



# Sharing the Caring

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## Director's Note



2024 has been a very active year for Collinsville Faith in Action. Highly motivated staff, a resurgence of volunteers, additional community partners, and engaged board members have led to growth and increased services to residents of the Collinsville area ages 60 and up.

The expansion of CFiA includes both the services and the number of clients being served. CFiA offers assisted transportation, but also a wide variety of other volunteer services such as minor home repair, yard cleanup, respite care, and more. We offer Medicare and Medicaid counseling, information about aging support systems and benefits, assistance with applying for benefits based on age and/or income, and programs to increase social connections among the older community members. In addition to these services, CFiA has also begun serving the communities of Troy and Granite City.

Our community congregations and partner organizations have also been growing. Congregations have partnered with us since our beginnings, and now local organizations such as Kiwanis, Rotary, and Lions have stepped forward to assist. Cities and townships coordinate with CFiA. Local schools and universities have joined our efforts, and fire departments in Collinsville, Maryville, and Troy have taken steps to unite with us to keep seniors safe as they age in our community.

The growth in services and partnerships this year coincides with the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Faith in Actions across the country. While many former FiAs have rebranded, most of our organizations remain united as the National Volunteer Caregivers Network (NVCN), and all of us began with one-time, one-year grants from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Recently, NVCN held a conference in Traverse City, MI, that CFiA board member and volunteer Annie Ratliff and I attended. Presentations at the conference included some of the original RWJ Foundation members who designed the Faith in Action model. Other presentations focused on building volunteer programs and donor development. The national network is also working on state-wide and nation-wide grants that can benefit all participating organizations.

While 2024 has been especially active for CFiA, we are looking forward to a new year when we can focus our activities to be a strong and stable source of assistance for seniors in our community.



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Issue:

November 2024

### VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

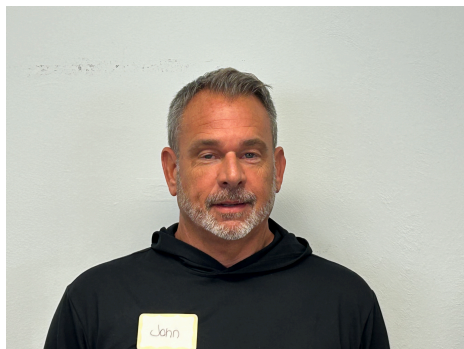
Sherry Webb



Sherry is a longtime volunteer at CFIA. She is dependable, faithful, and always willing to help when needed. Sherry is one of our multiple-days-a-week drivers. Our clients have formed a clear bond with her and love to find out that she is their driver. She is always the first to assign herself rides at least a week out and completes the request though our software. This manager of volunteers is so grateful for that extra step. Sherry is a powerhouse volunteer. In her volunteer career she has logged 834 ride requests equaling 1,155 hours of her time and 15,410 miles driven with our clients. Sherry, you have the heart of a volunteer, and it shines through. Thank you for your heart, service and dedication to CFIA and our clients. We could not carry out what we do without you.

Michael has been with CFIA for 1 year. He is such an asset to our volunteer team. Michael, like some of our other volunteers, has a full-time job and still is not only willing, but wants to help make clients' lives easier. Michael is a "handyman and yard worker" and has recently added "respite caregiver" to his list of volunteer services. I just received a report of how not only helpful, but how much a client looks forward to his visits. Michael, your compassion and heart for other people shine through in every service in which you are involved. You are making a difference in the lives of our community. CFIA is blessed to have you on our team. Thank you, Michael.

Michael Ohanian



John



Karen



Kay



Brycen

**Welcome new  
CFIA  
volunteers!!!!**

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## Answers on Aging - Preparing for the New Year

Patrick Bivens - Answers on Aging

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### ORGANIZE

Already the Holidays are upon us and the end of another year. Just like last year, the New Year is daring me to make some resolutions. In addition to my standard “lose weight, exercise more, be more patient” resolutions I’ve made since the 1980s, this year I want to focus on organization. One part of my organizing effort is to make sure my paperwork is in order. I thought I’d pass along some information that I have pieced together to help me organize myself. My checklist for accumulating my documents includes:

1. **Legal Documents.** The five specific documents are a Medical Directive (aka, Advanced Directive), Power of Attorney for Healthcare, Power of Attorney for Finances, Revocable Trust, and Will. If you don’t have these documents, consider consulting with an attorney, or contact Collinsville Faith in Action for a referral to a pro bono organization if your finances are limited. Make sure that a family member or trusted friend is able to locate these documents in the event you are incapacitated.
2. **Income/Tax Documents.** Starting in January, you should begin receiving “tax” documents. These include W2 forms (if you were employed) and 1099 forms (if you received any income such as Social Security, interest from bank accounts, annuity payments, and pensions). Make sure you keep these documents even if you do not file taxes. These documents are extremely helpful when you apply for many government programs, such as Medicaid, SNAP, LIHEAP, and Benefit Access (discounted license plate sticker or Ride Free Transit cards).
3. **Medical Documents.** Maintain a medical summary, with copies in your home and in your wallet. The summary should include a list of your current medications and supplements (with dosage and frequency), a list of any allergies you have, and a list of the doctors and other medical professionals you see (including phone numbers and addresses). This may be difficult to maintain, especially if your medications change frequently. Your pharmacy will be able to print out a list of medications to help you. Also make sure you carry with you any medical insurance cards. Note: You might find it helpful to email a copy of the document to yourself so you can save the summary in an email folder.
4. **Financial Documents.** Keep a list of your bank accounts, credit cards, insurance (life/home/rental/medical/dental) accounts, investment information (stocks/bonds/securities), and pension/retirement account information. Also make sure you have copies of any leases/rental agreements, deeds and titles, and vehicle titles and registrations.
5. **Personal Documents.** Keep on hand your Social Security Card, Birth Certificate, Passport/State ID/Driver’s License, Marriage/Divorce records, and military service/veterans records. Develop and maintain a “Care Team” record that contains the names and contact information for relatives, close friends and neighbors, financial advisors, lawyers, and caregivers to be used in an emergency.

Keep these documents in a safe and secure place. A locked desk drawer or file cabinet. If you have access to a waterproof, fireproof lockbox, all the better.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a most happy, organized new year.



## Many Thanks to Our Generous Donors!!!!

### Individual Donations

|                             |                            |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Anonymous                   | Donna Hursten              |
| Mary & Mike Benker          | Rae James                  |
| David & Christine Bivens    | Ron & Judi Jorgensen       |
| Ronnie Blumberg             | Bernard & Sandra Kolo      |
| Matthew & Theresa Bochantin | Barbara Kusmierczak        |
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|                             | Kevin & Debbie Weinacht    |

### In Honor of

Ellie Risman, Jeanine Bivens & Marie Rheinecker by Jim & Pat Schapp  
Lisa Brennan by Janice Williams

### Business Donations

Budget Blinds  
First National Bank of Waterloo  
Hartmann Rental  
Hillside Pet Clinic  
L.W. Contractors Inc.  
Verona Coffee



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.

### **Tips and Resources**

Faith in Actions and organizations that provide services to seniors like CFiA are found throughout the United States and can be found at the National Volunteer Caregivers Network (NVCN) website <https://nvcnetwork.org/wp/> and clicking on the "Find a Program Near You" button. If you have family or friends in other parts of the country, or if you plan to relocate, make sure to check the site or contact our office to check for you.

### **Circle of Friends**

Circle of Friends is a social program designed to connect participants with one another and with their community. Activities include field trips to local museums and activities designed to help us reflect meaningfully on aging and build friendships. The 12-week program requires participants to commit to weekly meetings and to provide their own transportation. There is no cost to participants. If you would like to join a Circle of Friends group in 2025, please contact Lisa at 618-344-8080.

Karen Saravia - Manager of Volunteers  
618-344-8080  
volunteers@fiacollinsville.org

Volunteer News



I do not know about you, but I am so excited about this time of year: The leaves turning, the chilly weather, bonfires, flannels, hot apple cider, friends and family all sound cozy. That is what it is all about, that connection. That relationship. That bond. All these things look different to different people. There are some that look like traditions and family time. To some it may be that phone call from a friend that they know is coming and count on that interaction and connection. Yet to others, it is a ride to the grocery store or doctor’s office. That conversation and aid from someone who gave their time and heart to someone in need. Regardless of how that connection is formed or what it looks like, there is something in all of us that crave relationships. We were not made to “do” life alone. Our goal is to walk this out in our community. Our volunteers are a living breathing example of that being done on a daily basis.

As I reflect on my last year here with CFIA, I look at all the new faces that have joined our team, the names that I now get to put faces with, volunteers I still only know by voices, and I can’t help but be taken aback. I stand in awe of the dedication and hearts of our volunteers. Y’all are a true blessing to CFIA and me personally. I have had pretty intensive training over this past year, and the one thing I have walked away with above anything else is the fact that CFIA has been truly blessed with our volunteers. You are the reason we are here. So, to say that CFIA’s volunteers are the backbone of this organization is the absolute truth. Lives have been touched and saved because of your selflessness to our community. From volunteers that have been with us for the past 26 years to the ones who just started on our team, you make an immeasurable impact on the lives you are touching. I hope you know how appreciative we are.

Have a blessed holiday season and remember that even just a smile can change someone’s entire day.

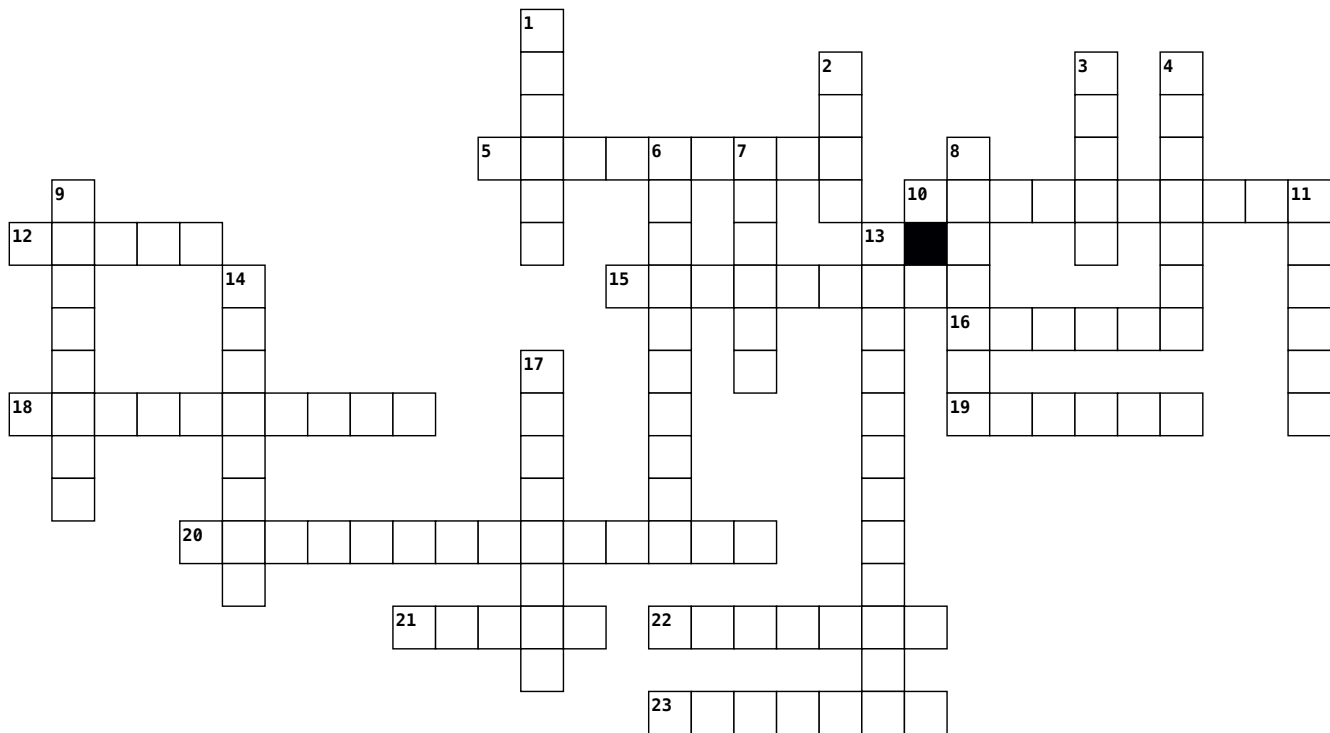
Happy Holidays from the Manager of Volunteers: Karen Saravia

Fall Yard Cleanup



CFIA’s Annie Ratliff with NVCN President Tammy Glenn

# Bible Crossword



## Across

5. The word for the books left out of the Bible.
10. The word for the first 5 books of the Bible.
12. The language the NT is written in.
15. Meaning "law" there are two of these that make-up the Bible.
16. The book that contains the 10 commandments.
18. The oldest Greek Bible
19. The author of the most books of the Bible.
20. The oldest Bible in the world.
21. The English king that made the most famous English Bible.
22. The writings that contain the stories of the Jews.
23. The first book of the New Testament.

## Down

1. Four of these tell the life of Christ.
2. The first man on Earth.
3. Book in the Bible about a man swallowed by a whale.
4. The first book of the Bible
6. The final book of the Bible.
7. The book of Psalms is this style of writing.
8. Writings of the Apostles to early-Church figures.
9. People who speak to God.
11. The language the OT is written in.
13. The number of books in the Bible.
14. The first story in the Bible.
17. Meaning "breathed in" Catholics believe that this is how the writers of the Bible received the Holy Spirit.



# Our Commitment

In the coming weeks, many of us will be spending time with family and friends celebrating the holidays. In the hustle and bustle of these days, please remember to join Collinsville Faith in Action's commitment to serving our older community members by donating during our end-of-the year campaign.

Each year we ask clients, businesses, volunteers, churches and other community stakeholders to contribute to our ongoing work. For 26 years, all have stepped forward. Will you join us this holiday season by contributing?

We rely on fundraising, grants and donations to continue serving our community and offering our many services at no cost to the client. Your generosity makes it possible.

Please consider making a donation online, by text, by mail, or by calling the office.

-Click the "Donate" button at <https://fiacollinsville.org/>

-Text the word PLEDGE to 618-249-3227

-Mail or stop by our office at

Collinsville Faith in Action  
233 N. Seminary St.  
Collinsville, IL 62234

-If you prefer to call our office with your credit card information, please call 618-344-8080.

Thank you for your commitment.



## Can you help?

Collinsville Faith in Action needs postage stamps and gift cards for local shops, gas stations, and grocery stores. We use stamps for our mailings to clients and volunteers and gift cards are used for volunteer appreciation or clients needing food.

If you can donate to our Annual End-of-the-Year Appeal, we will use your donations to support **ALL** of our programs. You can make your annual donation or set up a monthly or quarterly donation by:

-mailing a check to 233 N, Seminary Street, Collinsville, IL 62234

-visiting our website at <https://fiacollinsville.org/>

and clicking on the “Donate” button

-texting the word PLEDGE to 618-249-3227

-speaking with your financial adviser about direct donations from your tax-deferred accounts

-discussing with your attorney a planned bequest, naming CFiA as a beneficiary

-speaking with your employer about a matching donation



**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.



## Welcoming Social Work Students from SIUE



Collinsville Faith in Action is now partnering with Southern Illinois University Edwardsville's Department of Social Work. Students working on their undergraduate or master's degrees apply to CFiA to complete their required practicum placement. In the summer of 2024, graduate student Kelsey Wellwood worked in our office for 20 hours each week. This fall, Reilly Muniz, an undergraduate student, began working with us and will continue to do so through mid-May of 2025. We also hope to welcome a graduate student who will work with our organization from January through August of 2025. These students completing their practicum attend classes

on campus and join our agency when they are not in class. They have an opportunity to work directly with clients, learn about nonprofit organizations, and are paired with a CFiA volunteer who has completed their Master of Social Work degree. We are proud to partner with SIUE and give students experience in social work.



### Shout-Out to Partner Churches

Special thanks to the following Partner Churches who have been actively promoting our services, sending us volunteers, and supporting our work in the community.

- Our Lord's Lutheran Church in Maryville** has made a generous contribution to CFiA and has been promoting our events and activities in their weekly announcements to congregants.
- Trinity United Methodist Church in Granite City** has made a generous donation to CFiA, sent a new volunteer driver to join our organization, and invited CFiA to speak to their church council.
- Bluffview Baptist Church in Collinsville** has made a generous contribution to CFiA and continues to promote CFiA services to their congregants.
- Troy Methodist Church** has welcomed CFiA staff to speak to their Women in Faith group and has provided a "speaker fee" donation.
- The Maryville Ministerial Alliance** welcomed CFiA to speak at one of their recent meetings.
- Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Collinsville** sent a new volunteer to CFiA.

*Collinsville Faith in Action Board of Directors*

Anthony (Tony) Hausmann-President, St. Peter & Paul Catholic Church

Kyla Waltermire-Secretary, St. John United Church of Christ and Mississippi Valley Library District

Joyce Biegert-Treasurer, St. Peter & Paul Catholic Church

Joseph (Joe) Benker-Our Lady of Perpetual Help and Collinsville Fire Department

Barb Buxton-Collinsville First United Methodist Church

Laura Cruse-Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)

Lori de Carvalho-Christ Church and Collinsville Junior Service Club

Cheyney Evans-Gondek-Chestnut Health Systems

Lynne Kerfoot-Meadow Heights Baptist Church

Teresa (Teri) Lesicko-St. Peter & Paul Catholic Church

Lori Messina-Our Lord's Lutheran Church

Annie Ratliff-CFiA Volunteer

Jan Williams-Collinsville First United Methodist Church

Dorothy Young-St. John United Church of Christ

Welcome to Pastor Zachary T. Lysdahl of First United Presbyterian Church in Collinsville.

Thank you, Mike Morgan, for serving as Vice President. We appreciate your service and are glad you will remain an active volunteer with CFiA.

**Valentine's Day Flower Fundraiser**

*Happy  
Valentine's  
Day*

Valentine's Day 2025 will be the 27<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Collinsville Faith in Action's first service! To commemorate and celebrate (as we have done for the past few years) we will once again be offering wrapped and ribboned carnations for delivery to your friends and family living within the Collinsville Unit 10 School District boundaries. Flowers are also available for pickup if you prefer to deliver them yourself. For a small donation, you can brighten Valentine's Day for a friend, neighbor, pastor, favorite teacher, or loved one while also benefitting senior community members. Orders will be accepted beginning Monday, January 27. Stay tuned for details by checking our website or Facebook page.

**MERRY  
CHRISTMAS**

and

**happy  
new  
year**

## Mission Moment

In September, CFiA received an email from a city inspector. He had been called by neighbors who were complaining about one resident whose yard was overgrown, and he went to the home to issue a citation. He reached out to CFiA after he visited the house, saw the state of disrepair, and spoke with the homeowner named Ray.

Ray is living with his two beloved dogs in a small house near our offices. He is a veteran, still drives, but he has mobility issues and uses two canes when he walks. He was so pleased when I reached out to him and was passionate about his wish to remain in his own home.

A volunteer assessed the home repair, and the list of work to do was extensive. The lot needs to be cleared of weeds, shrubs, and dangling limbs before any work on the home can begin. The fascia and soffit need to be replaced, and roof damage is likely. The volunteer could see only some of the needs when he visited, and Ray reported that he has water leaking into his bedroom and there are also several broken windows.

Ray has now been in regular communication with us as we organize volunteers to begin some of the repairs. During our weekly check-in phone calls, Ray likes to serenade the office staff with a song or two, and he has taken the first steps to home repair by hiring contractors for complex work (plumbing and electrician work) and by preparing the work site for volunteers. We are grateful the city inspector took the time to call CFiA, and we look forward to sending our volunteers in to continue repairs so that Ray's home remains a safe and comfortable place for him to live.

## Prefer an E-Version of this Newsletter?

If you enjoy a paper newsletter like this delivered to your address, we are happy to provide, but if you would prefer, we can email you our quarterly newsletters. Please email your request for an email newsletter to Anita at [aschmitt@fiacollinsville.org](mailto:aschmitt@fiacollinsville.org). We post our newsletter on our website and the Spanish translation is also available on our website. If you like the paper copy delivered by mail, you don't need to take any steps. We'll keep you on our newsletter mailing list and there will be no interruption of your service.



Waltermire family attends our Sunday Chicken Dinner in August.



Collinsville Fire Department at Italian Fest and Maryville Fall Festival

Collinsville Faith in Action  
233 North Seminary  
Collinsville, IL 62234



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A Neighbor's Independence Depends on You!

# 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

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