Senior Companion Program News

Spring 2011

Our Vision

To serve the elderly with presence, compassion and advocacy.

Our Mission

With respect and recognition of the dignity and value of each human being, the Senior Companion Program enhances quality of life for older adults through friendship, socialization and advocacy.

Our Goals

- Provide friendship and social interaction for older adults.
- Connect older adults with needed resources for quality of life.
- Encourage older adults to use their gifts in service to the community.
- Advocate for the rights and well-being of older adults.

A Spring Message

Sister Joyce Ballweg

After the "Million-Dollar Blizzard" we heard so many awesome stories of how people reached out to one another and offered assistance. Whether it was shoveling, preparing a meal, or working overtime/extra time because of the need, there was a common mission of making sure others were safe and not in harm's way. Listening to these stories reminded me of how the Senior Companion Volunteers, in season and out of season, offer companionship to those they visit and in turn the person visited offers friendship, appreciation and gratitude.

One little snowflake after another and another...created the huge snow piles. One little act of kindness after another and another... portrays generous people. One little smile after another and another...makes for a happier world.

As we march into the season of Spring, may we continue to be aware of the nurturing lessons nature teaches. Tiny sprouts burst forth throughout this awakening season. Day after day, month after month, year upon year, nature's ageless yearnings unfold before us. Every season of our lives offers its gifts of:

newness & freshness
sameness & ordinariness
bitterness & coldness
sweetness & warmth
hardship & death
courage & truth
vision and possibility.

Accepting and bundling these gifts afford us the opportunity to weave our unique story of a well-seasoned life. We know it takes time to grow a mighty redwood, to carve a canyon that is grand and to form the magnificent Tetons.

With Gratitude

Donations Received from November 16, 2010 to February 15, 2011

In Memory of Barbara Sharp

Gloria & Bernie Brown
Christine Pasinski & Nancy Smiegowski

In Honor of Dawn Walsh

Paulette Kissee

Other Donations

John Deardorf
Eleanor Sorenson
Eleanor Brooks
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Marcia Meracle
Eleanor & James Reynolds
Marilynn & Art Skantz
Carol Marshall
Jeanne & Timothy Crawford

In Kind Contributions

Home Instead Health Care
St. Rita Parishioners
Sacred Heart Mission Circle

Stoplight Volunteer

Grace Christian, a citizen of Ghana, West Africa. She has been a legal resident of America for many years. Before coming to Wisconsin to live with her daughter and son-in-law, she volunteered and worked in Shands Hospital and other hospitals in Gainesville, FL. Grace was an x-ray technologist and volunteered in her spare time. The disabled people benefitted from Grace's generous, gracious and caring service.

Grace loves being with people! She enjoys playing cards and scrabble with anyone who has time and wants to play. We welcomed Grace as a volunteer in the Senior Companion Program (SCP) last October. Her calm yet joyful enthusiasm is contagious and delightful. Grace offers her time working in the SCP office as well as visiting others. She says: "I love volunteering. It is the best way to give back some of the good gifts I have been given in life."

Visitee Survey

During this month of March, the visitees living in their home or in an apartment will be receiving a phone call from Judy Sorensen, a Senior Companion Office volunteer. Each visitee will be asked a few questions. The responses will help us evaluate the Senior Companion Program and assist us as we plan and move into the future.

SCP STATS

We ended the 2010 year with 59,426 volunteer hours. What a tremendous contribution of time the SCP Volunteers spent with the seniors of our Racine community!

Need a Ride?

Susan Feehrer
Executive Director of ITN Racine County

Life is a journey, and much of it is spent in a car. What happens when you can't or decide not to drive any longer?

ITNRacineCounty™ (Independent Transportation Network) provides a safe, dignified, affordable transportation option for seniors aged 60+ and those with visual impairments. It replicates the feeling of personal car ownership by giving rides in private vehicles, 24 hours per day, any day, for any reason.

Riders pay an annual membership fee and set up a prepaid Personal Transportation Account™ to pay for their rides – no need to worry about carrying cash or tipping a driver (riders pay about half of the true cost of the ride; ITN's community fund-raising efforts make up the difference to keep rides affordable).

Volunteer drivers provide this door-through-door, arm-though-arm transportation service. So if you enjoy driving, have time and want to volunteer your services, check into the requirements and benefits of being a volunteer driver in this program. We not only need people to register and request rides/ users, we need volunteer drivers.

What does all this mean?

Seniors can maintain a healthy and active lifestyle! Keep hairdresser appointments. Continue to play cards. Shop Downtown. Go to the doctor. Go to church. Volunteer.

Seniors no longer have to burden friends and family for a ride. Adult children enjoy less stress, fewer days off from work, and better visits.

The community is supporting our seniors, and the seniors are making new friends.

Giving up the car keys doesn't mean you have to give up your lifestyle or the things you enjoy.

To learn more, plan on attending ITNRacineCounty's Community Tea being hosted by Siena Center on Thursday, March 24, at 9:30 a.m.

Too excited about this new transportation option to wait? Call Susan Feehrer at 262-885-1177 or 262-554-1091 or email: susan.feehrer@itnracinecounty.org

ITN Community Tea
Siena Center
5635 Erie Street
9:30-11:00 a.m.

Calendar

March 8	Elderly Services Network
March 9	Ash Wednesday
March 17	St. Patrick's Day
March 24	ITN Community Tea
April 5	TRIAD
April 12	Elderly Services Network
April 24	Easter Sunday
May 3	TRIAD
May 5	Cinco de Mayo
May 8	Mother's Day
May 10	Elderly Services Network
May 15	St. Monica's Health Fair
May 30	Memorial Day

Websites

www.adrc.racinecounty.com	Racine County Aging and Disabilities Resource Center
www.itnracinecounty.org	Independent Transportation Network

An Irish Blessing

Always remember to forget
The things that made you sad.
But never forget to remember
The things that made you glad.

Always remember to forget
The troubles that passed away.
But never forget to remember
The blessings that come each day.

Senior Companion Program
5635 Erie Street
Racine, WI 53402

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Memorials

Lists of all financial and non-monetary contributors are available at the SCP office.

Tax deductible contributions may be sent to:
The Senior Companion Program
Racine Dominican Ministries, Inc.
5635 Erie Street
Racine, WI 53402

We are grateful to all who contribute in any way to the program's success and invite you to share in our ministry.