



Fall 2022

## Interfaith Caregivers of Polk County

Coordinating volunteers to help seniors and adults  
with disabilities maintain their independence

# I Care News

## Rolling through Roles

### Our Team:

**Program Director**  
Luann Olson

### **Program Assistants**

Raye Darst  
Emily Dressel - WELCOME  
Mickey Gebhard  
Diane Tryon



### Board of Directors:

#### **President**

Jan Carlson

#### **Vice President**

Bryan Shobe

#### **Secretary**

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#### **Treasurer**

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#### **Members**

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### ***Make an Impact - Join a Committee***

Finance  
Long Range Planning  
Personnel  
Public Relations

### **Interfaith Caregivers**

PO Box 833  
St. Croix Falls, WI  
54024

**715-483-8500**

Open M-F 9-4 pm

If you rode the school bus growing up, do you still remember your bus driver?

Even if it was just a smile and "hello" as you were getting on the bus, it's amazing how small interactions like that can leave us with big impacts. Somebody who knows this well is Earl Paulson.

Earl spent 21 years as a school bus driver for Osceola! During that time, he **helped so many** families and really became part of the community - think of how many miles he logged and the number of kids he drove through the years!

After giving so many years to help others, Earl's role has changed. And now **it's our turn as a community, to help Earl** - that's exactly what the staff, volunteers, and

donors at Interfaith Caregivers are doing by **helping Earl get a ride!**

Our volunteers have given Earl a variety of rides including rides to the grocery store and barber, doctor, and voting polls!

After serving so long in the role of "driver", Earl had a hard time asking for help. He said, "I had anxiety because I didn't know what to expect."

*(continued on page 2)*



## Rolling through Roles (cont.)

But he continued to say, "But I was in the car [just] five minutes and knew this was a good thing. It felt like I was talking to a friend."

Earl has a hard time putting into words just how much the staff and volunteers at Interfaith mean to him. Every person he has talked with has been, **"More than helpful, courteous, funny, easy to talk to, felt like family."**

Without Interfaith, Earl says he would have no independence at all. He told us, **"I know that you help. But I don't know if you know just how much you help."**

Now that Earl has used our services multiple times, he'd like

to tell anyone who may be feeling the anxiety that he felt about reaching out, to, **"Do it. You won't regret it."**

Reflecting back on his days in the driver's seat, Earl said that he did it because he simply... wanted to help. He'd like to encourage supporters considering donating or volunteering to do so because **"It's just as rewarding for you helping, as it is for me receiving help."**

We wouldn't be able to help Earl without a community full of supporters like you - *and, in this season of gratitude, for that, we are thankful!*

**To continue helping people like Earl, you can mail us your donation or give online at:**

**<https://www.interfaithpolk.org/donate>**



"Keep Smiling"  
-Earl, "Uncle Sonny"





# The Results Are In...

Thank you to all who completed our client survey! You have brought a smile to our faces and filled our hearts with joy with all of the positive, heartwarming feedback you gave us! Our staff and volunteers love working with you – check out page 4 to see what they said! 😊

We're going through the responses and reaching out one on one to clients that had questions or concerns. If you haven't heard from us yet, you will soon!  
Thanks for your patience!

## Services We Offer:

*Some feedback we received was wondering what services we offer! Check out this list of what we provide!*

- Local rides
- Cancer & Dialysis rides
- Errands and Shopping
- Visits at home
- Help at home
- Minor fix-its
- Library books to go
- Rides to polls for voting
- Friendly phone calls
- Rise & Shine Daily Check-In
- Food Shelf / Grocery delivery
- Light housekeeping (depending on availability)
- Spring & Fall yard work
- Meal Prep



***Thank you Members from  
Bethesda Lutheran Church and  
Polk-Burnett's Electric Cooperative  
for helping with fall clean ups!***



## GET THE SCOOP ON VOLUNTEERING:

### Myths:

- ❌ I have to be available every week
- ❌ I have to log a set number of hours
- ❌ I will be doing hands-on care
- ❌ Getting signed up is complicated
- ❌ The only way to volunteer is driving clients

**FALSE**

### Truths:

- ✓ You get to decide how often you volunteer!
- ✓ Volunteering is flexible - pick as many days as you want!
- ✓ There are no hands-on services we provide!
- ✓ We have a simple process to sign you up as a volunteer
- ✓ We provide many services besides driving (check out page 2 of the newsletter!)



### VOLUNTEER SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS:

- **ALL** of our volunteers agreed that the work they do is **meaningful!**
- Many **recommend** volunteering here!
- Our volunteers are **motivated to serve others and know the importance** of this impact in the community!
- Additionally, they know that their **family would benefit** from Interfaith's services and that the volunteer themselves may need our services one day!

We will continue to go through the results & take all recommendations into consideration!

### NEW VOLUNTEERS:

Lu Evenson  
Margie Hunt  
Jody McDonald  
Mary Peterson  
Jody Pratt



WELCOME

*Thank you for  
going above  
& beyond.*





# What's Happening in the Office?



Emily joined our team in October of 2022. Her work experiences revolve around a central theme – service. Emily brings a natural talent for communication and caring. A born leader, she has spoken and served as a trainer and speaker on both a regional and national level. She enjoys true connections and relationships and is described as a cheerleader, positive light, and inspiration. Join us in welcoming her!



**Emily Dressel**  
Program  
Development

**See back cover for holiday hours!**



## OPPORTUNITIES TO MAKE AN IMPACT



### Are you...

- An individual or group looking for **volunteer hours**?
- Wanting some **social interaction**?
- Looking to **build your resume**?
- Interested** in working with seniors & adults with disabilities?
- Wanting to **try something new**?
- Someone who **loves driving**?
- Searching for a way to **spread love & kindness**?
- Looking to **make a difference** in your community?



MAKE A CAREER OUT OF HELPING SOMEONE!

### HOUSEKEEPER WANTED



Interfaith Caregivers is seeking an independent contractor with a desire to help seniors & adults with disabilities with light housekeeping.

#### Services Include:

Vacuuming  
Mopping Floors  
Dusting  
Washing Dishes  
Cleaning Bathrooms

Be your own boss & set your own schedule!

**\$20/HR**



**If interested call: (715)-483-8500**

\* Insurance is required

**Give us a call!**

**715-483-8500**

We work with a variety of volunteers ranging from high schoolers to seniors!

**We could really use  
YOUR help!**



## Helpful How To's!



### 3 WAYS TO SIGN UP FOR VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

- Give us a call!
- We will call you to let you know about availabilities
- Self-assign yourself on AssistedRides.com



Open the camera on your phone and scan this QR code to watch a tutorial video on how to self-assign yourself! The video also shows you how to log your volunteer hours and mileage!

## Ways to Donate:

### Mail Cash and Checks to:

Interfaith Caregivers

PO Box 833

St. Croix Falls, WI 54024

### Give online at:

<https://www.interfaithpolk.org/donate>

Open the camera on your phone  
and scan this QR code to be  
taken straight to our online  
donation page:



*"I have enjoyed all the Interfaith drivers.  
I don't know what I'd do without them.*

*God Bless Interfaith."*

*-Client*

### ***What do you get the person who has everything?***

Consider gifting a donation  
to Interfaith Caregivers in  
that person's honor!

What a precious gift to help  
seniors & adults with disabilities

**truly be**  
*home for the holidays.*



Follow us on Facebook @Interfaithcares  
Look for fun changes coming soon!!





## GIFTS AND MEMORIALS



Interfaith extends our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to the following for their donations. We do our best to include the names of all donors during this period. If your name was omitted or wasn't printed as you wish, please accept our sincere apologies and let us know so that we can correct our records as soon as possible!

### Donations received June 2, 2022 - October 14, 2022

#### **BETTY'S CIRCLE - MONTHLY GIVERS**

Steve Amos  
Cindy Anderson  
Lynn Braunworth  
Harold Brown  
Jan M Carlson  
Betty Christopherson  
Keith and Linda Faye  
Paul and Kay Foulke  
Ronald and Anne Freeman  
Sheldon & Wanita Frohme  
Grace Community Church  
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James Hendrickson  
Jim and Karen Krupa  
Mick and Leslie Larsen  
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Bill and MarJean Sieberer  
Charles and Kay Sigsworth  
Marlin and Mary Gretchen Snyder  
Deborah Thompson  
Glyn and Cynthia Thorman  
Joy Weinhardt  
Guy and Sharon Williams

#### **INDIVIDUAL DONORS**

Velda Alen  
David & Patsy Anderson  
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Kenneth Wedding & Nancy Ashmore  
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Orval and Edna Johnson  
Gwen Johnson  
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Mike & Mary Sue Morris  
Roger & Celine Mussell  
Linda Nelson  
Margaret Nelson  
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## GIFTS AND MEMORIALS



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 Kwik Trip  
 Osceola Family Eyecare  
 Polaris Industries  
 John and Beth Simon  
 John & Laurie Walsh  
 Bruce and DeeAnna Wikstrom

### **CHURCHES**

First Lutheran Church - Clear Lake  
 Holy Trinity United Methodist Church  
 Immanuel Ev Lutheran Church  
 Moe & Faith Lutheran Churches  
 Peace Lutheran Church  
 St Dominics Catholic Church

### **DONOR ADVISED FUNDS**

AmazonSmile  
 American Online Giving  
 Foundation, Inc  
 Catholic Order of Foresters  
 Mightycause  
 Raymond James  
 Renaissance Charitable  
 Foundation Inc  
 Thrivent  
 Thrivent Choice Dollars

### **GRANTS**

Amery Area Community Foundation  
 Hugh J Andersen Foundation  
 Reynolds American Foundation  
 St Croix Valley Foundation  
 United Way St Croix Valley

### **ORGANIZATIONS**

Indianhead Chorus  
 Town of Alden  
 Z Zurich Foundation

### **IN MEMORY OF...**

#### **Gaylord & Freda Anderson**

Dennis Anderson

#### **Larry Anderson**

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Diana Mangelsen

#### **Dorothea Beecroft**

Sylvia Chaplin

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Sylvia Hansen's Family

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Milltown Senior Citizens Club Inc.

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Pete & Marilyn Peterson

#### **Tom Hultberg**

Carol Hultberg

#### **Mike Jensen**

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#### **Diane Johnson & Donna Gustafson**

Bill & Margie Johnson

#### **Fred Jorgenson**

Marian Jorgenson

#### **Kelly Kiska**

Andy & Marilyn Kiska





## GIFTS AND MEMORIALS



### **Ray Klopotek**

Jim & Karen Krupa

### **Doris Kosloski**

Virginia Johnson

### **Dorothy Landin**

David Cooper and Deb Landin Cooper

### **Gust & Sophie Lau**

Bernice Beattie

### **Bud Lee**

Linda Nelson

### **Lavonne Lumsden**

Robert Lumsden

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Bernice Fox

### **Lydia McLeod**

Joan Wulf

### **Bruce Medchill**

St Croix Valley Senior Center

### **Betty Miller & Joanne Bader**

Bren Nel Ward

### **Leone Montgomery**

Beulah Ecklund

### **Elsa Muller Larson**

David Muller

### **Rosemary Myers**

Elaine Solum

### **Darrel Nelson**

Betty Lou Nelson

### **JoAnne Nelson**

Vic Nelson

### **Mary Nevala**

Marv Nevala

Bob & Sheri Rasmussen

### **Kenneth "Ken" Oman**

Virginia Aasmundrud

Orval & Edna Johnson

Wanda Johnson

Mick & Leslie Larsen

Phyllis Luhman

### **Loved Ones**

Barbara Jorgensen

Donnis Nagel

### **Marlene & Lester Peterson**

Jim & Marlys Route

### **Norman Reed**

Neil & Joan Lillie

### **John & Barb Rud**

Gordon & Marie Kulzer

### **Shirley Satterlund, Jean**

**Murphy, and Rosemary**

### **Myers**

Pete & Brenda Cogbill

### **Anita Siltberg**

Kathie Wilson

### **Ryan Solum**

Virginia Aasmundrud

Bernice Fox

### **Bernadette Tolan**

Jim & Karen Krupa

### **Joan Virkus**

Marian Jorgenson

### **Pat Williams**

Mickey Castellano

Faith Goodroad

Audrey Laue

Cynthia Nelson-Weniger

Ann Randall

The Williams Family

### **Patricia Williams**

Erlene Johnson

### **Wanda**

Russell Boucher

### **IN HONOR OF...**

### **Carmen Brookshaw**

Jeff & Brenda Weber

### **Alice Davis Birthday**

Rhonda Davis

### **Grandchildren-Great Great**

Mrs. Lyle Peterson

### **Karen Krupa's Retirement**

Chuck & MaryJo Arndt

Roger & Celine Mussell

Peter & Sharon Schiebel

### **Connie Muller**

David Muller

**Our office is where the magic happens with your dollars at work! With just 3 full-time and 2 part-time staff, we:**

- Fill out and process client & volunteer applications**
- Answered over 900 phone calls and made over 2000 in September!**
- Schedule client needs**
- Coordinate Volunteers**
- Write handwritten messages and letters**
- Focus on helping more of the community through outreach with our website, social media, face-to-face events, & mailers**
- And more!**

***Thank you for keeping this service in the community!***

**Without your support and generosity,  
we would not be able to keep our  
program up and running!**

*Thank You*





**Interfaith Caregivers of Polk County**

PO Box 833

St. Croix Falls, WI 54024

*Assisting seniors & disabled adults in Polk County, WI*

**715-483-8500**

info@interfaithpolk.org

www.interfaithpolk.org

NONPROFIT

U.S. Postage

PAID

Permit No. 426

Balsam Lake, WI

Interfaith Caregivers is a  
Community Impact Partner of



United Way  
St. Croix Valley



Please call **at least 2** business days in  
advance for a ride or service!

This ensures we have enough time to:

- review your request
- match you with a volunteer
- assess our volunteer's availability
- call you back to confirm.



**We will be closed on  
the following days:**

Thurs Nov 24th  
Fri Nov 25th  
Fri Dec 23rd  
Mon Dec 26th  
Mon Jan 2nd

*We receive many requests a day and do our best to coordinate volunteers as quickly as possible. We try to call you 2 business days in advance to confirm you have a ride. Your volunteer will also be calling you to coordinate.  
Thank you for your help in this matter! We appreciate it!*



***Your gifts of time and money help seniors and adults with  
disabilities remain in their homes this holiday season -  
and that...is priceless.***