

Sharing the Caring

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Director's Note



It's the 25th anniversary of helping our neighbors remain independent! What an opportunity we have to celebrate our founders, churches, volunteers, clients, and all our supporters as we reflect on the past, catch up on the current, and plan for the future.

As most know, Collinsville Faith in Action began as a program of St. John's Community Care with a startup grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The Foundation started awarding these grants nearly 40 years ago. Across the United States and in Guam and Puerto Rico, the foundation awarded grants to organizations committed to serving their local community members ages 60 and older with free services. The model for success has been partnering with local churches for volunteers and securing funds beyond the startup grant to run the programs. As Collinsville Faith in Action grew, it became an effort supported and guided by the Collinsville Area Ministerial Association (CAMA).

Today, Collinsville Faith in Action is an independent nonprofit that continues to partner with churches throughout the Collinsville, Caseyville, and Maryville communities. We remain united with other caregiver organizations across the country through the National Volunteer Caregivers Network, but each member of the national group focuses energy on serving their local communities. In recent months, we have undergone an organizational assessment with a consultant and are currently working with a second consultant to fine tune our strategic plan. Both efforts were funded by grants and will help us ensure our future. We've also deepened our services in the community by assisting Spanish-speaking community members.

Looking to the future, we remain focused on our mission: to serve community members 60 years of age and older with free services. We will continue working with local churches of all denominations and with businesses in our hometowns. Because of the expected growth in the 60+ demographic, we are certain more clients will need our services, so we are making every effort to secure more volunteers to meet the growing demands. As other FIAs in our region have closed, we are also aware of the increase in clients from those neighboring towns and cities who are now contacting us for assistance. We are working to prepare for the growth we need as an organization so that we can respond to the growing needs of our community. Of course, at the core of it all are community members



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Issue:

March 2023



like you. It is you who connect us to churches, to volunteers, to civic organizations, and to other supporters and clients.

We hope you will join us on Friday, July 14, 2023, for a celebration of our anniversary at the Gateway Convention Center. We will be honoring individuals who have played important roles in our history, enjoying a beautiful meal, and offering both a silent and oral auction. We know you have been a supporter of CFiA, and we hope you will join us to celebrate this very special occasion.

Crime Prevention Tip



Be alert to your surroundings and stay connected with friends and neighbors.
• Situational awareness is important in keeping yourself safe. Strive to take note of what’s going on around you whether that’s in a parking lot or during a walk.
• Get involved with neighbors, friends, and Neighborhood Watch. Looking out for one another and knowing your neighbors is a great way to keep safe.
• Partner with a friend for a daily mutual check-in and consider signing up with us for social programs such as Telephone Reassurance, Elder Connection, or Circle of Friends.

Dates to Remember

- March 16: Land of Lincoln Legal Services and Senior Housing Options Presentations at CFiA, 10A-12N
- April 6: Good Friday, office closed
- April 9: Easter Sunday
- April 15: Spring Yard Cleanup
- April 17: National Volunteer Week begins
- May 1 Older Americans Month (<https://acl.gov/oam/2023/older-americans-month-2023>)
- May 4: Quarterly Coffee for Volunteers, 10A
- May 10: Give STL Day
- May 29: Memorial Day, office closed
- July 14: Awards Ceremony and Dinner Auction



*CFiA's
25th
Anniversary
Awards
Ceremony
and Dinner
Auction*



Happy Easter!



Bella's Blossoms -
a Cullop-Jennings Florist
donated 4 seasonal wreaths
for our December raffle



**Members of Our Lady of Perpetual
Help in Maryville donating their
handmade quilt to CFiA for our July
Awards Ceremony and Auction Dinner.**

Answers on Aging

Patrick Bivens - Answers on Aging

1-618-344-7788

answers@fiacollinsville.org



Hello. Welcome to spring! Many of you may enjoy driving, and spring can be a terrific time (if you can afford the gas!). No more icy roads, and you can enjoy the longer days to get out of the house,

visit friends, or just tool along the highway. And for those of you who may be less comfortable driving, well, at least icy roads are (nearly) behind you.

Transportation is obviously essential. Even with the internet, not every product and service can be delivered to your home. In larger communities, public transportation systems are extensive and cost effective. In our area, public transportation is far less ingrained in how many of us live. As good as our local services are, we just aren't used to catching buses. Instead, we rely on our own vehicles.

Owning a vehicle is costly, with gas, maintenance, state taxes, and insurance. I want to familiarize you with a couple of programs that can reduce your costs.

Benefit Access Application (BAA) Program

Single seniors 65 years or older with a gross annual income of less than \$33,562 (married with combined gross income of \$44,533), may qualify for the **BAA** program offered by the Illinois Department on Aging (IDoA). The BAA program reduces the cost of annual license plate stickers from **\$151** (or more for vanity and personalized plates) to **\$10**. To take advantage of this program:

1. Gather your income statements and/or tax forms from the correct year (see below). These forms include W2 forms (from your job), SSA-1099 forms (for social security), 1099-R (pensions/IRAs), 1099-INT (interest income). Basically, collect any W2 or 1099. (You may need to provide copies of the forms if requested by IDoA).

(If you apply prior to April 19, 2023, you must provide 2021 income. Apply on or after April 19, 2023, IDoA requires 2022 income).

2. Contact CFiA at 618-344-7788. In many cases, we can take the application over the phone.

3. Receive a Benefit Access Program Eligibility Notice to take to the DMV for the reduced cost sticker.

AARP Driver Safety Course

The second program is the AARP Driver Safety Course offered by St. John United Church of Christ. According to the Illinois insurance code, completion of this \$25 course (\$20 for AARP members with card), may entitle you to a three-year discount on the liability portion of your automobile insurance policy. (Check with your insurance provider to find the actual savings).

More important than the financial savings, you will gain confidence, and increase your safety in this defensive driving course. Per AARP, you'll learn:

- Important facts about the effects of medication on driving.
- How to reduce driver distractions.
- How to maintain the proper following distance behind another car.
- Proper use of safety belts, air bags, anti-lock brakes and new technology found in cars today.
- Techniques for handling left turns, right-of-way, and roundabouts.
- How to adjust your driving to compensate for age-related physical changes.

This 2-day course is offered Wednesday, April 12, 2023, and Thursday, April 13, 2023 from 8:30 a. m. to 12:30 p. m. at St. John Community Care; 307 West Clay St., Collinsville, IL 62234. Registration is required by calling 618-344-5008. Space is limited, so register early.

I hope that you are able to take advantage of these savings programs, and I hope you have an amazing, safe, healthy spring.

Spring Yard Cleanup

Each spring and fall, we organize teams of volunteers to offer a seasonal yard cleanup. Our spring yard cleanup is scheduled for the afternoon of Saturday, April 15.

If you, a family member, or neighbor would like a team of volunteers to rake and tidy up your yard, please call the office to register 618-344-8080. Of course, this is a free service, and thanks to our township and city officials, the yard waste bags our volunteers fill up will again be picked up at no charge.

Would you like to volunteer for this event? Do you know a youth group who would like to join us for the afternoon of service? Please contact Lisa to sign up as a volunteer or to get more information about groups volunteering for this spring day!

CFIA Board Members participate in a COAR (Comprehensive Organizational Assessment Report) meeting held in January



Bonnie Farrington & Karen Kneeder



Jan Williams



Laura Cruse & Lynne Kerfoot



Landscaping can add to your home's security. You can keep your home's entrance a safe space by keeping a clear line of sight. For instance, keep bushes and shrubs pruned so that you can easily see out of windows and so that trespassers cannot conceal themselves from your view. More tips about landscaping with security in mind are at <https://lawnlove.com/blog/landscaping-increases-home-security>

Ways to Give



Click to Donate: Click the DONATE button on our webpage to make a one-time or recurring monthly donation. Regularly scheduled monthly or quarterly donations help us plan our budget more accurately.



Text to Donate: Text the word PLEDGE to 618-249-3227 on your smart phone to quickly and easily set up a one-time or regularly scheduled donation. This is an easy way to donate, and you can share the text-to-donate information easily with friends and family.

Plan to Donate:

1. Check with your employer to see if they offer a Matching Donor benefit. If so, for every dollar you donate, your employer will match that amount thereby doubling your donor power.
2. Bequests are a beautiful way to build your Faith in Action legacy. Working with Land of Lincoln Legal Aid at no charge or your own lawyer, you can name CFIA in your will or as an organization that is named by you as a recipient receiving donations in your memory.
3. Talk to your financial advisor to have funds that may increase your taxes to be directly donated to CFIA. You help your community, and you don't have to pay income tax on the earnings.



Call to Donate: Call us at 618-344-8080 to set up a one-time or recurring donation with your credit or debit card. In just a few minutes, we'll have you set up!



Mail to Donate: It's always a pleasure to receive notes from our supporters, so if you prefer to mail in a check, we appreciate it! CFIA, 233 N. Seminary St., Collinsville, IL 62234.

Health & Wellness Tip

Research tells us that people who have regular social interactions remain healthier than those who are socially isolated. CFiA offers many opportunities for social interactions including volunteer opportunities.

-Our Telephone Reassurance program links volunteers and care receivers by friendly phone visits every month.

-Elder Connection is a monthly lunch and activity get-together.

-Circle of Friends is a third social program we offer that connects community members and facilitates their engagement in a variety of community programs and organizations.

-Community members interested in volunteering and our active volunteers gather for Quarterly Coffee to share their experiences and get to know one another. The next Quarterly Coffee is scheduled for Thursday, May 4 at 10AM.

Whether you are a CFiA client or volunteer, we encourage you to participate in some of our social programming to keep healthy.





Andrew and JoAnn (not their real names) have been clients at CFiA for many years and have evolved with CFiA as

more services have become available through our agency and access to those services has also become more available. For instance, when they first came to meet with Laura Goss, a previous Answers on Aging specialist here, they simply needed assistance purchasing batteries for Andrew's hearing aids. Later, they received Medicare counseling with our certified Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP) Counselor. Now, they receive more complete services and support from us. How? What barrier did CFiA need to address to better serve these clients?

As CFiA offered more services, Andrew and JoAnn grew with us, came to trust us, and applied for the discounted license plate sticker through the state's Benefits Access Application (BAA); however, a language barrier had always limited the communication between CFiA and these clients. Conversations were limited because our staff has only English language skills and our clients had limited English language skills. Though we had muddled through, fully serving these clients was not possible. In recent months, this lovely couple has been able to receive guidance through other services and programs we offer with the help of a Spanish-to-English interpreter. These included access to financial services and legal counseling that were sorely needed due to loan companies charging the couple exorbitant rates. Loans helped them finance needed home repairs, but the couple were struggling to make payments and soon discovered their payments weren't even covering the interest they were being charged.

CFiA's mission to serve "community members" has needed to evolve as our community has

evolved. With more English-as-a-second-language households in the CFiA service area, we knew we needed to be serving all community members, not just English speakers. Working with Puentes de Esperanza (Bridges of Hope), CFiA has had informational flyers translated and posted throughout the communities we serve. Further, an interpreter now accompanies our Answers on Aging specialist when he works a few hours each month from the Fairmont City Library. Most of us have witnessed how our churches have begun offering worship services in Spanish, and CFiA is proud to be able to serve our Spanish-speaking clients. We are grateful for funding to provide a translator and interpreter through the Springfield Diocese Campaign for Justice and Hope and to Hoyleton Youth and Family Services for their creation of Puentes de Esperanza. Visit: <https://hoyleton.org/puentes-support-services/>.

JoAnn and Andrew will continue to reside in their own home thanks to the guidance of our Answers on Aging specialist, the assistance of Puentes de Esperanza, and the support of our funders who made this additional tool to make our services accessible to all community members, the Springfield Diocese' Campaign for Justice and Hope. Once again, we bear witness to the power of people and organizations working together to help others.



Word Search

R B F A S A R W O D N N G X T
 T O A U H Y R A S O D C S F R
 U N I C O A I N P N B Q O K A
 L N T T W C G N R O B D C Q N
 I E H I E F B I I R U A I C S
 P T U O R I G V N S N F A H P
 S U K N S A T E G G N F L U O
 C O L L A B O R A T I O N R R
 V R O B I N S S J K E D S C T
 L E G A C Y R A E I S I E H A
 A G F K P J G R S Y C L G E T
 W L J X C J Q Y U R I S G S I
 O I J T J R E A S T E R S M O
 N F K O V O L U N T E E R S N
 C E L E B R A T I O N O T H Y

transportation

collaboration

anniversary

faith

celebration

churches

bonnet

eggs

volunteers

bunnies

legacy

life

auction

robins

showers

CFIA

social

Easter

aging

daffodils

tulips

donors

spring

Jesus

Thank you for your contribution

In Memory of

Charles Lozier from Anielak Family
 Charles Lozier from Den & Bev Brandmeyer
 Charles Lozier from Thomas & Barbara Brandmeyer
 Charles Lozier from Jean & Barry Brown
 Bob Cook & Russ Ammons from Jean M Buchana
 Charles Lozier from Cale Clements
 Jeffrey Deutsch from Sharon Deutsch
 Wally Fedder from Mary Louise Fedder
 Earl Fischer from Nancy A Fischer
 Charles Lozier from James & Judy Fuehne
 Charles Lozier from Sarah & Craig Fuehne
 Gerry & David Massa from Pamela Gates
 Hal Tenting from Nancy Gerstenecker
 Charles Lozier from Melissa & Josh Gibson
 Charles Lozier from Dana & Mark Gruber-Callahan
 Stanley Huber from Ruth Huber
 Charles Lozier from Al & Veronica Hund
 Kevin J Wise from Rae A James
 Susan D Kampwerth from Thomas H Kampwerth
 Phyllis Karrer from Robert W Karrer
 Virgil Kassing from Frances Kassing
 Mary Ann Grover from Phyllis G Kesler
 Scott Sipole from Inc Laura Buick-GMC
 Charles Lozier from Mildred Leffert
 Charles Lozier from Amy & Bob Long
 Dennis Luessenheide from Regina Luessenheide
 Leroy & Beulah Kalbfleisch from Ladde & Doris Mayer
 Charles Lozier from Scott Meyer
 Charles Lozier from Bunny & Bob Miller
 Orville Mueth from Sylvia Mueth
 Orville Mueth from Linda Mueth-Poettker
 Bruce & Dee Mort from Daniel W OConnell
 Charles Lozier from Matt, Angie Oelrich & Family
 Dennis Riggs from Rosemary Riggs

Beulah Kalbfleisch from Jim & Pat Schapp
 Kenneth (Butch) Powell from Patricia L Scoggins
 Evelyn Ratay from James & Rebecca Shimkus
 Charles Lozier from Eric & Lindsay & Jackson Timmermann
 Eileen Killinger from Patricia Walker
 Charles Lozier from Jean Webb
 Charles Lozier from Kevin & Debbie Weinacht
 Charles Lozier from Larry & Barbara West
 Shirley Wyatt from Clay H Wyatt



Business Donations

Alpha Storage
 Abstracts and Titles Inc
 Tomara Corp.

Community Group Donations

Collinsville Jr Service Club
 100+ Women Who Care from the 618

Donations received are updated monthly and acknowledged with a receipt sent by mail to the donor. Online donations are acknowledged with a receipt sent automatically and immediately by email. 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.

Thank you for your contribution

Individual Donations

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	Kenneth Willtrout

In Honor of

Her Parents from Judith Beasley
 Lisa, Pat, & Beth from Cheryl Bonn
 Gary Borgard from Fay Fults
 Phyllis, Marion, & Deanna from Frances Kassing
 Kaye & Jerry Smith from Jennifer Lewis
 Jim & Pat Schapp from Ladde & Doris Mayer
 Terri Perez from Kenneth R McMullen
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 Eleanor Risman from Jim & Pat Schapp
 Lisa Brennan from Anita Schmitt
 The Faith in Action Team from Jannie Staats



Church Donations

Caseyville United Methodist Church
 St John UCC - Evening Circle

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Empty Lot By Jim Hanson

*I walk on a lot
dusty empty
scattered trash
amid weeds baking*

*under the summer sun
and with crumbled shed
once an abode for
children and animals.*

I was here before

*years ago as a boy
in long summer days
and open blue sky
free from clock hours
and schedules of living
in walled rooms*

*sitting in the dirt
in languid play
feeling a passing wind
and wanting to
fly this shed into a
world of my making*

*and once again
I leave this lot
and walk away
from the sweet smell
of weeds decayed
and the remains
of the old shed*

*and I wonder about
what all was there and
what is left behind.
and future to come*

*and dreaming
of this lot to be
my own to build
a great house for*

*children to play
to dream of futures
yet to come.*

*I became a man and
set aside childish things
knowing there are
more things on earth
dreamt of than on
this empty lot*

and now here

*I place a round jug
upon the ground
to take dominion
over the wear of time
and not give way
to decay of wilderness
or dreams forgotten*

*and once again
I leave this lot
and walk away
from the sweet smell
of weeds decayed
and the remains
of the old shed*

*and I wonder about
what all was there and
what is left behind.*



*On the Move
with Beth Baker*

2023 marks the 25th anniversary of Collinsville Faith in Action. I am proud and honored to share this milestone with my 10th anniversary here. It has been a blessing to work with such wonderful staff, volunteers, and clients. Will I be here 10 years from now? Maybe. Will I be here 25 years from now? Doubtful at my age. In the meantime, I will enjoy working with everyone and watching CFIA grow.

2023 also marks the 50th anniversary of the United States ending its involvement in the Vietnam War after the signing of the Paris Peace Accords. An agreement was signed by the United States, South Vietnam, North Vietnam, and the Vietcong which detailed an all-around cease fire, the withdrawal of US troops, the release of all prisoners of war, and outlined an eventual peaceful reunification of Vietnam. It is my prayer that we all can come together in peace and fellowship to build a brighter and safer community for the generations that will come behind us.



**New volunteer Lindsey Lester-Brutscher
will be hosting Elder Connection**

A Word from Partner Congregations

At a recent meeting of pastors from local churches, we discussed how powerful a sincere, personalized invitation can be. When was the last time (if ever) you invited someone to attend church with you? Another recent conversation with a congregant from one of our Partner Congregations came to mind while the pastors were speaking. She had invited new neighbors to attend one of her church's Sunday services, but they never took up the offer. She was left wondering if they were perhaps of a different faith, but the pastors' conversation indicates that most people need more than one "ask." As we approach the celebration of Easter, think about whom you might invite to attend a service with you at your chosen place of worship.



Thank you to A Wildflower Shop
and everyone who supported
our Valentine's Day Flower Fundraiser

Financial Tip

We've all noticed the rising cost of living whether it's utility bills or groceries, but here are reminders that might help you stay ahead of rising costs.

- Remember that there are programs for discounted gas and electric services available through your townships and through Ameren Illinois.
- License plate stickers are deeply discounted for Illinois qualifying residents over the age of 65; call Pat at CFiA to ask for his help with the Benefits Access Application (BAA). He can complete the online application for you so you can save over \$100. Free bus passes are also available through the BAA program.
- Minor home modifications such as the installation of grip bars can often be completed for our clients at little or no cost by our volunteers or by some of our partner organizations.
- AARP is offering free tax preparation throughout the region, so call us for your closest tax prep site.
- The Collinsville Senior Center offers lunch each weekday for just \$3. It's a great place to meet friends for lunch, and it's open to the public too.
- A Safe Driving course is being offered by AARP at St. John's Community Care in Collinsville on April 12 and 13. Completion of the course may give you a three-year discount on the liability portion of your auto insurance. \$20 for AARP members and \$25 for non-members. Call 618-344-5008 to register for this class.



Collinsville Faith in Action
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Collinsville, IL 62234



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A Neighbor's Independence Depends on You!

Faith in Action

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St. Stephen Catholic Church

Maryville

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

Collinsville

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