



CAREGIVERS

VOLUNTEERS ASSISTING THE ELDERLY

Spring 2002

Volume 19, Number 1

“Wearin’ o’ the Green” Golf Tournament a Great Success!

Our Tenth Anniversary “Wearin’ o’ the Green” Golf Tournament was sold out to 144 golfers who came to celebrate this special event. For the first time, our tournament was held at the prestigious Spanish Hills Golf and Country Club in Camarillo. The weather was perfect—sunny and warm. The golfers enjoyed a wonderful day of golf and fun contests on the beautiful course at Spanish Hills. The day of golf was followed by an Irish buffet dinner, entertainment by the Claddagh School of Irish Dancing, a live auction and many prize awards.

Our heartfelt thanks go to our major sponsor, **FAIR CONSULTING, INC.** and to our supporting sponsors **Avenue TV Cable Services, Inc.;** **City National Bank, Ventura and Camarillo branches;** **DW’s Sizzling Steaks** (our luncheon sponsor); **Hilford Moving and Storage;** **Santa Barbara Bank and Trust;** **SBC Pacific Bell;** **Steve Thomas BMW,** who provided a BMW Z3 sports car for the hole-in-one prize; **Wells**



Fargo Bank; and **Ventura Printing,** our program sponsor.

Our sincere thanks to our tee sponsors, contributors and all of the generous individuals, businesses, organizations and corporations who donated prizes for the auction, prize awards and golfer bags. They are listed on page 2.

This event would not be possible without the hard work of our Golf Tournament Committee who spent many months planning

Continued on page 2

“Building Bridges” is a reality!!!

by Carol Boatner

February 5, 2002, was a monumental day for us at CAREGIVERS: Volunteers Assisting the Elderly. It was the day that our Intergenerational Program “Building Bridges” officially got off the ground. Our young volunteers come from St. Bonaventure High School’s Interact Club which is sponsored by the Rotary Club of East Ventura. Our first volunteer, **Jezmin Fuentes,** met with 73-year-old **Clorastein Brown.** Clorastein was one of the first CAREGIVERS seniors to respond to our announcement that we would be starting this very special youth program. She has been in the CAREGIVERS program since 1992 when she asked for help after knee replacement surgery. Clorastein enthusiastically invited us for a friendly visit. She warmly greeted Jezmin, our new Youth Coordinator **Marion Holzwarth,** and me outside her apartment door and the magic began.



Clorastein Brown (left) and Jezmin Fuentes

Jezmin and Clorastein chatted and laughed for more than an hour. Jezmin spoke of her school life while Clorastein related some funny experiences she had as a young girl. Then, Marion explained the program more fully to Clorastein and it was decided that her ceiling fan needed a good cleaning. She also mentioned that she could not get her answering machine to work properly. Jezmin happily agreed to come back to clean the ceiling fan and fix her answering machine. Much to

Clorastein’s delight, all tasks were accomplished the very next week.

On January 31 and February 7 CAREGIVERS offered its first training sessions at St. Bonaventure High School’s Interact Club meeting. We were fortunate to have Lenier Baxter, county social worker, to help with the senior awareness training, or what we called “walking in the shoes of the elderly.” First, the students sat in a wheelchair and pretended to have right-side paralysis caused by a stroke. They were only allowed to use one hand to try to propel the wheelchair forward. The students soon found out how difficult it was to maneuver the chair in a straight line. Next, they

Continued on page 3

GOLF TOURNEY – Continued from page 1

and implementing this event. Special thank-yous to Leslie Fair and Andy Killion, co-chairs; Jack Collings; Jim Cunningham, Jr.; Lisa Grissom; Cecilia Macias; Sam Martinez; Patricia Meredith; Judy Remley; Tommy Slater; Shalene Spears; S. Blake Wade; and Norm Weitzel.

A grateful "thank you" to the hardworking volunteers who came out to help on the day of the event, making it a well-run, enjoyable day. They are: Jim Boatner, Sister Barbara Dugan, Jesse Dunlap, Mark Eaton, Judy Frazier, Norma Fulkerson, Tina Killion, Tom Leese, Lynn McWaters, Ken Tougas, Lynn Weitzel, and Mary Yoshioka. Special thanks to State Farm Insurance

First Place winners in the C Flight were: (l-r) John Barber, Greg Phillips, Del Sculthorp, and Eric Jensen. Bicycle donated by Bill's Bike Shop in Camarillo.



pipes to give our golfers a true St. Paddy's day send-off; the students from the Claddagh School of Irish Dancing, under the direction of Teresa Conway, for their delightful evening entertainment; Laurie Oberlander for providing much-needed massages for the golfers and volunteers; and our Master of Ceremonies, Sam Martinez.

Finally, a hearty "thank you" to all of the golfers who came out to celebrate with us and to make this day a resounding success.

The generous efforts of everyone involved resulted in a net profit of \$25,000 which will help us to continue to serve frail, homebound seniors in our County. ♥



Board Member and Golf Committee Co-Chair, Leslie Fair (left) with Board Member Sister Barbara Dugan.

employees: Chuck Brady, Russ Campbell, Jennifer Gilman, Don Felton, Puanani VanDeCar and last, but not least, our youngest volunteers Brian Collings (age 14) and Bennett Collings (age 10).

We thank our professional auctioneers John Eubanks, Jr., and his son, John Jules Eubanks for volunteering their time and expertise to conduct the live auction; Roe Stankovich for photographing the entire event; Mike Reynolds for playing the bag-

Danny White of DW's Sizzling Steak receiving a microwave in the prize drawing.



OUR SINCERE THANKS to our tee sponsors, contributors and all of the generous individuals, businesses, organizations and corporations who donated prizes for the auction, prize awards and golfer bags.

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were asked to wear glasses smeared with Vaseline to simulate cataracts. Through these and other exercises, the students learned about the many barriers that seniors face every day. Although there was lots of laughter at the attempts to complete a task, the lesson was learned. It was a very successful adventure for those who participated.

On February 8, **Michael Martinez** visited **Barbara Blessing**, a sight-impaired senior, and her lovely cat. She was in need of someone to help reorganize some boxes that were on a very high shelf. Under Barbara's direction, Michael cleaned the closet, reorganized the boxes and searched for much needed paperwork. Barbara happily informed us, "Michael was a wonderful help. He was very pleasant to work with, and he did it so willingly. I'm so pleased that he came to assist me."

On another day, volunteers **Ashley Garaza** and **Jezmin Fuentes** visited 81-year-old **Edna Runyon** and her dog, "Tracks." Ashley and Jezmin successfully mowed her back lawn and trimmed her bushes. Edna was delighted and happy that the work had been completed with such efficiency.

Later on in February, **Cody Phillips** and **Sara Mouser** visited **Howard Boroughs**, retired research scientist and ex-Navy man. They were overjoyed to meet his Labrador Retriever, "Riggin." He asked them to dust and wet mop his kitchen floor, which they accomplished successfully. Howard is a student at Ventura Community College and is studying Industrial Arts. He let Cody and Sara try out his chaos pendulum, a device he recently created as a project. Both volunteers were amazed and entertained by his expertise and handiwork. They enjoyed the visit immensely and Cody said, "This was fun and I learned how to mop Navy-style!"

In March, "The Magnificent Seven"—**Rachel Pleis**, **Jezmin Fuentes**, **Leslie Vega**, **Jessica Cooper**, **Marla Pontrelli**, **Joe Goyenede** and **Sara Mouser** went to help **Evelyn Ward**. She had asked if we could find some volunteers to help clean up her yard. She said, "My yard hasn't been taken care of for so long. It would be wonderful if somebody would just tidy it up!" After getting acquainted with Evelyn, all *fourteen* hands went to work! Weeds were pulled, plants were trimmed, hedges and trees were spruced up. Many plastic bags were filled to the brim with clippings.

Previously, CAREGIVERS had contacted the Ventura County Star about doing a story about our new "Building Bridges" program. We were overjoyed when Reporter **John Mitchell** agreed to do it. This resulted in a wonderful article that appeared in the paper on March 31, 2002. **Rachel Pleis**, president of the Interact Club, said in the article, "I do it because I love to see this lovely



Meet Marion Holzwarth, our new Youth Coordinator! Marion was hired in January of this year to coordinate the services between the youth Volunteers at St. Bonaventure High School and the seniors in our CAREGIVERS program. She comes

to us with much experience in non-profits and is the wife of Jim Mangis, CEO of Food Share. Welcome Marion!

lady's face. She's so appreciative. When I am old, I hope someone does the same thing for me." Later in that same week Evelyn said, "I still can't believe it. My yard looks so beautiful and I thank God every day for such caring people!"

Participating in an intergenerational program is a win-win situation for young and old. The youth benefit by seeing first hand that older people are still functioning, contributing members of our society. The seniors are gratified and happy to relate their life experiences and share their knowledge acquired over a lifetime of living and learning. By having the two generations come together, both are given a sense of continuity.

We want to truly thank St. Bonaventure High School, especially Interact Club Coordinator, **Terry Basolo**, the student volunteers and the very special charitable foundations noted in this newsletter. Hopefully, we can expand this program to other high schools in the area in the very near future. ♥

CUSTOM AWARDS & ENGRAVING



(805) 658-2139

AFTER MAY 1, 2002, WELCOME TO OUR BIG NEW SHOP BEHIND TARGET STORE... PLEASE CALL FOR DIRECTIONS. THANKS!

YOUR DONATIONS MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO GIVE A HELPING HAND TO THOSE WHO NEED IT. THANK YOU! (December 2001 – April 2002)

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We are able to provide this vital help to the frail elderly in Ventura County only because of the generosity of people like you. Contributions, gifts to our Endowment Fund, memorial gifts and gifts in honor of a special person or occasion may be sent to our Ventura office. Every gift will be promptly acknowledged. All donations are tax-deductible. Please make checks payable to **CAREGIVERS**. Call us at 658-8530 for more details.

Foundation Grants Make CAREGIVERS' Intergenerational "Building Bridges" Program Possible

All of us at CAREGIVERS want to thank the following foundations for their generous grant awards to support our new Intergenerational "Building Bridges" program. These grants made it possible for CAREGIVERS to get this program up and running in January, 2002. Our deepest appreciation goes to:

The Archstone Foundation	\$20,000
Ventura County Community Foundation, Community Needs Response Fund	\$10,000
The Weingart Foundation	\$10,000
J. M. Long Foundation	\$ 5,000

Please help to ensure that this program will continue to help others in the future by remembering CAREGIVERS in your will or trust.

Executive Director's Message

by Barbara Weinberg

Some exciting things have happened at CAREGIVERS over the past few months, beginning with the move to our new offices in December, 2001. We are now settled in and loving the new, larger space. We wonder how we ever managed before. Please come by and see us – we are at 1765 Goodyear Avenue, #205 (Market and Goodyear), in Ventura.

As reported elsewhere in this newsletter, our new Intergenerational "Building Bridges" program is off and running and has turned out to be as successful as we had hoped it would be. The most wonderful part of the program is that the students and the seniors are building relationships. They are increasing their understanding of each other and enjoying each others' company. Because of the student volunteers, we are able to provide increased services to our clients and also provide services for some seniors whom we could not have helped before. We are so grateful to the foundations and individuals that are making this program possible.

Our office is inundated with calls from frail seniors calling for assistance. They desperately need transportation so that they can keep their medical appointments and get to the grocery store. If you can drive a frail senior to the doctor and back or to the grocery store, you would be making a huge difference in the lives of these people who are isolated and unable to leave their homes without help. Whatever you can do, it will be greatly appreciated. Please call our office to volunteer or for more information (805) 658-8530. ♥

Welcome Aboard:

**Maureen Hening, CAREGIVERS
Administrative Assistant**

Welcome **Maureen Hening**, our new Administrative Assistant! Maureen comes to us with 10 years of non-profit experience. Her expert computer knowledge along with her warm and caring personality make her a true asset to the CAREGIVERS family. Maureen is the mother of six and grandmother to 5-month-old Madison Paige. ♥



Board Challenge Update

Our Board of Directors is hard at work to meet the challenge of raising \$50,000 by Mothers' Day, May 12, 2002. So far, they have raised \$36,000, including \$25,000 from the Golf Tournament. Our Board members welcome your efforts to help them raise the remaining \$14,000. A donation to CAREGIVERS is a wonderful way to pay tribute to your mother. Your donations make a truly significant difference in the lives of so many homebound seniors. Please join the Challenge and make this a very successful Mothers' Day for CAREGIVERS.

\$10,000 Grant From California Cares

CAREGIVERS is grateful to the Ventura County Community Foundation and the United Way of Ventura County for their generous award of a Community Cares grant to help stabilize CAREGIVERS' programs in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 tragedy and the slowdown in the economy. These funds will help CAREGIVERS to continue its *free* programs for the many frail, homebound seniors in our County who are in great need of in-home assistance and transportation. Our deepest thanks! ♥



**Vehicle donations
help our cause!**

Our charity receives 100% of the net proceeds

For more information call: **(800) 203-2940**

CAREGIVERS

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CAREGIVERS' MISSION – To provide a reliable personal relationship between one volunteer and one elder in need of assistance. Without the kind of neighborly services we offer, frail elders may find themselves living in unfamiliar, impersonal institutions, with a debilitating sense of having lost both independence and dignity. CAREGIVERS, an interfaith effort, matches volunteers with elders who need non-medical assistance, thereby permitting many of them to remain in the familiar and cherished surroundings of their own homes longer than would otherwise be possible.

CAREGIVERS was founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet in collaboration with Trinity Lutheran Church, Ventura; First United Methodist Church, Ventura; Sisters of the Holy Cross; National Council of Jewish Women; First United Methodist Women, Ventura; First Presbyterian Church, Santa Paula; Ventura County Church of Religious Science; and the Aid Association for Lutherans.

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