

Neighbors Helping Neighbors



INTERFAITH
CAREGIVERS
OF OZAUKEE COUNTY

**Helping seniors and adults with limited
mobility remain independent in their homes**

Looking back, looking ahead

“I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples.”

- Mother Teresa



A report from **Maureen Squire**, executive director

It has been a year of change here at Interfaith Caregivers of Ozaukee County. Or perhaps I should say a year of progress.

In our continuing effort to meet the needs of seniors and those with limited mobility in Ozaukee County, we applied for, and received, major funding for wheelchair-accessible vans. The first has arrived and we are awaiting the arrival of the second van.

We had to gear up for this new dimension in transportation service by coming up with policies and procedures and also by developing and conducting training sessions for the many volunteers who will be using the van to transport clients. The training is ongoing as we add to our volunteer roster.

The new vans also will allow us to take clients in wheelchairs to appointments outside Ozaukee County, including (but not limited to) Froedtert and the Medical College facilities on the Milwaukee County Grounds.

We also have expanded our personnel and, for the first time, our office is staffed five days a week. This means we can be more responsive than ever to our clients and volunteers.

Because of what we have accomplished in the past year, our structure is now firmly in place to better meet the needs of our community’s aging population as we go forward.

Did you know Ozaukee County has the highest percentage of seniors of all Wisconsin counties? This creates both challenges and opportunities for Interfaith Ozaukee.

The main challenge is that more people than ever need our services. The biggest opportunity is that as the Baby Boom generation ages and retires from the workforce, many of its members are looking for ways to serve their community in their free time. As we endeavor to make our mission known, we hope they will come on board, so to speak. Recruiting more volunteers is our main focus now, and in the future.

So, to paraphrase Mother Teresa, we may not be changing the world, but we certainly are casting a stone and creating many ripples that are having a positive effect in the community.

We are neighbors helping neighbors, and we thank you for sharing our vision.

Why we serve...

Interfaith Ozaukee’s loyal team of volunteers steps up every day to meet the needs of seniors in our community. We asked them why they serve:

Because “I have met some wonderful people and it’s an easy way to help both them and myself.”

--Chelene Golownia

Because “I like to keep busy, help seniors and it’s fun meeting new people.

-- Lynn Herms

Because “I recognize the need to help people, our seniors. At last fall’s fundraiser it was pointed out that some volunteers are now becoming clients. We need to be there for one another.”

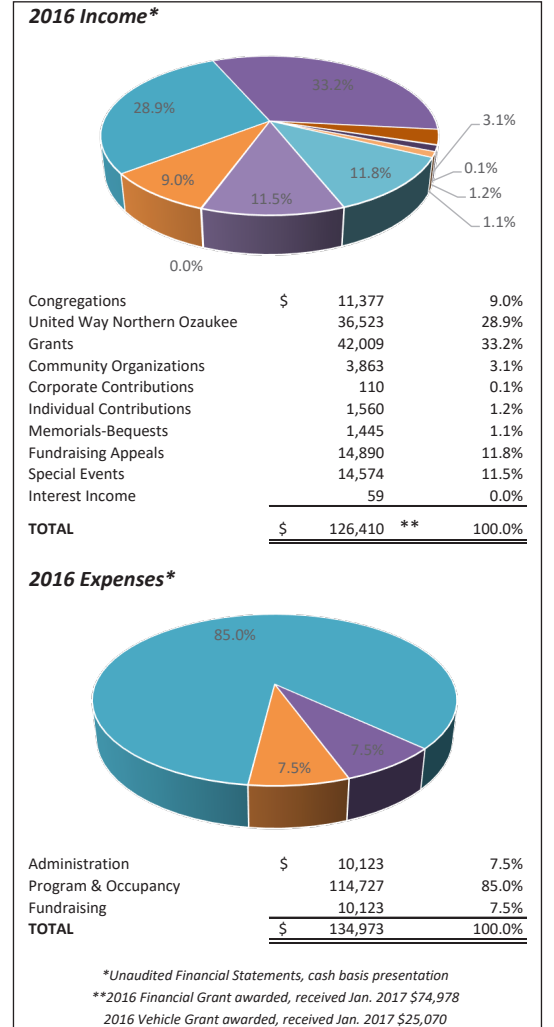
-- Janice Watson

Because “I enjoy meeting new people, hearing their stories and knowing that I’m helping them to stay in their homes as long as they can.”

-- Roberta Blumenberg

Because “I enjoy the people I meet. I enjoy the conversations and I learn from them. They have great insight on life and the world today. I hope when I am in need I can be as upbeat as the people I now help. “

-- Kathy Saeger



1993 Interfaith Ozaukee launches as a Faith in Action model supported by the R.W. Johnson Foundation

1994-1996 Services expand to provide 4,000 volunteer hours and 1,800 service requests

2000-2004 Add respite care and friendly visits to services offered

2005 Expand service to clients with dementia

2007 Begin collaboration with other county organizations and extend outreach, education and program services

2012-2013 Offices move to FEC. Fulfill 99% of requests and provide more than 10,000 instances of service

2014 Report 92% increase in instances of service reaching 700 clients with 400 trained volunteers

2015 Start providing mobility resources for Ozaukee County. Partner with 30 community organizations and 50 congregations

2017 Launch wheelchair-accessible van fleet. In our 24 years we have served a total of 1,000+ clients with 500+ volunteers providing 25,000 transports

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By the numbers

According to statistics compiled by United
Health Care and the Optum Institute,
volunteering is good for you.

94% of volunteers
surveyed said the activity
improves their mood.

78% said
volunteering lowers
their stress levels.

96% said volunteering
enriches their sense of
purpose in life.

95% said volunteering is helping to
make their community a better place.

Won't you join us?

As the Ozaukee County population ages, Interfaith Ozaukee has a critical need for more volunteers so that we may continue to meet the community's needs. Call us at (262) 376-5362 or go to www.interfaithozaukee.org to learn more about volunteering.