

The Center for Volunteer Caregiving

Helping people live independently as long as possible



F A I T H
IN ACTION

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Fall 2004

An Event to Honor YOU!

Volunteers are the backbone of The Center for Volunteer Caregiving! On Sunday, November 7th, The Center will host a Volunteer Appreciation Reception in your honor from 3:30-5:30p.m. at beautiful Magnolia Glen, 5301 Creedmoor Road, Raleigh (just one mile north of Crabtree Valley Mall). Please come! To RSVP, just call 788-2918 and leave a message. Heavy hors d'oeuvres and desserts will be served.

The Center would like to gratefully acknowledge Magnolia Glen for generously providing the food and accommodations, Whole Foods for providing desserts, and AARP for providing volunteer gifts.

Neighbor Spotlight

Rudy and his wife Florence needed help. They were in their 70's, and Florence had an inoperable brain tumor, causing severe dementia. Rudy was Florence's fulltime caregiver, and couldn't even get out to buy groceries. Rudy was grateful when Doug Richmond, a volunteer with The Center for Volunteer Caregiving, went out to purchase groceries for them every week. Doug soon realized that Rudy needed a break from his fulltime caregiving responsibilities, so he offered to take Rudy along for the outing. Doug's wife, Anita, stayed with Florence so that Rudy would feel comfortable leaving.

Anita found out that Florence enjoyed poetry, so she read to her while Doug and Rudy were shopping. Although Florence had severe dementia, she would sometimes begin reciting passages of poetry with Anita as she read aloud to her. The relationship between the couples deepened over the years until Florence passed away.

Today, over nine years since their relationship first began, Doug still takes Rudy shopping and to lunch every Wednesday. When Doug drops Rudy off at his home after their time together, Rudy tells him, "It's been a good day."



Rudy Lebda and Doug Richmond

This true story is a wonderful example of how rewarding it is to provide the types of neighbor-to neighbor services offered by The Center's volunteers to elderly and disabled adults in Wake County: Grocery shopping. Transportation. A friendly visit. Respite care. These tasks that many of us take for granted can mean all the difference in someone's dignity, quality of life, and ability to live independently. Thanks to your efforts, elderly and disabled adults across Wake County are having "a good day" because volunteers took time to provide compassionate care.

Meet Our Board

The Center is pleased to introduce and welcome our 2004-2005 Board of Directors:

Executive Committee

Doug Richmond, Chair
drich53@mindspring.com
Heather Harvey, Vice Chair and Treasurer
Heather.Harvey@rsmi.com
Paul Bamford, Secretary
bamfordp@bellsouth.net

Board Members

Rebecca Andrews
Deron Coy
David Downing
Steve Hardesty
Tracy Hughes
Becky Sansbury
Brenda Steen

Ex-Officio Members

N. King Prather
John Mearns

Executive Director

Mercedes Auger
mauger@ctrvolcare.org

The beauty of autumn also brings the bounty of leaves! Many of our care receivers need help raking or clearing leaves from their properties. If you or a group from your congregation can help, please call us at 460-0567.

Volunteers are unpaid not because they are worthless but because they are priceless.

Matching Grant Challenge—Please Help!



In September, the Stewards Fund of Raleigh awarded a grant of \$30,000 to The Center. The grant also includes a matching challenge: **If we can raise \$11,000 from various donors, The Stewards Fund will match the amount!** Please give generously to The Center and double your contribution through the Stewards Fund matching grant! Your tax-deductible contribution can be mailed to The Center for Volunteer Caregiving, 975 Walnut Street, Suite 311, Cary, NC, 27511. Many thanks to The Stewards Fund for their continued support and generosity!

The Center's Wish List: Office supplies, digital camera, adding machine. Your tax-deductible financial contributions are always needed and greatly appreciated.

Correspondence from a Grateful Daughter

Dear Ms. Auger:

I want to thank you and your staff for all that you continue to do on my mother's behalf. When she moved here from Ohio at the age of ninety-four nearly two years ago, she left behind her family and her independence. Frankly, I was not sure we could find any way to enrich her life with friends or social activity since both my husband and I work and are not available during the day.

I found the Cary Senior Center to be a place where Mom could go and find friends and a social outlet. The problem was that I couldn't find a way to get her there on a consistent, weekly basis! I held my breath when I called your agency, not knowing if it would be possible to have Mom become one of your "clients". Thank you for your very quick, professional response; I was so encouraged and excited when you said you thought you could include her in your program.

The staff, including your wonderful corps of volunteers, has been nothing short of fabulous. Jeanne Lindelow must have ESP! It seems like only minutes pass when I make a call and then hear from Jeanne. She is not only efficient, but so warm and personable!

Mary Ellen Bruno, Sandi Quinn, John Struss, and others have been so dedicated in their transportation for Mom to the Senior Center. Mom speaks so lovingly of these folks; they are very kind to her. It has made all the difference in her quality of life as she does volunteer sewing and plays Bingo and cards with other women at the Senior Center.

Thank you for all that you are doing to make life easier for our seniors. I talk about your agency to anyone who will listen and hope that my enthusiasm will produce more volunteers!

Gratefully,
Joy Mellon

Mark Your Calendars!

The 2005 Bowling Ball to benefit The Center for Volunteer Caregiving will be held on Saturday, February 26th from 6-10 p.m. at AMF South Hills Bowling in Cary. Save the date now, and get ready for a fun-filled night!



Thank you!

We would like to thank our volunteers who served as hosts and hostesses at various homes during October's Parade of Homes. As a result of your efforts, The Center raised over \$1,000!

We also thank everyone who purchased tickets for the 2004 Charity Night, sponsored by Crabtree Valley Mall. The mall offers local charities the opportunity to sell raffle tickets, and participating charities keep 100% of the proceeds. Thanks to your help, we made \$1,584!

Hundreds of elderly and disabled residents of Wake County just "need a little help" to live independently. Please help us spread the word about the work that The Center and its volunteers are doing to meet this tremendous need so that we can help even more of our neighbors! To volunteer or for more information, please call The Center for Volunteer Caregiving at 460-0567.