day when her car broke down while she was bringing me home - giving us an hour to get better acquainted while we waited in the station for a new water hose. (I was concerned that she would be late getting home to her family, however.)

God bless you and all of your volunteers for the

help you give to us - in His Name.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Park"

"Dear Joan,

We have enjoyed Jack Bowen very much.

As per your suggestion, we now have a Lifeline Unit for Ken. He feels more secure so I can run a short errand.

I am replacing your brochure so you can help someone else.

Betty Mason"

"Dear Caregivers:

The perfect name for your organization.

Even though Eva Fasnacht is now in the Venturan Convalescent Home, Neta Becker continues to visit and bring joy. She truly blesses everyone she meets.

Sincerely,

Susan Buchter for
Eva Fasnacht"

"Dear Sister Patricia & Friends at Caregivers,

How comforting to visit with you and to share what you are all about. You all made a big difference in Mom's life. My deepest gratitude.

I have been reading, in the past few days, a

book Marie was studying, Michael Grant's "Jesus: An Historian's Review of the Gospels". Just before I visited you, I read his chapter commenting on the basic message (or at least one of them) in the Gospels: Jesus' spreading of the good news of the Kingdom of God. How that revelation had meaning for us today left me with many questions. My visit with you answered my thoughts: It is your group and people like you who are fulfilling His Word.

My mother, though she was not a Catholic, firmly believed in the Resurrection and Salvation of Christ, and was an ardent student of the Bible from childhood. She traveled to Rome (where my wife and I were living) and visited the Christian landmarks there, and later traveled to the Eastern Mediterranean to visit the route traversed by Paul, whose writings she spent her life studying.

Your Program allowed my mother to lead her life as she wished to. My very sincerest appreciation,

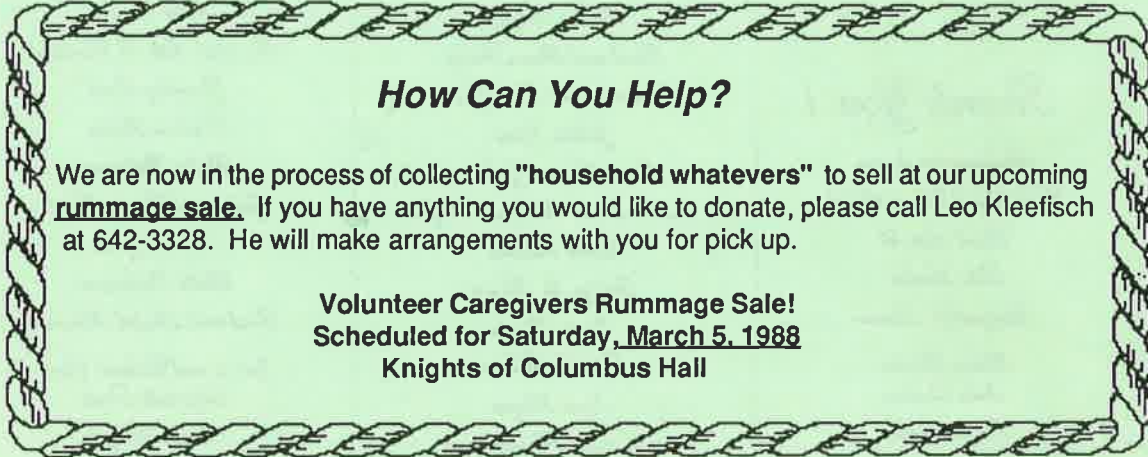
John Thow
(A letter received from a son after his mother's death.)



WELCOME

Welcome to the new volunteers who have responded to the call. We hope you will find your volunteer ministry especially rewarding.

Bob Arnall
Joyce Cantrell
Mary Clark
Sylvia DeLeon
Mary Eckberg
Carolyn Ellis
Rebecca Federation
Marcella Hoffman
Carmela Ladiana
Shirley Lotz
Debbie Randall
Debbie Renz
Dr. William D. Ross
Walter Schweitzer
Winifred Smith
Monica Straling
Eleanor Swartz



How Can You Help?

We are now in the process of collecting "**household whatever**s" to sell at our upcoming **rummage sale**. If you have anything you would like to donate, please call Leo Kleefisch at 642-3328. He will make arrangements with you for pick up.

Volunteer Caregivers Rummage Sale!
Scheduled for Saturday, March 5, 1988
Knights of Columbus Hall

Financial Contributions

May 13, 1987 - October 19, 1987

A special grateful acknowledgment to:

Virginia Baptists
College United Methodist
Church Women
Eastminster Presbyterian Church
Bob and Shirley Ottenstein
Kenn and Barbara Ritz
Mildred Snowden
John Thore
Melba Vanoni
Mary Zermeno
The Congregations of:
Our Lady of the Assumption Church
Sacred Heart Church
San Buenaventura Mission

Thank You

Anonymous donors
George and Ellen Appel
Pearl Arnold
Lilo Archer
Marguerite Simone
Helen Barber
Neta Becker
Louise Beller

Robert Bolton
Daphne Brooking
Claire Bucher
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Joyce Cantrell
Helena Carlese
Concha Cerna
Barbara Clifford
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Vera Collins
Elizabeth Crowe
Robert Cummley
Ellen Dick
Catherine Donnelly
William Dover
Joe and Alice DuRoss
E.T. and Mary Fiecho
Louise Forgey
Paul and Hona Fulop
Mabelle and Fred Gehle
Julius Gius
Maria Teresa Gutierrez
Richard and Melinda Hagee
Edna Hamm
Betty M. Harris
Doris Harris
Lucille Haster
Nova Hayes
Michael Henneberry

Marie Hill
Gilbert Kasik
Myrtle A. Kirk
Anna Langes
Russell Leggett
A.J. and Irene Lo Celso
Betty Mason
Sophie Mason
Natalie Matakas
Vera McCord
Helen McKnight
Dorothy McNulty
Evelyn McRae
Grace McSparron
Cecilia Millette
Louise Moore
Louise Morsman
Francis and Leah Ohs
Mira Ormus
Mr. and Mrs. L. Puchard
Dorothy Park
Doloris Patrie
Betty Patterson
John and Trudy Real
Tere Regnier
Belle Robinson
Paul and Mabel Schmitt
James and Colleen Scott
Elizabeth Seak
Vivien Stazak

We wish to acknowledge with thanks the contributions from the following people and organizations who help to make Volunteer Caregivers possible:

*George and Margaret Smith
Ann Udaneeta
Barbara Voelker*

Richard and Clare Nibbelmann

In Memory of:

*The Gibbons Family
Ellsworth Tuplin
by
George and Ellen Appel*

*Mary Houston
by
Betty Patterson*

*Margie Kermeno
by
Hermand and Lillian Schneider*

Our thanks to the following businesses who contributed support for the Sports Day:

*Linda's Hallmark Shop
Macaluso's Restaurant*

*Made In America
Merwyns*

Pet Emporium

Plaza Bakery

Pantino's Pizza

Train And Wheels

Jean Toland Smith

Lee's Chinese Food

Pizza Hut, Inc.

Jaffe's Camera & Video

"Eat Your Heart Out" Frozen Yogurt

Gary's Restaurant and Bakery

Ginger's Art Affaire

Cobblestone Corner

Pet Saloon

Candleglow

The Pastry Tray

Rosanita Beach Cafe

Ashwood On Main Flower Shop

Carondelet Gifts

Checkers Frozen Yogurt

Fabrictown U.S.A

1st Nationwide Bank

Green Thumb International

Jail House Video

La Cabana Restaurant.

Notes from the Director of Volunteers

Meetings are something many volunteers do not want to attend. For others, meetings are enlightening and rewarding. For Volunteer Caregivers - meetings are a time when we can come together to express our joys and feel personal satisfaction, or to listen to speakers who validate our loving efforts in this special ministry to the elderly.

Volunteers are valuable resources who have so much to offer and to share with others. Volunteer Caregivers come to serve, but receive much more in their giving. Share the experience of your ministry with others.

At the the Quarterly Support Meeting in September, Father Joseph Hernandez of Our Lady of the Assumption Church spoke of spirituality as having no distinction of age, but as life segments passing through doors, and of our spiritual response to growth. Father Joe validated the value of our ministry, and said that the most we can do for the elderly is to visit with them and provide comfort to them, because through our presence

we restore their dignity.

Cluster Meetings: After attending our summer cluster meeting, Debbie Renz, one of our volunteers, wrote "Do you sometimes feel like you're alone in the world of 'Caregivers'? Do you feel like others don't quite understand the joy you receive from your work with seniors? Cluster meetings provide the perfect environment to channel these feelings, and more. Amongst friends, you'll find encouragement and camaraderie, and you'll hear of helpful tips that might aid you to solve a special concern of yours - while at the same time you'll be helping others with theirs. Cluster Meetings are a refreshing way to share your experiences."

TRIBUTE TO A SPECIAL VOLUNTEER

Margie was a special volunteer in that she saw the need to help the elderly with transportation to doctors' appointments. As such, she helped many people and was always willing to serve. She said that this was her way of serving the Lord. In the 14 months Margie was a Caregiver, she drove 600 miles and gave over 350 hours of service.

Even during her last illness, when visited by Sister Patricia, one of her major concerns was for the persons she had been serving. Margie Zermeno is missed!

Volunteer Tribute: Marie Helene Rake

"I did enjoy being with her..."

These words were spoken by Marie Helene Rake as she recounted the year and a half as the Caregiver volunteer to community activist and nurse, May Davis. Once each week Marie Helene cleaned house for the nearly blind May - oftentimes bringing her children with her to help, and May spent Christmas with the Rake family. As a result, a very close relationship developed between them all.



*Above - L to R: Marie Rake, Sabastien, Mae Davis, Vanessa, Jonas
Below - Mae Davis, Courtesy of Star Free Press*

Volunteer work is part of Marie Helene's life. In France, where she was born, she worked with the St. Vincent de Paul Society to establish a program to keep young

people creatively occupied on days when schools were closed. Marie Helene is a nurse, and she also worked in Africa with a traveling unit that treated individuals for diseases of the eyes. No wonder this was so perfect a match between volunteer and person served as both had been involved in working with children and visually-impaired individuals.

"Our relationship was a great enrichment for me." mused Mrs. Rake as our conversation was concluded.

CALENDAR

1987

Nov. 10 - Cluster Meeting 9:30-11:30 a.m.
(Film and Discussion)

Nov. 11 - Office Closed. Veterans Day

Nov. 26-27 - Office Closed. *Happy
Thanksgiving!*

**Dec. 3 - Quarterly Support Meeting/Christmas
Party**, 7:30-9:00 p.m.

Dec. 24-Jan. 3 - Office Closed. *Happy Holi-
days!*

1988

Jan. 11 - 6:30-9:00 p.m. - **Orientation (A) Part I**

Jan. 13 - 6:30-9:00 p.m. - **Orientation (A) Part II**

Jan. 18 - Office Closed. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Birthday

Jan. 20 - 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. **Orientation (B)
Parts I and II**

Jan. 28 - **Cluster Meeting** - 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Feb. 15 - Office Closed. Presidents' Day

Mar. 5 - **Rummage Sale** - Knights of Columbus
Hall

Mar. 8 - **Quarterly Support Meeting**, 7:30-8:30
p.m. (Speaker: Sister Dorothy
Ann Lesher)

Mar. 31 & Apr 1 - Office Closed - Holy Thurs-
day and Good Friday

COMMENT FROM A VOLUNTEER

"There is no other area of giving where you get
back the same amount of spontaneous love
and gratitude - not even with your own chil-
dren".
Joan Rollins

NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR

Holiday Thoughts

As we move into November, our calendar is
already filling up with holiday plans. It is this
time of year we contemplate our blessings and
reconsider as Christians how Christ's birth has
transformed our lives. The good and generous
people we meet each day in our ministry to the
elderly are certainly to be included in these
blessings. We wish to thank each of you and
pray for God's blessings in a spirit of
'THANKSGIVING' and 'NEW BIRTH'.

College United Methodist Church - Welcome!

God has certainly blessed us these last few
months. After meeting with Rev. Mark
Ulrickson and the "Care Committee" from their
church, plans were made and implemented this
Fall to assist in their ministry to the elderly. It
was two special people who enabled this to
happen — Helen Young and Charlotte Banks.

For nearly three years we have been serving
Helen, a member of College United Methodist
Church. It impressed her that her volunteer, a
member of a different church, took her time to
minister to her needs every week, so Helen
questioned whether or not it was possible for
the members of her church to become involved
with Volunteer Caregivers. The answer was
"yes" and that's how Charlotte Banks entered
the picture and is now the church coordinator
for our program. Charlotte worked as their
church secretary for over 20 years, and really
identifies with the needs of their elderly mem-
bers and their reliance on their church and faith
for support during this time of adjustment in

their lives.

New Support Volunteers

Behind the scenes, but very much involved in supporting fund-raising efforts and the direction of the program, are the members of our Board of Directors and Advisory Board. We wish to welcome Gloria Nelson, Director of the Santa Clara Senior Center, and Sister Kathleen Patrice, C.S.J., Provincial Council, to the Board of Directors. The directors are supported by Lorraine Villarreal (Telephone Pioneers), Jim Simpson (retired), and Colleen Scott (Silver Service) of the Fund-Raising Committee. We are also fortunate to have Rev. Frank Ohse from the First United Methodist Church join the Advisory Board.

GOODBYE

Special thanks are in order for those volunteers who have left our ministry due to having moved, or having returned to school, or due to other obligations:

Shirley and Bob Ottenstein
Helen Lewiston
Jean Webb
Patricia Sandwall
Jane Nance
Beth Walsh
Bette Robinson
Deborah Bergstrom
Gina Vanoni
Marie Thomas
Jane Blankenship
Lenora Viveros
Aileen Stehly

May God shower you with his blessings for the care you have given.

WILL YOUR WISHES BE CARRIED OUT?

One of the frequently neglected aspects of estate planning and becoming older is that of providing for ones' affairs in the event of a disability or incompetency. Such a condition could be either temporary or permanent, but in either case, requires some advance thought and planning to insure that financial matters are properly managed. This is particularly important where the individual involved is living alone or otherwise without the counsel that is normally provided by a spouse or family.

A useful and helpful solution to this problem is that of the Durable Power of Attorney. A durable power of attorney is authorized by Section 2400 of the Civil Code, and permits a person to designate one or more other persons to act on his behalf for those purposes stated in the power of attorney. For this to be effective in the case of incapacity, the document must specifically state that it is meant to apply, or to become effective, upon the incapacity of the principal. Common circumstances, which are frequently forgotten, are the continuing need to pay bills such as rent or mortgage, insurance, and utility. A power of attorney can be as simple or complex as is necessary. It does not require preparation by an attorney, although legal consultation is a prudent step to insure that it says what you want, and complies with statutory requirements for signature, and in some cases, recording.

An additional step to be considered is that of having a joint signatory on bank accounts. This allows access to funds for necessary purposes, but should be undertaken only after

careful thought. The joint owner of a bank account is not normally restricted as to his access to the account, and there is always the risk that unwanted use will be made of the funds. Joint ownership of a bank account should be undertaken only with someone of proven trust who is familiar with your needs.

What should always be considered are the changing wants and needs of the individual. As children grow, and family circumstances change, a will should be reviewed and updated to reflect these occurrences. The child who achieves financial success of his own may not be as needful of a bequest as the grandchild in a single parent family, which cannot afford college tuition. Similarly, worthy non-profit organizations may seem more needy than grown children or friends long forgotten.

The best total answer is to take sufficient time to determine what you want done with your assets, and who you wish to assist you in the event of disability or incapacity. Once death or incapacity occurs, you have no choice at all. The time to plan these things is while you are healthy and independent. Legal assistance is readily available in the community, and at a usually modest cost unless complex arrangements are sought.

Harry Walsh, Attorney and
Chairperson of the Board

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

- the Ventura Friends of the Library maintain a courier service to Ventura residents. Anyone, who wants books delivered to his own home, may contact the Community Libraries Coordinator at 652-7502.

- talking books with recording machines are also available for those who are blind.

- volunteers using their personal automobiles for charitable use, and who do not receive mileage reimbursement from Caregivers, may allow the standard mileage rate of twelve cents per mile, plus parking fees and tolls, on their annual income tax return. Although it is the volunteer's responsibility to keep track of mileage and fees, the Caregivers' Program keeps track of each volunteer's mileage by month and year. This information may be made available on an individual basis upon request at the beginning of the new calendar year.



L to R: Behind the scenes support - Ann Urdaneta and Jean Webb assist with newsletter mailing.

"He who believes in Me, even if he die, shall live; and whoever lives and believes in Me, shall never die." John 11:25-27

John Christie
Marie Emery Draim
Ethel Hook
Emily Landberg
Kay McPhearson
Durette Marie Pace
Margie Zermeno

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
Eastminster 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
College United Methodist Church
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
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