

Sharing the Caring

A Note from the Director: By: Lisa Ciszczon Brennan - Executive Director
Opportunities All Around 344-8080

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As spring calls us outside into the sunlight and Christians celebrate the risen Christ at Easter, it is apparent that after dark times, light and opportunity present themselves. This spring, perhaps more than in previous years, many of us can see and appreciate the light leading us out of the dark times of the past year.

At Collinsville Faith in Action, we have seen an uptick in the number of people wanting to volunteer so that we can provide our no-cost services to those who need them. We have received contributions from individuals, businesses, and churches. We receive calls and letters of thanks for our services, and it's clear that many of our supporters and clients are optimistic for the year ahead.

In these times of optimism, there are opportunities available where there had been none or few before. In the King James version of Colossians, 4: 5 we hear Paul's words about opportunity. "Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time." We are instructed to do two things: thoughtfully approach those who need us and make good use of our time with our actions and attitudes. One interpretation of the scripture is that two ideas are being presented: "First, wisdom or discernment should be used regarding our actions—our 'walk,'" and the other is "to make effective use of our time". (<https://www.bibleref.com/Colossians/4/Colossians-4-5.html>).

Perhaps your opportunity to work with those who "are without" is right now. At CFIA, we are focused on re-building our volunteer base and assisting people with the Covid-19 vaccines. Volunteers may choose a variety of ways to give of their time and talents including regularly scheduled driving of clients to errands, periodic office work, or a one-and-done special project such as helping us at the annual city-wide garage sale event April 23 and 24. We are looking for Spanish-speaking volunteers to assist us with translation work that can be done from home, and we would love to have a crew of people skilled in home repair and maintenance who could offer occasional assistance to clients with small jobs around their homes.

We are also assisting people with registering for the vaccine, getting transportation to the vaccine sites, and providing information about the vaccine choices. Registration, transportation, and information! Let us know how we can help you, and please let your friends and family know of our effort to assist.

Please also consider becoming a volunteer with us. Call us now to find out how your schedule and skills can be an opportunity to make a light-filled and thoughtful use of your time by helping those in need.



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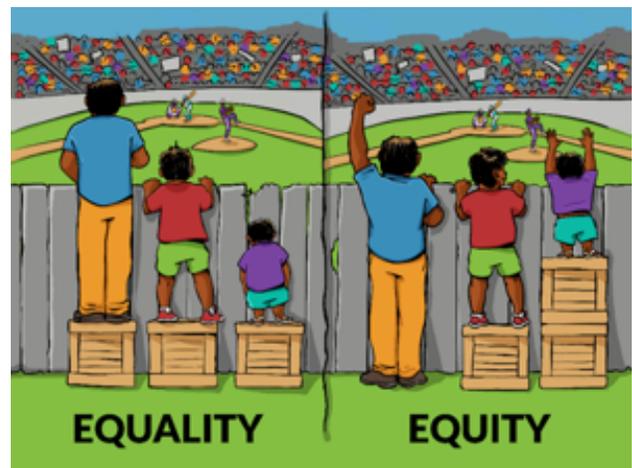


Equal is Not the Same as Equitable

As we serve, we strive to offer opportunities in an equitable manner so that our clients can live as independently as possible. Of course, not all clients have the same needs. For some clients, living independently may mean CFIA provides transportation because the client no longer drives. For other clients, it might mean building a wheelchair ramp so that they can remain in their own home. Of course, not all of our clients need transportation services. Not all of our clients need a wheelchair ramp. The needs of clients and the services we provide are not equal, so our services strive to be equitable rather than equal. Different people have different needs, and CFIA strives to recognize and serve clients in an equitable manner.

Our organization also takes an equitable rather than an equal approach. CFIA brings people together to create a stronger community. We welcome multiple community churches of several denominations to partner with us in putting faith into action through serving others in the

community, especially those 60 years of age and older and people with disabilities. We collaborate with a variety of area businesses, agencies, and individuals to create an inclusive organization. We serve others regardless of their religious affiliation, race, age, income level, gender identification, or ability. Our volunteers do not proselytize but rather, embrace all who seek our services.



Technology Equipment and Training at No-Charge!

Thanks to a generous donation from the Collinsville Unit 10 School District and the Collinsville-Maryville-Troy YMCA, we have received 10 Chromebooks to give to clients who are in need of or would simply like to have a device. These sturdy tablets easily connect to the internet so that users can order groceries online, play games, check the news and weather, or email friends and family. Each has a built-in microphone and camera so that Zoom calls and other online meetings will be accessible. If your computer or tablet is no longer functioning, or if you've never used a tablet, we've got you covered!

If you know someone who needs a device, give us a call. We offer a short training session, some written guidelines on how to use Chromebook, and support if you have questions after training. Users will need to provide their own internet access or use the Chromebook where free Wi-Fi is available.

Answers on Aging

Nancy Pettijohn - Answers on Aging
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Spring is upon us and it's time to apply for or renew those Illinois License Plate Stickers! If you qualify, you can participate in the Illinois Department on Aging (IDoA) Benefit Access Application (BAA) program and save yourself some cash!

The vehicle license plate sticker discount program is administered through the Illinois Department of Aging and processed through an on-line application. As an Answers on Aging specialist, I can assist you in processing this discount, and I can make it easy for you. This is a two-year program that provides a discount for the purchase of vehicle license plate stickers for those over 65 years of age or disabled individuals who qualify based upon the income requirements.

Income Limits per Household Yearly Income

Single-family home \$33,562

Two-person home \$44,533

Three-person + home \$55,500

Only one discount given per household.

Proof of household yearly income must be submitted at the time of application.

Types of income to be reported include: Social Security Income (SSI), pension or annuity earnings, interest, wages, Veterans Administration (VA) benefits, unemployment benefits, gambling winnings, Illinois income tax refund, rental income or cash assistance from the Illinois Department of Human Services or other governmental cash public assistance.

Applications submitted through April 15, 2021 will be evaluated on income from the tax year 2019. Beginning April 16, income from the tax year 2020 will be used on the BAA.

With the cold weather and Covid, the month of February has been slow for calls requesting BAA assistance. We have made 69 contacts during the month with 12 Certificates of Eligibility being completed and filed with the Illinois Department of Aging.

I will begin the next phase of my Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP) training on June 23 and look forward to assisting more of you with your Medicare enrollment. If you are new to Medicare or helping a parent or loved one with their Medicare needs, consider registering for "Welcome to Medicare Virtual Medicare Fair." This is a NO-COST informative learning session for the public. Registration begins in April. To register in April or to get more information, go to <https://www.shiptacenter.org/about-medicare/news>

CALL 618-344-7788 FOR HELP
GETTING YOUR VEHICLE LICENSE
PLATE DISCOUNT



Thank you for your contribution

In Memory of...

Jack Hanvey from Terry Young
 Virginia York from Jim and Pat Schapp
 Mary Lynn Stringer from Nancy Berry
 Mary Lynn Stringer from Jim and Pat Schapp

Year-End Appeal in Memory of...

Family Members from Mary Sue Schusky
 Sharon Wrigley from Jean M. Buchana
 Beulah Kalbfleisch from Jim and Pat Schapp
 Winona Barberis from Ronald and Nancy Barberis
 Bruce & Dee Mort from Daniel W. O'Connell
 Leroy Kalbfleisch from Doris Mayer
 Dillon Dalbfleisch from Doris Mayer

Business Donations

Alpha Storage (Collinsville)
 A Wildflower Shop
 (Edwardsville)

Year-End Appeal Church and

Church-Related Donations
 Caseyville United Methodist Women
 Copper Creek Christian Church
 Dorcas Society

Year-End Appeal Donations

Leisure World Health Club
 RiverBender
 Rachelle Crowe for Senate
 Barry Wilson Funeral Home
 American Legion Auxiliary
 Collinsville Junior Service Club
 Ladies Auxiliary

Donations received are updated monthly and acknowledged with a receipt sent by mail to the donor. Donations are then recognized quarterly in this newsletter. Gifts received after our newsletter has been sent to the printer will be recognized in the next newsletter.

WAYS TO GIVE TO COLLINSVILLE FAITH IN ACTION

CFIA is grateful for the generosity of our individual supporters, supporting businesses, and Partner Churches. The donations from our community supports the work we do right here in the Collinsville area, and there are several options to consider when you give your support to CFIA.

Regularly Scheduled Donations: Some of our donors make contributions to CFIA on a monthly basis by either mailing in a check or contacting our office to have their credit or debit card charged. Other donors respond to specific requests such as our annual appeal at the end of the calendar year. IRA contributions (see below) can also benefit CFIA on a regularly scheduled basis.

Online Giving: Giving online is a safe, quick, and easy way to donate. Just visit our website (<https://fiacollinsville.org/>), click the "Donate" button, and enter your information. You can make the donation a one-time gift or set up a regularly scheduled donation.

Matching Gifts: Many St. Louis area companies offer their employees a charitable matching program, so that when an employee makes a donation through the company to CFIA, that company will then match the gift. A \$1,000 gift becomes a \$2,000 gift to CFIA. Please check with your employer to see if they have a charitable matching gift program. Companies such as Boeing, Emerson, Shell Oil, Olin, US Bank, Verizon and

many, many others want to give back to the communities in which their employees live, so please contact your Human Resources department to inquire about charitable matching gifts.

Bequests: Bequests are gifts that are made through a will or a trust. Bequests should be clearly indicated in a will as a fixed sum of money or specific property/item that you intend to be given to CFIA. Wills can be written by individuals and signed by witnesses, but working with an attorney to write or update a will provides peace of mind and ease of distribution. More information is available at Illinois Legal Aid's website: <https://www.illinoislegalaid.org/>

IRA Contributions: Donating from your Individual Retirement Account can be a great way to save money on your taxes and support CFIA while doing so. Income and withdrawals from an IRA must be reported and are taxed as income, but that tax can be avoided if the funds are directly donated to CFIA. Please speak with your banker or financial adviser to get more details and to sign up for IRA Charitable Contributions program.

Capital Campaign Pledges: CFIA began a capital campaign to raise funds specifically for our building and grounds maintenance in 2019. This two-year campaign was interrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic but has been extended until the end of 2022. If you made a pledge to contribute monthly or annually to this campaign, we appreciate your commitment to the work we've been doing with you for over two decades. In Fall 2021, we are relaunching our Capital Campaign. If you were unable to pledge in 2019, we hope you will consider making a pledge as we relaunch the Capital Campaign and look forward to giving you more information about how to pledge.

Donating Time and Talent: CFIA offers a variety of ways for you to become involved as a volunteer with options that match your availability and interests. Some of the areas where volunteers are needed are:

Gardening

Office Work (answering phones, assisting with mailing projects, etc.)

Driving clients to appointments

Doing Minor Home Repairs

Visiting clients (by phone, in-person or mail)

Shopping for clients

Building Wheelchair Ramps

Prayers: While it is true CFIA relies on the community's financial support to continue our mission of serving people 60 years of age and older and people with disabilities, we also need your prayers so that we can faithfully continue serving others. We are grateful to the individuals and congregations who remember us in their prayers.



On The Move with Beth

by Beth Baker

Volunteer Services: Spring is here, and like the lilies of the field, our Assisted Transportation Services are beginning to open and blossom. As Covid-19 numbers continue to drop, we anticipate the return of volunteers that have been missed by both care receivers and staff.

If you need transportation to an appointment, and don't have family or friends to assist you, please give us a call at 618-344-8080 to request a ride from one of our trusted volunteers. If you have an appointment with us but then need to cancel the ride or have an emergency during a trip, you can call us or reach us at our after-hours emergency cell phone: 618-799-9085. During normal business hours, please use the office (618-344-8080) number and outside of business hours, please use the cell phone (618-799-9085) number.

Remember that "A neighbor's independence depends on you!" Please prayerfully consider if you can join us as a volunteer driver to help your neighbors in need.

Isolation Relief: Our Telephone Visitations (Reassurance Calls) Program continues to bless both the care receivers and the volunteers who call them. If you have not been receiving these friendly phone calls from our volunteers and would like to be called, please contact Beth at 618-344-8080.

We are in the process of planning to restart Elder Connection events with Covid-19 protocols as soon as it is safe to do so. We are looking forward to getting everyone together again for these fun social gatherings.



CFIA at the Annual City-Wide Yard Sale

Friday, April 23 & Saturday, April 24 (7AM-3PM)

CFIA will be participating in the Collinsville City-Wide Yard Sale on Friday, April 23 and Saturday, April 24, 7AM-3PM. During the sale hours, we will be set up in our parking lot (weather permitting) at our office location, 233 N. Seminary, with lots of goodies for your shopping fun. Excellent prices and many items from which to choose. Come out and say hello to your Faith in Action friends and find a little something for yourself in the many items we are selling. We look forward to seeing you!

Are you someone who likes to organize items for re-sale? Do you have a knack for recognizing a good buy? We're looking for a volunteer to assist us with online sales of items that have been donated to CFIA. Much like a yard sale, our volunteer would take pictures and post offerings of items on our webpage or a similar platform. While the city-wide yard sale lasts for two days annually, this online sale would run continuously throughout the year. Please call us if you can assist!

Learning how to Use a Walker? Recovering from an Injury? Assisting Others with Wheelchairs or Other Adaptive Equipment? Adaptive Equipment Quick Lesson

Have you ever had to use crutches after a fall or accident? Those first few days can be tough unless you've been shown how to use the equipment that helps you adapt. Or maybe you're helping someone who is adjusting to the use of a walker. Equipment such as walkers, crutches, transport chairs, and more can help us adapt to physical challenges, but if we aren't instructed on how to use the equipment, we can actually do more harm than good. Whether recovering from an injury or surgery, or as we move through the aging process, it's often necessary to adapt with the use of equipment, so here's a chance to learn not only how to use adaptive equipment, but also learn about some life-changing adaptive equipment you may not have even known about.

Adaptive Equipment & Caregiver Corner is a great source of information compiled by a physical therapist who saw that many of her clients struggled with how to use adaptive equipment correctly. Now, Adaptive Equipment & Caregiver Corner offers friends of Collinsville Faith in Action and AgeSmart Community Resources the chance to access all their instructional videos at no cost (a one-year subscription usually costs \$89.99).



To learn what kind of adaptive equipment is designed to help us as we age or recover from injury, and to learn how to safely use adaptive equipment, visit aecorner.com and enter the code "agesmartcares" to receive a 190-day subscription period at no cost to you. As a caregiver, I was excited to learn about a car assist handle. It's a nifty little device that can help me help my mom get into and out of a car. Even better, there's a short video to show me how Mom and I can use the adaptive equipment correctly and safely.

The website also has great information if you are preparing for knee or hip surgery, want some strength-building exercises to do at home, and tips for home modifications (some are SO easy to do) to prevent falls and accidents. Visit aecorner.com and enter "agesmartcares" to set up your own 190-day subscription for free, and while you're there, sign up for the AECorner's Monthly Newsletter.

Do you need equipment to help you or a loved one adapt? Consider calling St. John's Community Care at 618-344-5008 to borrow from their Adaptive Equipment Closet. They have many pieces of adaptive equipment that you can borrow at no cost to keep yourself or a loved one comfortable, safe, and mobile.



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Catholic Church
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Collinsville

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First Baptist Church
First United Presbyterian Church
Holy Cross Lutheran Church
Meadow Heights Baptist Church
Navigation Church
Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church
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St. John United Church of Christ
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