

# Sharing the Caring

**A Note from the Director:** By: Lisa Ciszczon Brennan - Executive Director  
**Community Members** 344-8080  
**and Agencies Collaborate** lbrennan@fiacollinsville.org



As many of us know, many hands make light work. It is certainly a proud moment when we recognize that our community can pull together to make good things happen, and we've witnessed that recently in the Collinsville area and here at Faith in Action.

During our annual Volunteer Appreciation Month, local businesses donated to our Volunteer-Only Raffle. A special thanks to Farmer's Market, Red's BBQ, Kruta's Bakery, Verona Coffee Shop, and Sandwich Shop & Diner. All of our volunteers received a gift bag, and their names were entered in the special raffle. As an agency that is powered by volunteers, we are extremely grateful to the good people who volunteer as drivers, office workers, and special project workers. Many of our volunteers who needed a hiatus due to Covid restrictions are starting to call us to become active again. Remember, we need volunteers for many different types of work, so please call us to offer yourself as a neighbor helping neighbors.

Everyday at Faith in Action, we work with other agencies in the region to help our clients access the assistance they might need. For instance, if a client needs to borrow a wheelchair or another medical assistance device, we know we can refer them to St. John's Community Care. AgeSmart, based in O'Fallon, provides us with training, and we are able to refer clients outside the Collinsville area to them for help. The Illinois Department on Aging is also a treasure trove of information and provides Faith in Action with referrals and training material. Southwest Illinois Visiting Nurses Association (SIVNA) has been an excellent partner when we are working with clients who need short or long-term housekeeping or visiting nurses. Our local YMCA and Unit 10 School District are now partnering with us and provided Chromebook Tablets this year for our clients in need of them. Of course, we have had a long and mutually beneficial relationship with 16 Partner Churches who support us financially, by sending volunteers, and by promoting our services and events.

As we continue to work together to serve those over 60 and those with disabilities in our community, we are diligently striving to keep up the pace with an ever increasing number of community members turning 65 and in need of services such as Medicare Counseling. Simultaneously, Faith in Action must continue to maintain our presence and grow with the community's needs. Currently, we have just three full-time employees and so must continue to recruit, train, and retain a healthy volunteer base.



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Issue:

June 2021



We have been fortunate to expand in past years into our own building at 233 N. Seminary, but we must maintain our building which is currently in need of HVAC system replacements. Our Capital Campaign is designed specifically for such maintenance, and since our campaign was interrupted by Covid-19 restrictions, we are relaunching the campaign and extending it through 2022.

Much work is to be done, but together, we will accomplish much.

## Events. Are. Back.

As the State of Illinois began reopening, Collinsville Faith in Action offices were open for a limited number of client meetings. In May we participated in the Collinsville-Wide Yard Sale and welcomed back many volunteers who worked at the event as well as many clients and friends who stopped by to shop and say hello. In June we held our first Elder Connection event for a limited number of participants, and on June 13, in collaboration with the Knights of Columbus, we had a drive-through breakfast fundraiser. Slowly, safely, and surely, we are bringing events back.

**SAVE THE DATE**

July 14 Elder Connection  
 August 12 Board Meeting  
 August 18 Elder Connection  
 August 22 CFIA at Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church  
 Sunday Service  
 September 12 is Grandparents Day and tentative  
 date for our Annual Mum Sale  
 September 16 is FIA Sunday  
 September 23 is Open House at Collinsville FIA



The annual city-wide yard sale welcomed Faith in Action as a participant this year. Two besties (Carlene Wirth and Ester Bauer) smile for the camera as they volunteer at the yard sale.

## WAYS TO GIVE TO COLLINSVILLE FAITH IN ACTION

**Prayers** are always appreciated.

**Bequests** can be arranged with your attorney.

**Capital Campaign** donations help our long-term financial health and donations can be annual, monthly, or one-time donations.

**Online Giving** is available on our website <https://fiacollinsville.org/>

**Matching Gifts** can be arranged with your employer to double or even triple the amount of your individual donation.

**IRA Contributions** may be arranged with your banker or financial advisor for a smart and easy way to support CFIA!

**Donating your Time & Talent** From minor home repairs, answering phones, light gardening, or assembling the newsletter, your help is needed! If you like to work with teams, consider joining one of our building teams who do home modifications and build wheelchair ramps. If you prefer to work alone, we have office work that can be done from your home or our offices. If events are more your style, consider helping us with one of our fundraising events or our monthly Elder Connection events. Whether you want to give of your time only occasionally or on a more regular basis, we have opportunities for you to be a neighbor helping neighbors. Call Lisa at 618-344-8080 for more information about giving of yourself and putting your faith into action.



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## Answers on Aging

Patrick Bivens - Answers on Aging  
344-7788  
answers@fiacollinsville.org

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Answers on Aging is a service of Faith in Action that meets a variety of needs in the community. Our Answers on Aging Specialist is a full-time employee who is trained to assist clients with Medicare options, with applying for benefits such as the license plate sticker discount (Benefits Access), and with a wide assortment of information about benefits for people over the age of 60 and adults with disabilities.

This month, we welcome a new Answers on Aging Specialist, Patrick Bivens, after our former specialist begins retirement. Pat grew up in the Collinsville area and returned recently to be closer to his family. Pat has extensive professional experience in the business world and as a volunteer in various organizations. His mother, Janine, has volunteered for Faith in Action for many years, and his family has long supported the mission.

Pat is trained in Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP) through the Illinois Department on Aging and is also trained in the Benefits Access program. He is currently learning about and meeting with the many agencies with whom Faith in Action partners, and he will soon be visiting sites in the Collinsville area including Granite City, Fairmont City, Highland, Venice, Troy, and Madison. At these sites, Pat will present on the services Collinsville Faith in Action offers and will be taking appointments for one-on-one meetings.

Benefit Access (license plate sticker discount) is an online only application, but Faith in Action will file on your behalf if you are a resident of Illinois and:

- \*you are 65 years of age or older by December 31 of the current year; or
- \*you are 16 years of age and older and totally disabled before January 1 of this year;
- \*your income from 2020 is less than \$33,562 for a 1-person household; or
- \*less than \$44,533 for a 2-person household; or
- \*less than \$55,500 for a 3-person household.

Call us at 618-344-7788 to get started!



Ready to turn 65 and curious about your Medicare options? Helping a parent or other family member with Medicare? Call us to schedule a free Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP) Counseling Session. We will walk you through the steps so YOU can make YOUR best choice.

Have questions about your options as an independent senior or an independent adult with a disability? Are you and your family discussing changes in living arrangements to optimize the independence of a loved one? Our Options Counseling sessions help clients see the many options available on the continuum of aging with independence and living independently with a disability.



## Thank you for your contribution

### In Memory of...

Former Faith in Action Volunteer  
Mary Lynn Stringer from Nancy Berry  
Mary Lynn Stringer from Jim and Pat Schapp



### Individual Donations

The Bivens Family; Linda D. Mixen;  
Bruce W. Provence; Gabrielle Koonce;  
Lawrence and Bonita Krupp



### Thank You

### In Honor of...

"Mother" from Mary Beth Lorschbach  
Carol Ricketts from John Duft and  
June Blaine for the Faith in Action  
Capital Campaign

### Business Donations

Alpha Storage, Collinsville  
Farmer's Market, Kruta's  
Bakery, Red's BBQ,  
Sandwich Shop & Diner,  
Verona's Coffee Shop

### Donations from Churches and Organizations

Knights of Columbus (Collinsville); Employees of  
Collinsville Township; Our Lord's Lutheran Church;  
Revive Assembly of God

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.



### On The Move with Beth

Our Assisted Transportation service continues to grow after the Covid-19 restrictions impacted the number of active volunteers. After losing nearly 2/3 of our drivers, we have built back up to about half of the number of volunteer drivers we once had. If you can provide a ride once a week or once a month to a client in need, please call us to learn about our training schedule. You can be the neighbor helping neighbors!

Telephone Visits/Reassurance Calls are still quite popular with our clients and our volunteers. In this program, volunteers call clients who are at risk of social isolation to spend a little time each catching up and visiting. If you would like to be one of our callers or would like to receive these friendly calls, please call 618-344-8080. It's a great way to make a new friend in your community.

The Elder Connection program had its first gathering in over a year! We were pleased to welcome back a limited number of participants for a few hours of fun including a rousing game of charades, a celebration of my birthday, and a pizza lunch. Elder Connection is a wonderful chance for adults with disabilities and people aged 65 and older to get out, make some friends, and connect with the community. This monthly program will meet again on Wednesday, July 14, August 18, and September 15. There is no cost for this program, but space is limited, so please call 618-344-8080 to get more information and to reserve your spot.

## Capital Campaign Relaunch

The Capital Campaign is being extended through 2022 and we are relaunching our efforts to raise funds specifically to maintain our building so that we can continue to provide services. We purchased the building in early 2019 and began the Capital Campaign in August of the same year. Of course, when Covid 19 hit, we had to cancel or postpone some of the efforts we had planned.

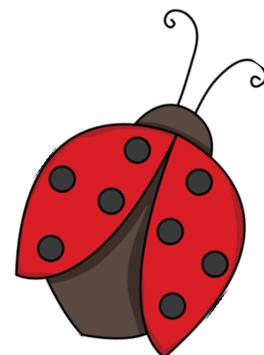
This year we experienced water damage, and we've been reminded that two of our air conditioning units are at least 20 years old. Further, some of the old furnaces are leaking gas and so those two will need to be repaired or replaced. Insurance covered the water damage, but not the cost of replacing the old water heaters. Insurance will not cover the cost of replacing any of the HVAC systems, and so the funds set aside for this are more important than ever. We ask that you make a donation or pledge to support our efforts. We are especially grateful to those of you who commit to making donations that occur on a recurring basis, but we certainly are thankful for one-time donations to help us keep our building safe.



Carpeting was removed and replaced. Water damage to the wall required professional equipment to dry it out, and new baseboard was installed with the new carpeting.



Industrial-sized fans such as this one were set up and running for more than three days to dry out the walls.





Collinsville Faith in Action  
233 North Seminary  
Collinsville, IL 62234

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# Faith in Action

## Partner Congregations

### Caseyville

Caseyville United Methodist Church  
St. Stephen Catholic Church

### Maryville

Copper Creek Christian Church  
Our Mother of Perpetual Help  
Catholic Church  
Our Lord's Lutheran Church

### Collinsville

Alpha and Omega Christian Fellowship  
Collinsville First United Methodist Church  
First Baptist Church  
First United Presbyterian Church  
Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
Meadow Heights Baptist Church  
Navigation Church  
Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church  
Revive  
St. John United Church of Christ  
S.S. Peter & Paul Catholic Church