

**We Make a Life By What We Give**

*-- Winston Churchill*



*Ozaukee h.e.i.p. Corner lends equipment to those in need.*

## For those in need, h.e.i.p. is just around the corner

As of April 3, Interfaith Ozaukee has opened its Ozaukee h.e.i.p. Corner, a health equipment lending program that provides durable medical equipment such as walkers, wheelchairs and canes to Ozaukee County residents in need.

Whether someone is recovering from hip or knee replacement surgery, has had a stroke that makes them unsteady on their feet or has injured a leg or foot, such equipment makes their lives more manageable. But purchasing such equipment can be expensive and prohibitive.

"That's where Interfaith Ozaukee comes into the picture," says Maureen Squire, ICO executive director. "We are Ozaukee County's mobility managers, and our mission also extends to people who need some help getting around."

The Ozaukee h.e.i.p. Corner is located

at Interfaith Ozaukee's offices in the Family Enrichment Center of Ozaukee County, 885 Badger Circle, Grafton. It is open from 1 to 4 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays by appointment.

Members of the community will find a selection of gently used medical equipment that can be borrowed for a \$10 - \$20 deposit. The deposit is refunded when the item is returned, checked over and put back into circulation.

Interfaith Ozaukee also is accepting donations of walkers, wheelchairs and canes in good condition. We are unable to accept larger items because of space limits.

To find out more about the program, call (262) 618-2191.

The program has been made possible through United Way Northern Ozaukee and other grants.

## ICO's second van to aid more clients in wheelchairs

Feb. 16th happened to be the one year anniversary of Interfaith Ozaukee receiving its first wheelchair-accessible van. It also is the day ICO's second van arrived.

While it was a significant day for Interfaith Ozaukee, it was an even bigger day for the seniors of Ozaukee County who are served by the organization.

"We take our goal of helping seniors to remain independent in their own homes very seriously," says Maureen Squire, Interfaith Ozaukee's executive director. "That goal extends to those who get around in wheelchairs, and now, with the arrival of our second van, we can serve even more clients who are in that situation."

Both are white, both are based



*Interfaith Ozaukee's second van has arrived, allowing volunteers to transport more clients who use wheelchairs.*

on Chrysler/Dodge minivan platforms and both have a ramp that opens to the back of the vehicle.

Interfaith Ozaukee program

manager Megan Beine has been busy taking care of all of the details associated with the new van: license, insurance, registration and more. She

also will train volunteers who are likely to drive the new van instead of using their own cars as they take clients to appointments and on essential errands.

Volunteers who attended a recent monthly Kaffee Klatsch were excited to hear about the new arrival, and decided it needed a name. So from now on the original van will be called "Vanna," and the second? Just call it "Van."

If you are interested in joining Interfaith Ozaukee as a volunteer and would like to be trained in driving the vans, contact Megan at (262) 376-5362 or go to [www.interfaithozaukee.org](http://www.interfaithozaukee.org).

The need for new volunteers is growing, so come on board!

# We're ramping up our efforts this spring

**"If you're not moving forward, you're falling behind."**

That's a popular saying when it comes to business and technology, but it also is extremely relevant to what we are doing here at Interfaith Ozaukee. As the senior population grows significantly in Ozaukee County, so is our client roster. If we didn't keep working and innovating to meet their needs, not only would we fall behind, we also would let them down. And that's not acceptable to us.



Here are some ways that Interfaith Caregivers of Ozaukee County continues to move forward in 2018 to fulfill our mission of helping area seniors remain independent in their homes.

• **Ozaukee h.e.l.p. Corner** – We have stepped up to start a health equipment lending program that provides access to durable medical equipment for people who have been injured or who have had surgery. For just a \$10-\$20 deposit, those in need can borrow wheelchairs, walkers and

canes for as long as needed. It is a program that has worked well in Washington and Waukesha Counties and we are patterning our program on their successes.

The Ozaukee h.e.l.p. Corner kicked off on April 3 and is located in the Interfaith Ozaukee office at the Family enrichment Center in Grafton. If you are in need, here's the phone number to call to make an appointment: (262) 618-2191.

• **Our second van** – Some of our clients need to be transported to their appointments in wheelchairs and some of our volunteers prefer to drive an Interfaith Ozaukee vehicle instead of their own. We took delivery of a second wheelchair accessible van in February to further meet the needs of both clients and volunteers.

• **Senior Bulletin** – Four times a year we research and publish an informative fact sheet for senior clients and their caregivers on issues that are specifically relevant to them. So far topics have been falls and dementia. Included with this newsletter is the latest bulletin, on loneliness.

To obtain previous bulletins on dementia and falls email: [info@interfaithozaukee.org](mailto:info@interfaithozaukee.org).

• **AmazonSmile** – We are always looking for additional funding sources so that our services remain free to our clients. One such source is AmazonSmile, a program that donates a portion of the price of every purchase on [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) to select charities and non-profits – including ours! Please consider signing up and designating Interfaith Caregivers of Ozaukee County as your beneficiary. It won't cost you a thing!

• **Driven to Serve** – You have heard us mention time after time that we have a huge need for more volunteers. Because our existing volunteers are the best ambassadors for our mission, we have come up with a program that rewards them for spreading the word and signing up new volunteers.

Details about the program are on Page 3.

Since 2012 we have had a 200% increase in requests for services. Needless to say, that keeps us on our toes.

We thank you for your continued interest and support, which helps us to keep moving forward – for the betterment of our clients and our community.

--Maureen Squire

## ICO tagged for pilot program

Wouldn't we all feel better about aging if we could approach it with confidence and dignity?

That's the goal of the Aging Mastery Program, which is sponsored by the National Council on Aging and the Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources.

Because not everyone can participate in that 10-week program, the sponsors condensed it into a take-home kit that covers the basics, according to Harvey Padek, of the GWAAR.

"You could think of it as the AMP Program in a box," he explained while making a presentation to the Interfaith Caregivers of Ozaukee County staff.

ICO is involved because it is among the handful of organizations chosen to participate in a pilot program that will gauge the effectiveness of the AMP kits. Of 1,200 kits to be distributed nationally in the pilot program, 400 will be distributed in Wisconsin and 30 of those will go to ICO clients.

"We are pleased to have been selected," said Interfaith Ozaukee Executive Director Maureen Squire. "We have seen the kit and are so impressed with how it can guide seniors to take ownership of how they age to help make this time of their life more rewarding."

The kit includes an Aging Mastery Playbook, a daily checklist, a deck of affirma-



Thirty ICO clients will receive AMP kits.

tions and more. The kit is valued at more than \$50, but will be distributed free of charge to participants as part of the pilot program – with one proviso: those who receive the kit are asked to complete and return a short questionnaire about it by May 1.

"I think seniors will find it inspiring, motivational and uplifting," Padek said.

"I also think the pilot program is a good fit with Interfaith Ozaukee because the goal of the kit is to help people remain independent and at home as long as they want to," he told the staff, "and that's your goal, too."

## Mark Your Calendar

Interfaith Ozaukee's Volunteer Appreciation event and annual meeting will be held from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 27, at the Family Enrichment Center, 885 Badger Circle, Grafton.

## Shopping on Amazon brings smiles to ICO

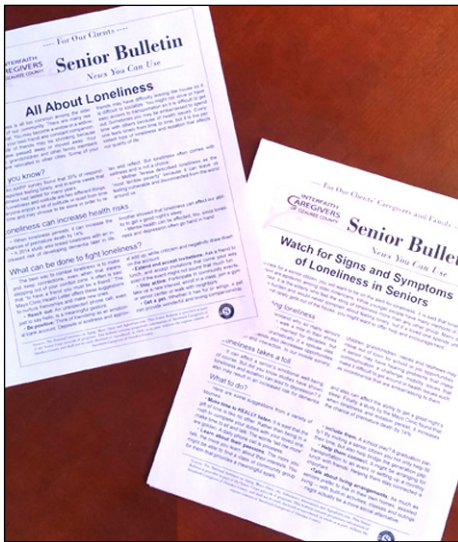
Interfaith Caregivers of Ozaukee County is now an official registered organization with AmazonSmile.

What this means is that anytime you shop on [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and order items, you can designate Interfaith Caregivers of Ozaukee County as a beneficiary and the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to us. There is no additional cost to you. You would pay the same whether you participate in the Smile program or not.

If you are interested, all you need to do is go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), choose Interfaith Caregivers of Ozaukee County and start shopping. But be sure to specify OUR full name because there are other Interfaith organizations out there with similar titles.

And thanks for making us SMILE.





*The Senior Bulletin is written for both senior clients and their caregivers.*

## New Senior Bulletin addresses loneliness

Mother Theresa called loneliness "the most terrible poverty." It can leave us feeling vulnerable and disconnected. And it is all too common among the elderly.

An AARP survey, for example, found that 35% of elderly respondents reported feeling lonely, and that in some cases that loneliness had lasted for many years.

As seniors lose their spouses and friends, they may find it more difficult to get around. Or they may develop health issues that prevent them from being active and engaged. Loneliness or isolation often is the result.

But there are ways to stay connected and combat loneliness.

That is the subject of the most recent ICO Senior Bulletin, a publication produced by Interfaith Caregivers of Ozaukee County that addresses issues that are relevant to senior citizens. Each Senior Bulletin provides information for seniors as well as their caregivers. Past Senior Bulletins have addressed dementia and falls.

A copy of the Senior Bulletin is distributed to our clients and volunteers. It also is attached to this mailing. If you have ideas for future Senior Bulletins, please let us know.

# Volunteers to be rewarded for spreading the word

## Driven to Serve project aims to increase number who serve ICO clients

Interfaith Caregivers of Ozaukee County has launched a new volunteer incentive program, called **Driven to Serve**, that awards a \$50 gift card to existing volunteers who sign up a new volunteer to help meet the needs of our senior clients.

"Our volunteers often talk about the rewards of helping others and how their work with Interfaith Ozaukee is so meaningful," says Maureen Squire, executive director. "They are our organization's best ambassadors, so we decided to develop a program that rewards them for spreading the word and encouraging their friends, family members or associates to come on board with us."

Interfaith Ozaukee's need for volunteers is significant. That's because both the nation and our local community are experiencing a demographic shift that is unprecedented.

Never before has such a large part of the population reached such an important age-related milestone within a limited time frame. As the Baby Boom generation ages, it is estimated that an American turns 65 every 17 seconds.

Closer to home, Ozaukee County has the highest percentage of seniors in southeast Wisconsin and the number is growing. In 2000, Ozaukee County's senior population was 13%; by 2035 that number is expected to grow to 25%. Currently, according to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, of Ozaukee County's 87,500 residents, 15,000 are 65 or older and 29.67% of households have a member who is 65 or older. Almost 28% of seniors in our community live alone.

This demographic shift means more area residents are in need of Interfaith Ozaukee's services, such as transportation to doctor and therapy appointments and trips



*Sign up a volunteer, get a gift card!*

to the pharmacy, grocery store or other essential errands and friendly visits.

Just a few years ago Interfaith Ozaukee signed and trained one new volunteer for every two new clients. The current ratio stands at one new volunteer for every 10 new clients. There is work to do and the **Driven to Serve** campaign is one way the organization is diligently moving forward to recruit more volunteers.

The demographic shift brings with it challenges, but also opportunities.

"As Baby Boomers retire, they often find they have more time for activities such as volunteering," Squire says. "Whether they have a little time or a lot, they can make a difference to the seniors of this community who need our help."

As part of the **Driven to Serve** campaign, when existing volunteers spread the word about Interfaith Ozaukee's good work and sign up other volunteers, they will receive a \$50 gift card to a local retailer. The gift cards would be awarded after the new volunteer is vetted, trained and starts accepting assignments.

Interfaith Ozaukee's mission is to help seniors live independently in their own homes. They don't want to be a burden; they just need a little help along the way. And now the rewards of helping can include a gift card! *The program is supported by several community sponsors.*

## Won't you consider supporting Interfaith Ozaukee's mission?

Interfaith Caregivers Ozaukee offers services free-of-charge to clients to support our mission of enabling seniors, including those with limited mobility, to remain independent in their homes. Therefore we rely on generous contributions to support our programs.

Since 2012, Interfaith Ozaukee has experienced a 200% increase in requests for services. This increase directly relates

to the increasing aging population and the many challenges seniors face as they seek to maintain their independence.

Interfaith Ozaukee is grateful for the generous contributions from individuals, congregations, community organizations, foundations and grants. Won't you consider donating?

You can provide a gift in support of a specific program or our general operations.

Gifts are welcome in many forms including both lifetime gifts and bequests after death. Tribute gifts can be made any time in memory of a special person in your life. It is a generous and thoughtful way to acknowledge a person's life events.

To donate, simply send a donation through the mail using the enclosed envelope, or make a donation securely on our website at [www.interfaithozaukee.org](http://www.interfaithozaukee.org).

## Interfaith Caregivers of Ozaukee County

885 Badger Circle  
Grafton, WI 53024  
(262) 376-5362

[www.interfaithozaukee.org](http://www.interfaithozaukee.org)  
[info@interfaithozaukee.org](mailto:info@interfaithozaukee.org)

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Serving Saukville, Port Washington, Belgium,  
Fredonia, Mequon, Thiensville, Cedarburg,  
Grafton and surrounding counties.

### Contact Us

Call (262) 376-5362. Here are the  
staff extensions:

**Executive Director Maureen Squire**  
Ext. 104

**Program Coordinator Megan Beine**  
Ext. 102

**Program Coordinator Denise Loveridge**  
Ext. 103

**Marketing & Fund Development  
Coordinator Kathy Meulemans**  
Ext. 708

**Project Administrator Matt Manes**  
Ext. 705

**Project Manager Nancy Herrick**  
Ext. 707

### Our Mission

Interfaith Caregivers of Ozaukee  
County's mission is to provide  
voluntary support services to se-  
niors, including those with limited  
mobility, in Ozaukee County.

## Interfaith Ozaukee Board of Directors

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**Executive Director** – Maureen Squire

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Nelson, Jim Ott, Cindy Shaffer,  
Judy Schwerm

## We're on Facebook!

If you're on Facebook, do a search  
for Interfaith Caregivers of Ozaukee  
County. When you find us, "Like" and  
"Follow" us. It's a good way to keep up  
with what's new at Interfaith Ozaukee.

## Your Mobility Management Resource



Interfaith Ozaukee's Mobility  
Management Program provides  
travel coordination assistance  
for seniors, including those with  
limited mobility, throughout Oza-  
aukee County.

Interfaith Ozaukee is the prima-  
ry door-through-door provider in  
the area, including out-of-county  
transports.

A Transportation Service Pro-  
viders information sheet is in-  
cluded with this newsletter.

Thank you to our transportation partners who are  
supporting our vehicle program.



of Northern Ozaukee

This program is funded in part by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) as authorized under 49 U.S.C &  
5310 Mobility Options of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program. (CFDA 20.521)