

We Make a Life By What We Give
-- Winston Churchill

Ride Along provides preview for potential new volunteers

One of the best ways to learn about almost anything is to actually give it a try. With that in mind, Interfaith Ozaukee Seniors Corps recently launched its Ride Along Program.

The program encourages potential volunteers and newcomers to ride along and learn firsthand from an experienced volunteer driver. It gives them the opportunity to meet clients, see volunteers in action and to ask questions of those in the know.

"It's the best way we could think of for others to experience the rewards and camaraderie that results when volunteers develop a rapport with the seniors they serve," says Denise Loveridge, Senior Corps project director who helped develop the Interfaith Ozaukee program. "We can tell them it's both fun and rewarding, but it's better for them to experience that themselves."

The first participants of the program were staff members at Port Washington State Bank.

Hayley Trier, a senior teller, rode with Ed, a volunteer who was driving client Julie home from her dialysis appointment. The second



Hayley Trier, right, rode along with Ed, an ICO volunteer, as they took a client to a dialysis appointment.

participant was Shelly Hartmann, a vice president and compliance officer at PWSB. She rode with Jim as he transported Carrie to her eye doctor appointment.

The newcomers came back from their

Turn to **Ride Along**, P.2

New online resource helps county residents find the help they need

Have you ever wondered if there is an organization to help when you are facing challenges, but have no idea how to find out?

Many people find themselves in that situation from time to time. They have a problem or concern, but don't know where to turn.

For that reason, several area non-profit groups have worked together to create an online resource directory of human service agencies for Ozaukee County residents. Called the Ozaukee Initiative, it can be found at www.ozaukeeinitiative.org.

Because there are people in need in Ozaukee County, it's important that they know where to find support and that there are organizations that can help.

All human service agencies in Ozaukee County have been invited to post their specific information on the website, which is searchable by need and by agency. Information is available on the website to help the community get in touch with local resources, get involved through volunteering

Turn to **Initiative**, P.2

Mequon van location convenient for many

With so many of its volunteers and clients living in the southern part of the county, Interfaith Caregivers of Ozaukee County decided to find a location in that area for one of its wheelchair accessible vans.

The Mequon Fire chief was contacted, and he gave the department's permission to park one of Interfaith Ozaukee's vans at the Mequon fire station at 11800 N. Port Washington Road.

"This is a convenient location for so many people we serve, and for the volunteers who transport them," said Megan Beine, program coordinator for Interfaith Ozaukee. "Now our volunteers who live in Mequon or Thiensville no longer have to drive all the way to Graton to pick up a van."

Interested in volunteering to drive the van? Call Interfaith Ozaukee at (262) 376-5362.



For the convenience of volunteers and clients alike, one of Interfaith Ozaukee's wheelchair-accessible vans is now being kept at the Mequon Fire Station located on N. Port Washington Road.

Volunteers drive Interfaith Ozaukee mission

We see it at the grocery store and at nearby restaurants. We experience it at the movie theater, where people worship and where they fill their prescriptions. Everywhere we look, we observe anecdotally that the senior population of Ozaukee County



is growing. Now statistics show the increase is quite phenomenal.

Between 2000 and 2015, the number of seniors 65 and older in Ozaukee County increased 50%. Those 85 and older increased nearly 100%.

County population projections from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission indicate that by 2030, the number of seniors 65 and older is expected to double and by 2040 those 85 and older is expected to quadruple, compared to the year 2000.

What does this mean for Interfaith Caregivers of Ozaukee County? If recent history is any indication, we already know the im-

pact will be significant.

Completed client requests for assistance by ICO volunteers grew from an average of 133 per month in 2012 to more than 400 per month in 2018. That's an increase of more than 200% in just 5 years. In 2015, Interfaith Ozaukee coordinated nearly 6,000 trips by clients and volunteers; in 2018 that grew to 10,262 trips.

These findings are positive in some ways, mainly because more people are becoming aware of our services and we are helping them remain as independent as possible in their own homes.

But the findings also raise concerns.

As the population continues to age, our services are more in demand than ever. So that we can continue to meet the needs of those we serve, we need a constant stream of new volunteers.

Between 2016 and 2018, Interfaith Ozaukee increased the number of new volunteers screened, trained, and on-boarded annually by nearly 90%, even as the number of new clients increased by 130% – trends that will need to continue in order to meet needs of

our growing senior population.

So this is my request to you:

- If you are an Interfaith Ozaukee volunteer, you have my thanks and respect. Each and every day that you reach out to a senior in our community you make a positive difference in their lives. If you have friends or family members who have some time to volunteer, please encourage them.

- If you are a family member or caregiver of one of our clients, please tell others about the good work we do and explain to them our pressing need for more volunteers. The message means something coming from you because you know firsthand how ICO matters in your loved ones' lives.

- If you are a member of the community and have any free time, please consider becoming a volunteer. You can do it on your own schedule and, I promise you, the rewards are immense.

Thank you so much for your interest in our organization. Can we count on you?

Maureen Squire
Executive Director

Annual event celebrates 25 years of help to others

More than 100 people gathered in December for Interfaith Ozaukee's annual fundraiser, held at the North Shore Country Club in Mequon. The December event was all the more special since it was a celebration of ICO's 25 years of service in Ozaukee County.

Volunteers, members of the community, clients, their families and more came to show their support for Interfaith Ozaukee's mission. Some came specifically to hear former Wisconsin Gov. Martin J. Schreiber who spoke about his tireless efforts as a caregiver.

Schreiber is the author of "My Two Elaines: Learning, Coping and Surviving as an Alzheimer's Caregiver." He described some of his experiences, using humor and compassion and a personal touch in sharing what he has learned from his ongoing journey with his wife, Elaine, who has Alzheimer's.

Once again State Rep. Jim Ott served as master of ceremonies.



Executive Director Maureen Squire spoke of how Interfaith Ozaukee has grown from its humble beginnings in a church basement to serve hundreds of clients. She also talked about the growing need for services as the population ages, and how Interfaith Ozaukee is positioned to serve the increasing client base.

The audience heard briefly from client Arlene Hauser, who graciously shared her story and the support she gets from Inter-

Turn to **Fundraiser**, P.3

Ride Along, from P. 1

Program offers a preview

rides enthused and ready to volunteer.

When asked how the ride-along went, Hayley replied, "It went great and I am definitely interested in signing up."

We at Interfaith Ozaukee are excited to welcome more newcomers to our Ride Along Program so they can see firsthand that serving is a gift to both the client and the volunteer.

The rewards are many, especially since Interfaith Ozaukee volunteers can devote as much or as little time to the organization as they desire or can fit into their schedule

To learn more or schedule a ride along to see if volunteering for Interfaith Ozaukee is right for you, contact Loveridge, at (262) 376-5362 or dloveridge@interfaithozaukee.org.

Initiative, from P. 1

Resource can help those in need

and get informed about community events and needs.

The overarching vision for the initiative is stronger non-profits and a stronger community.

Members of the steering committee include executive directors from local non-profit agencies. They include representatives from Interfaith Caregivers of Ozaukee County, Advocates of Ozaukee, Habitat for Humanity, the Family Enrichment Center of Ozaukee, Ozaukee Family Services and United Way Northern Ozaukee.

As a result of their efforts, Ozaukee County now has a searchable resource to identify the range of local human service agencies in one place for the community to access.

If you are looking for help or looking to help others, go to www.ozaukeeinitiative.org.

Symposium focuses on seniors and scams

One in 10 seniors will experience some sort of abuse, including physical, financial or emotional, according to the National Council on Aging. One study estimates that less than 8% of those cases are ever reported to authorities.

As a way of preventing this serious problem, Interfaith Caregivers of Ozaukee County, in partnership with Senior Corps, hosted a symposium in November that featured experts in the field of elder abuse.

Presenters were Lois Roeske, vice president and branch manager for Port Washington State Bank; Kathy Glaser, dementia care specialist from the Ozaukee County Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC); Liza Drake, director of Ozaukee County Department of Human Services; and Jane Miller, a lawyer specializing in elder law and estate planning.

"More than \$900 million is lost to fraud each year in this country," said Lois Roeske. Credit card fraud, mail fraud, imposter scams – all are used to victimize our older population.

"Being aware and in control of your finances is a good first step to combat this problem," she said.

Kathy Glaser, dementia care specialist with the Ozaukee County ADRC, addressed ways to identify early signs of dementia and steps to take to protect those with dementia from abuse. These steps include establishing a medical power of attorney and signing up for the Ozaukee County Safety Registry, a free service for those who are in danger of becoming confused or disoriented and may, as a result, become lost.

Liza Drake is the director of Adult Protective Services (APS), a division of the Ozaukee County Department of Human Services. Drake explained the services of APS and the ways it partners with other organizations, such as the ADRC and local law enforcement, on addressing and preventing



Symposium speaker Liza Drake explained the importance of preventing elder abuse.

Mark your calendar

Plan now to attend the next ICO symposium from 8:30 to 10 a.m. Tuesday, May 14, at the Family Enrichment Center, 885 Badger Circle, Grafton.

Community leaders will speak on senior safety, addressing topics such as preventing falls, crimes targeting seniors, Silver Alerts and the Ozaukee Registry.

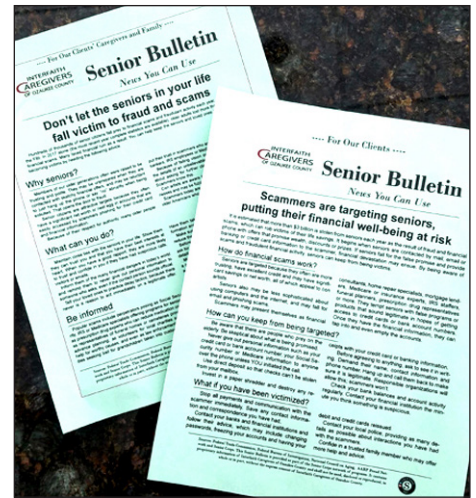
Registration starts at 8 a.m.

RSVP to dloveridge@interfaithozaukee.org or call (262) 376-5362

elder abuse.

Protecting your medical treatment desires and your financial assets are important steps for adults. Jane Miller, an elder law and estate planning lawyer, explained how designating a medical and financial power of attorney can protect you and the steps it takes to set them up.

The event was the first symposium planned by Interfaith Ozaukee and Senior Corps in a series that will address issues that affect seniors. The community symposium was free and open to the public.



In conjunction with its Senior Symposium, Interfaith Ozaukee, in partnership with Senior Corps, put together a Senior Bulletin on fraud and scams. It offers information for clients, family and caregivers on how to keep seniors safe from scammers who put seniors' financial well-being at risk. If interested in receiving a copy, contact Interfaith Caregivers of Ozaukee County at (262) 376-5362.

Fundraiser, from P. 2

Event celebrates 25 years

faith Ozaukee volunteers.

Sandra Christensen was honored for the more than 20 years she has been a volunteer, giving her time and efforts to transport seniors throughout the county.

This is the second year ICO has included a raffle as a part of the event. A big shout out to the wonderful donors!

The success of the fundraiser wouldn't have been possible without the help of event sponsors: Aurora Health Care, the

Shopko Foundation, the Ted Grob Corporation, Vesta Senior Network and the WeEnergies Foundation.

Thanks also to table sponsors and donors Kelly Grebe, Mueller Funeral Homes of Ozaukee County, North Shore Engineering and Port Washington State Bank.

A big thank you to all who attended and gave a gift of support whether financially, with their time or with their interest.

H.E.L.P. is on the way

As the first anniversary of Ozaukee Interfaith's H.E.L.P. Corner approaches, it's easy to see the positive impact it already has had. The program lends gently used medical equipment to residents for just a \$10 deposit.

Once the call was out, the Ozaukee County community responded by donating more than 60 pieces of durable medical equipment, including 8 wheelchairs, 42 walkers, and 22 canes. So far, more than 35 residents have rented the

equipment, realizing a savings of more than \$5,500.

The Ozaukee H.E.L.P. Corner is open from 1 to 4 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays by appointment.

It is located at Interfaith Ozaukee's offices in the Family Enrichment Center of Ozaukee County, 885 Badger Circle, Grafton.

If you are in need of durable medical equipment, please call to make an appointment at (262) 618-2191.

Interfaith Caregivers of Ozaukee County

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

www.interfaithozaukee.org
info@interfaithozaukee.org

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

Contact Us

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Our Mission

Interfaith Caregivers of Ozaukee
County's mission is to provide volun-
tary support services to seniors, in-
cluding those with limited mobility, in
Ozaukee County.

Interfaith Ozaukee Board of Directors

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We're on Facebook!

Do a Facebook search for Interfaith
Caregivers of Ozaukee County. When
you find us, "Like" and "Follow" us as a
way to keep up with what's new at ICO.

Your Mobility Management Resource



Interfaith Caregivers of Ozaukee
County's Mobility Management Pro-
gram provides travel coordination as-
sistance for seniors, including those
with limited mobility, throughout Ozau-
kee County.

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

A Transportation Service Providers
information sheet is included with this
newsletter. For information on the com-
plete new Ozaukee Find a Ride Guide,
call (262) 376-5362.

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



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)