

# CAREGIVERS

## The Buenaventura INTERFAITH Volunteer Program

Sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet

Winter 1991

Volume 8 Number 4



*Evelena and Lester Mitterer*

### RETIREMENT??

"My husband, Lester, was just about to retire. I thought perhaps that after our working years, we'd relax and travel a bit. I am active in our Church Circle and United Methodist Women Group and in the Spring of 1989, it was announced at our meetings that VOLUNTEER CAREGIVERS needed a coordinator. When no one volunteered for 2 months, I called to see what would be involved. Well, as it turned out, it's been a wonderful involvement for both of us. When a person has a need and we can respond, they come to know there is someone they can call on, even for a little reassurance; you may feel like you've done so little but they often tell you you've done so much!"

Born in Iowa, married 45 years, described by Lester as "beautiful, shy and bashful", retired from Ventura County Schools Library -- these statements reveal only a hint of the person of faith and love that is Evalina Mitterer. Volunteers like Evalina and Lester are the very soul of the Buenaventura Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers Program and a special treasure to those they serve!

### COME LIGHT THE TREE WITH US!

Our Holiday Party will be held at JOSEPHS on Thurs. , Dec. 5th from 2 - 5 and 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. All of you involved in Volunter Caregivers are warmly invited to celebrate this season of love with us.

In a song about volunteers called "Points of Light" these words are written: "There are heroes whose name we never hear, A dedicated army of quiet volunteers ... If you see what's wrong and you try to make it right, you will be a point of light."

As we light our tree December 5th, we'll be remembering and thanking God for each one of you who contributes to our work through prayer, financial support, volunteering and committee work. For each of you is truly a "point of light" for others.



Contents	HAPPY AND BLESSED HOLIDAYS!
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## TO CARE AND SHARE . . .

### The "Bear" facts about our Annual Recognition Dinner ...



Our annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner was held at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Ventura on October 1, 1991. For the first time, we had a theme and that theme was Teddy Bears. The hall was decorated with all kinds of bears; red balloons bobbed and flew over everyone's heads putting one and all in a festive mood! Craig Ploss, President of the Board of Directors, introduced Father W. Baumgarten from St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Santa Paula, who gave the invocation before we consumed the scrumptious Italian meal, and the delicious cakes which were donated by the Royal Bakery, 4726 Telephone Rd., Ventura. Miss Jennifer Dean played the piano throughout the meal and added to the merriment when we all sang, "The Teddy Bears Picnic" song. Sister Jane then told everyone about the origins of Teddy Bears which was very informative.

We were so pleased to award and 8th bar designating 2,700 hours of service to Winnie Smith and Ellen Appel. They sure are special to us! Everyone left "beary beary" happy having shared a "beary" special night.

### Congratulations to the following for their generosity in serving others:

#### PINS - 300 Hours of Service

Rose Berg	Keith Johnson
Gloria Blocksom	Tracy Lamprecht
Paul Burke	Jeanne Lavasseur
Sandra Butler	Susanne Maas
Virginia Camarillo	Cindy Malecky
LaVona Carter	Eleanor Mapes
Frank Cavola	Joanne Michaud
Jackie Chaudier	Sheri Oelschlager
John Chaudier	Phyllis Oman
Millie Darter	Eda Edell
Jane Dugan	Craig Ploss
Mary Eckberg	Maria Pontrelli
Kathryn Ferrier	Caroline Reibold
Sharon Fleur	Arline Riland
Virginia Fraser	Frances Rodgers
Jackson Frishman	Tom Thomas
Mary Ellen Glycer	Peggy Weigland
Marion Hovet	Kandy Wilhellm Getty

#### BARS - 600 to 2700 Hours of Service

John Atkinson	Nadine Newhaus
John Baker	Betty Patterson
Carol Basralian	Mary Anne Pichotta
Janet Bechtel	Nicholas Pichotta
Jack Bowen	Joan Ploss
Joan Burke	Joan Rollins
Joyce Cantrell	Dorothy Schupbach
Susan Cheek	Mildred Snowden
Mary Clark	Mary Solomon
Wayne Dugan	Jerrye Stumpf
Betty Ewin	Nichita Taylor
Louise Forgey	Harry Walsh
Virginia Fraser	Ken Wood
Carmela Ladiana	Keith York
Carolyn Luftenberg	
Irene Lu	
Evalena Mitterer	
Lester Mitterer	
Florence Multer	



## PROGRAM NOTES . . .

### • from Ventura

Our coordinators have been on the front page lately -- they ALL deserve applause! Joining their ranks since the last issue is Joan Ploss. Both she and her husband, Craig, have been truly dedicated to the VOLUNTEER CAREGIVERS' program for a long time. Thanks, Joan! She takes on this role in addition to working full-time and continuing as volunteer to her dear friend/person served, Ida Miller. Since September 1988, Joan and Ida have been "a match". Another point of light in our community.



Joan Rollins

Joan Rollins received well-deserved recognition for her volunteer services from the Chamber of Commerce at a beautiful award ceremony at

the Harbortown Resort. Congratulations, Joan!

Recently, Jack Bowen drove to the Elms to escort Catherine Donnelly to the Mission to celebrate her 90th birthday with her church family; a very special event!

Welcome back to life, to Michelle Fox, who was mistakenly listed in the "In Memorium" column last time!

Elena Taylor's going to be a mamma -- congratulations to you and Alberto! This young couple have contributed hours and hours to the tender care of Barbara Ford and Anna Donohue. Dianne and Joseph Aoun had a baby girl! Much happiness to all of you!

Special appreciation to Joyce Cantrell for her generous assistance here in the office! And to Juanita Taylor and Valerie Clark -- many thanks!

Three members of the Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council visited our offices this fall. Ronnie Tipton, Carmen Arroyo and Lindsey Burola are seniors with life experience and personal knowledge of the challenges of life in the later years, and they serve a vital role as advocates for the needs of elders in Ventura County. The Area Agency actively seeks to learn of your concerns. You can write to them at 505 Poli St. Ventura, 93001.

### • from Santa Paula

It was so great to have some Santa Paula volunteers carpool over to Ventura to participate in our annual recognition dinner at the Knights of Columbus Hall on October 1st. I'm happy to report that they all had a wonderful time.

May I welcome the following new volunteers: Nancy Ayers, Lucky Lueckfeld, Joanne Lowrance, Malcolm Peters, Edna Schmidt and Marlyss Lee.



Santa Paula Volunteers: Frances Blair, Dorothy Hutchinson, LeVere Crun

Upon attending a meeting at the Community Center sponsored by the Area Agency on Aging, the top priority voiced from most of the people there was the need for a minibus or some kind of transportation. They also indicated a need for more in-home support and telephone reassurance for the graying population in Santa Paula. We at VOLUNTEER CAREGIVERS fill all those needs in the context of our assigning a volunteer to help out a senior with their daily living activities.

Remember this poem from our dinner?

One never knows how far a word of kindness goes  
One never sees how far a smile of friendship glees  
Down through the years the deed forgotten reappears  
One kindly work, the souls of any here have stirred  
Man goes his way, and tells with every passing day  
Until life's end, "Once unto me he played the friend"  
He cannot say what lips are praising us today  
We cannot tell whose prayers ask God to guard us well  
But kindness lives, beyond the memory of Him who  
gives.

# TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS, WE SAY THANK YOU

July 25, - November 10, 1991

## INDIVIDUALS

Anonymous  
George & Ellen Appel  
John M. Atkinson  
Marguerite Axelrod  
Helen Backe  
Mrs. Virginia Baptiste  
Jeanette C. Battey  
Gordon/Louise Beller  
Dr. Dorothy N. Bogdanow  
Mary Braitman  
Virginia A. Camarillo  
Elsa A. Chianese  
Ethel M. Clifford  
Ellen Dick  
Ethel M. DiMatteo  
William Dover  
Mr./Mrs. Wayne Dugan  
Ellen B. Eden  
Vera Florine  
Ilona Fulop  
Bertie Gaertner  
Mrs. Ralph Gimblett  
Mr./Mrs. Jose Gutierrez  
Mr./Mrs. William Hannah  
Mr./Mrs. James Harrison  
Nova I. Hayes  
Jymmye R. Hitch  
Mrs. Hubert Horn  
Viola Jensen  
Vernon & Rosemary Kelley  
Anna C. MacGillivray  
Opal Mason  
Sophie Mason  
Evelyn C. McRae  
Frances Mostert  
James/Pat Moynagh  
Josefa W. Myer  
T. Nahaskian  
Michael & Cynthia Nichols  
Robert G. Nicklas  
Mrs. Edrie Packard  
Mary G. Riordan  
Kenn/Barbara Ritza  
M. H./Jean Robertson  
Marette Rogers  
Anna K. Roth

Violet Ryder  
Roger/Pat Schmitz  
Vivien A. Slazak  
Dora A. Smith  
Winnie Smith  
Leona Stephens  
Charles R. Switzer  
Loretta Terry  
Mr./Mrs. Frederick A. Ulam  
Mr./Mrs. Frank Whitney  
Richard H. Wibbelmann

## ORGANIZATIONS

Altrusa Club of Oxnard  
San Buenaventura Mission  
Christian Service Committee of the  
Assumption Church  
Joseph P. Reardon Funeral Chapel  
Sacred Heart Church  
Our Lady of the Assumption  
Church  
NARFE #190 of Oxnard  
Trinity Lutheran Church

## IN MEMORY OF:

Eleanor Froebe  
Robert Laubacher  
by  
Jim & Genny Basso  

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Honorable Peter J. Donoghue  
by  
Mary Donoghue  

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Glenda Hendrick  
by  
George & Ellen Appel  
Mrs. Vergie Berger  
Margaret Gilliam  
Dr. & Mrs. Steven Glaseman  
Martin Morehart  
Dr./Mrs. Robert Parrish  
Myra A. Wertz

Dearie Hampton  
by  
Ronnie Tipton

Eileen Kiely  
by  
Vi Ryder

Robert Laubacher  
by  
Jim & Genny Basso

Mattie Matlock  
by  
B. F. & Kay Peterson

## IN HONOR OF:

In Memory of:  
Glenda Hendrick's  
Birthday-10-29-1991  
by  
Estella Hendrick

## IN MEMORIAM:

### Persons Served

Lucy De Witt  
Margaret Densmore  
Charles Draper  
Ruth Huston  
Louise Shook

### Volunteer

Dr. Fremont Koch

### Staff

Glenda Hendrick

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# MESSAGES . . .

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## • from the Director

This is the time of year we begin to prepare for the holidays. A time to slow down, maybe, and recall the values that the holidays are again reminding us to remember.

This newsletter is also a good time for me to take this opportunity to express my thanks to each of you for your support of Volunteer Caregivers. I will be leaving the Volunteer Caregiver program but want to encourage each of you to continue your interest and support. It is a program vital not only to this area but also vital nationally as evidenced in the changing life patterns in our society. The program has grown consistently from the beginning and during this recession, it will be all the more important that you keep this ministry in your prayers and help out in any way that you can. Sister Jane Kelly will be a continuing presence in the Ventura office and her contributions this last year are known to each of you.

Our recent Volunteer Dinner attests to the wonderful community spirit and involvement of all ages. I pray that this will grow. Carol Basralian has the program functioning well in Santa Paula and the congregations there know of her efforts and successes. The Board of Directors and Advisory Board have a good grasp of the program with plans that should keep everyone busy.

Recently, our fundraising efforts have added another excellent dimension, especially the "Salute to Distinguished Seniors" and the Community Cuisine, both visions of our first Development person, Glenda Hendrick. Glenda died this last September so please remember her in your prayers.

May you experience a deep peace and joy during the coming year. Thanks to each of you.

## • from Development

The Board of Directors on behalf of the Ventura and Santa Paula communities, extends to Sister Patricia Callahan our profound gratitude for her outstanding work since 1984. Her heartfelt concern for the homebound elderly has made these two communities safer and more loving places to live. Our best wishes go with her and I'm sure you will be seeing her around Ventura.

Our second annual "Salute to Distinguished Seniors" Dinner will be held the evening of January 25, 1992 at the Saticoy Country Club. Our honorees include:

### **In the Professions:**

Dr. Leo Tauber and Ms. Margaret Keller

### **In Church Ministry:**

Sr. Carmelita Padilla S.M. and Rev. William Hendren

### **In Volunteer Services:**

Mrs. Louise Forgey and Mrs. Johanna Dudley Overby

### **In Business and the Arts:**

Mr. Floyd Hair and Mr. George Stuart

### **In Philanthropy:**

Mrs. Virginia Faria Baptiste and Mrs. Jymmye Hitch

This festive event will include a social hour, gourmet dinner, entertainment and will culminate in the honoree's shared life's stories. Each one has contributed to the community based on the values and extraordinary experiences of their lives.

Join with us in congratulating these outstanding citizens. If you would like to attend, call the office at 652-0566.

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## Calendar

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Office closed for Christmas Vacation  
Coordinators' Breakfast  
Board of Directors and  
Advisory Board Meeting  
Closed for holiday, Martin L. King  
"Salute to Distinguished Seniors" Dinner  
Closed for holiday, President's Day  
Coordinators' Breakfast

December 23rd - January 1st  
January 8th, 8:30 am @ Marie Callendar's  
January 16th, 7 - 9:30 a.m.

January 20th  
January 25th, 6:00 - 10:00 p.m.  
February 17th  
March 11, 8:30 a.m. @ Marie Callendar's

# Buenaventura Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers

Sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet

Volunteer Director: Sister Jane Kelly S.N.J.M.  
Volunteer Director for Santa Paula: Carol Basralian

## Volunteer Caregivers: matched ... with ... the homebound

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

### A Ministry in Ventura:

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

### A Ministry in Santa Paula:

St Sebastian's Catholic Church  
First Presbyterian Church  
St Paul's Episcopal Church  
Assembly of God Christian Center  
United Methodist Church  
Santa Paula Christian Church-  
Disciples of Christ  
El Buen Pastor United  
Methodist Church  
Our Lady of Guadalupe  
Catholic Church  
Trinity Lutheran Church (M.S.)

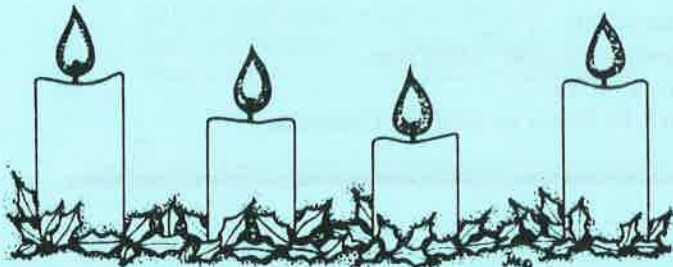
Tax deductible contributions or memorials may be made to:

### **VOLUNTEER CAREGIVERS** and sent to the Ventura Office

Ventura and Main Office: Santa Paula Office:  
261 North Catalina at St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
Ventura, CA 93001 117 No. 7th St.  
805-652-0566 Santa Paula, CA 93060  
M - F 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. 805-525-5006 M, W, Th 9-12 noon

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

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# CAREGIVERS

The Buena Ventura *INTERFAITH* Volunteer Caregivers Program

JOSEPHS — 261 North Catalina Street

Ventura, California 93001

(805) 652-0566

HOLIDAYS, 1991

Dear Friend:

A gift that gives hope to others lasts long past the Holidays. Your gift to CAREGIVERS means a great deal to all of us, and right now we need your gift to continue to serve the frail elderly.

Do you wonder what your money buys? Quite frankly, it buys TIME. QUALITY time. Last year, the trust, encouragement and neighborly assistance given by CAREGIVERS volunteers added up to 37,000 hours spent with those who called for help, and more than 50,000 miles of transportation to and from needed medical visits, shopping, errands, banking, etc.. Since 1984 we've coordinated and monitored these services in Ventura; two years ago we were able to expand to Santa Paula. The time given to support the frail elderly helps many of them to remain independent; for those caring for an ill family member, the visitor offers the opportunity to get out to take care of business, to go for medical treatment for themselves and to take a blessed break from the full-time work of caretaker.

Someone listens. Someone cares, and knows how to help. We're here to answer the calls that have come from England, Mexico, and all parts of this country as distant family members frantically search for help for an elderly relative living here.

Our volunteers depend on us too. Recruited through the Churches, we screen and orient them to the work. Then we "match" each with one elder. We're there for them in crisis. We're here to listen and help. We're there to support them in the daily ups and downs, and in those awesome times of letting go of someone they've grown to love, someone who became a friend.

That's the CAREGIVERS story. Our goal is to raise \$20,000. This letter will reach 1,000 homes. If every one of them sent \$20 we'd reach our goal, and what a relief that would be! But whether you can give less or much more, your gift is gratefully received. It takes many people to make a program a success - THANK YOU for being a partner in this work.

May this season of Light bring blessings to your home.

Board of Directors

#### Board of Directors

Sr. Sharon Baker

John Chaudier

Sr. Sharon Ninteman

Pat Oberg

Sheri Oelschlager

Craig Ploss

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