

News You Can Use



Faith in Action
National Network

**Issue No. 23
2011**

August 25,

Executive Director Transition

The *Faith in Action* National Network regretfully accepted Nancy Sutton's resignation in July. Nancy brought a wealth of experience as the National Network's first Executive Director. She came on board at the beginning of 2011, and during her short tenure she secured a \$50,000 grant from The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, oversaw the development of our new website, brought state charitable filings up-to-date, and spent many hours on the phone addressing challenges of local programs and encouraging communities interested in starting a new volunteer caregiver program.

While the search is underway for a new Executive Director, the Board of Directors has appointed Jan Irish to serve in the interim. Jan served on the *Faith in Action* National Network's Board since March of 2008. She resigned from the Board on August 1, 2011, to accept the position as interim Executive Director. Jan was the Director of *Faith in Action* in Newberg, Oregon, from its inception in 1995 until she retired in 2010. Her prior experience included teaching, mission work in Africa, and doing fund development for the Girl Scouts. Jan will work part-time and may be reached at (503) 537-6985 or jjirish.nvcn@gmail.com.

Applications for the Executive Director are now being accepted. A [job posting](#) is available on the National Network's website.

Funding Ideas

Home Instead Foundation

Home Instead Senior Care is one of the world's largest franchise networks providing non-medical home care and companionship services for seniors. In 2003 they created a Foundation which has given over \$1 million in grants and gifts to 98 local community programs. To find out how your program can apply, visit www.homeinsteadseniorcarefoundation.org.

Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative Capital Grants

The Department of Transportation has joined with the Department of Veterans Affairs, Labor, Defense, and Health and Human Services to establish an initiative that will improve transportation options and mobility for America's veterans, service members, and their families through the Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative Capital Grants Program. For more information, go to www.fta.dot.gov/veterans. All applications (including revisions if applicable) for the Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative Capital Grants Program are due by 12 Midnight Eastern Daylight Time on **September 16, 2011**.

Walmart

Through the Local Community Contribution Program (LCC), Walmart stores support the needs of local communities by providing funding to organizations which work to improve the lives of their associates, customers, and neighbors. For more information,

Chicago National Conference A Big Success

Faith in Action program staff and volunteers gathered in Chicago on August 1, 2, and 3 to celebrate "Volunteers: The Power of the Compassionate Heart." All those attending were touched by the stories of how volunteers have impacted the lives of the elderly and those with long-term, chronic illnesses throughout the country.

Conference attendees were motivated by **keynote speaker Luther K. Snow as they learned to look at their communities with cups that are half full.** Luther led participants through the identification of assets and connecting dots between those assets, then had them "vote with their feet" to select projects that were of interest to them.

Susan McCoy closed the conference with an inspirational presentation to encourage and uplift caregivers. Speaking from her personal experience, Susan touched the hearts of everyone with her openness, compassion, and reflection of her own caregiving experiences.

Conference participants had the opportunity to learn about social networking, fundraising, working with congregations, recruiting volunteers, and a wide variety of other topics in breakout workshops. There were times for sharing, networking, and building friendships.

The **First Annual Volunteer Recognition Banquet** was held on August 2. Twelve programs nominated local volunteers for the Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Award. The winner of the Award was Margery Tonks of Interfaith Caregiver Project of Christiansted, Virgin Islands. This 93-year-old "Living Legend" has "donned her caregiver hat and worn it proudly for fifteen years, giving and receiving, teaching and learning, all in the name of commitment and dedication." Says Elisa McKay, Project Director for Interfaith Volunteer Caregiver Project, "We want to be like Marge Tonks when we grow up!"

Other nominees included:

- Alice Anton, *Faith in Action*, Sewickley, PA
- Kathryn Beernink, *Faith in Action* of McHenry County, Crystal Lake, IL
- Howard Dorsey, *Faith in Action* Caregivers, Inc., Wheeling, WV
- Janell Faletto, *Faith in Action: Supporting Senior Independence*, Sammamish, WA
- Beverly Jenkins, *Faith in Action* Care Program, Shepherd's Center of Greater Winston-Salem, Winston-Salem, NC
- Carol Nama, Respite Volunteers of Shiawassee, Owosso, MI
- Betty Okamoto, Project Dana, Honolulu, HI
- Zippy Ostroy, FriendshipWorks, Boston, MA
- Glynthly Kottmann, *Faith in Action* of the Quad Cities, Port Byron, IL
- Roberta Pearce, Hospice of the EUP - *Faith in Action* Bridging Program, Sault Ste. Marie, MI
- Frank Pierson, Interfaith Community Partners, LaGrange Park, IL

Each nominee received a trophy. The National Network congratulates Margery and all the volunteers who were nominated by their local program for this very special recognition.

The **2012 National Conference** will be held in California on August 7, 8, and 9. The location will soon be announced. Be sure to jot down the date and plan to join us!

Alzheimer's/Dementia Topic of September Webinar

Mr. Michael Verde, Founder and President of Memory Bridge: The Foundation for Alzheimer's and Cultural Memory, will present a webinar in September on behalf of the National Network. Memory Bridge creates programs that connect people with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias to family, friends, and other people in their local community. They also create programs that reveal to the general public the depths of memory that dementia does not erase.

Since the establishment of Memory Bridge in 2004, the organization has created an

interview guide used by the Library of Congress Veteran's History Project, designed and implemented an award-winning curriculum and school program called "The Memory Bridge Initiative," produced a PBS documentary entitled *There is a Bridge*, and launched an art exhibit called "Mapping Lives: The Art of Listening."

We know you will want to join us in September as Michael tells us more about how Memory Bridge can help us provide a higher quality of services to our care receivers. Details regarding the date and time of the webinar are not quite complete, but be sure to watch your inbox for a notification when registration becomes available.

Invite A Friend

Invite a friend to join the *Faith in Action* National Network, and if they join by November 20, 2011, you will receive a \$20 coupon to use in the FIANN Storehouse! How about encouraging board members to join as individuals? Or encouraging neighboring programs to join up! There might also be agencies or organizations in your community which serve similar populations or provide similar services who would benefit from membership. Remember, a growing membership leads to sustainability for the National Network and increases opportunities for networking and support for all our programs, including yours!

My program joined the National Network because we believe in the value of neighbors helping neighbors, and we wanted to be part of the volunteer caregiving movement across the nation.

Faith in Action, Sewickley, PA

Gear Up for Fall with *FIA* Storehouse Items

Remember that the FIANN Storehouse has lots of supplies to help you kick off your fall events! Our new items include:

- Go green with our reusable black **grocery totes** that feature the *FIA* logo on one side. This is a great way to promote the *FIA* name in your community! Totes are only \$2.75 each. These proved to be *very popular* at our recent national conference in Chicago!
- Our handy **key-lights** illuminate easily with just the press of a button, feature four removable keyrings, and sell for only \$2.50 each.
- The perfect gift for your volunteers who are providing services to your care receivers, our personal sized 8 ml. **penspray hand sanitizers** clip easily to shirt or pants pocket. Only \$1.50 each.
- You can never have enough note paper handy, especially notes that will stick where you need them! Our new **sticky notes** come bundled in a package of four pads that contain 25 sheets each for only \$1.50.



Check out our new [color brochure](#) of all the items currently available. To order, simply complete the [order form](#) and mail to the National Office at 1359 National Road, Wheeling, WV 26003. Orders may also be faxed to (304) 243-5983 if paying by credit card (Visa, MasterCard, or Discover). Please be sure to include a copy of your program's tax exemption certificate with all orders.

Not a National Network Member? Joining is Easy!

Membership dues are only \$120 annually, and check out these benefits ...

- Significant savings on conference registrations. Members saved \$65 *per registration* at this year's event in Oak Brook.
- Access to members-only resources.
- A 10% discount on *FIA* branded merchandise in our Storehouse.
- FREE participation in training conference calls offered monthly by your *Faith in Action* colleagues.

- Networking and leadership opportunities.
- Participation in the annual nomination and election of National Network Board members.

Why not take this opportunity to join the National Network and strengthen the national volunteer caregiving movement? For information on how your program can join, contact [Kelly](#) at the National Network office, or download a [Membership Application](#) here.

***Faith in Action* National Network Board and Staff**

National Network Office Staff:

Interim Executive Director: Jan Irish
Administrative Assistant: Kelly McAninch

National Network Board Members:

Janet Seckel-Cerrotti, President
Tracey Holt, Vice-President
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To contact any member of the Board of Directors, please send an inquiry to [Kelly](#) via email or phone at (877) 575-4932.

Let Us Hear From You

The *Faith in Action* National Network wants to hear from you. In addition to keeping us current with staff changes, program updates, and address changes, you can let us know if there are topics and resources you would like to see in *News You Can Use*. To contact the *Faith in Action* National Network, send an email to [Kelly](#) at the national office.

News You Can Use is a publication of the *Faith in Action* National Network. The mission of the organization is to support members of the National Network and to create new, sustainable interfaith volunteer caregiving programs. Membership is open to any individual or organization who believes they can benefit from the *Faith in Action* National Network.

The *Faith in Action* National Network is incorporated in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and maintains an office at 1359 National Road, Wheeling, WV 26003. We can be reached by phone (877) 575-4932 or via email at kelly@fianationalnetwork.org. Our website is www.fianationalnetwork.org.

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