



Sharing the Caring

June 2026

Plan on Joining us as we Celebrate Senior Independence



*A fun filled evening with
dinner, music, honorees ceremony,
silent and oral auctions.*

Business casual attire.

Tickets available through the above QR Code.



The mission of Collinsville Faith in Action is to provide services and information to community members ages 60 and up to promote dignity and independence.

Lisa Ciszczon Brennan—Executive Director

618-344-8080

lbrennan@fiacollinsville.org

From the Director's Desk

Thanks to you, CFiA has had more than 28 years of successfully serving seniors while charging no fees. Programs and services, of course, do cost money, but supporters like you in the community make it possible for us to offer everything at no cost to our clients.

Each year we hold two major fundraisers: the end-of-the-year campaign in December and our July dinner auction. We need everyone's participation to make our dinner auction a success, and there are oodles of ways to get involved!

If you can donate a bottle of wine, new items for one of our auction baskets, a service, or perhaps an experience such as fishing lessons, we'd appreciate your donations.

Perhaps you own a business or lead a church or civic group. Consider purchasing an advertisement for our dinner auction booklet or even being a sponsor.

Or maybe you're a gardener or baker. We accept gifts for our Tasty Shop silent auction, and that includes fresh produce from your garden or one of your baked goods.

Of course, we also love to have you as a dinner auction guest, and we know you'll have a great night. We have live music, games, fun silent and oral auction items, as well as a great dinner. Please be sure to participate in one or many ways so that we can continue offering seniors in our community the support they need to age well.

More information and tickets are available at the CFiA office or feel free to contact me directly. lbrennan@fiacollinsville.org and 618-344-8080.

This is our major fundraiser for the year, so please consider how you can participate and take action today.

The AARP Safe Driving Course will be offered Monday, August 31 and Tuesday, September 1, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at Collinsville Faith in Action office at 233 N. Seminary St. in Collinsville. The cost is \$20 for AARP members and \$25 for non-members.

You may call CFiA at 618-344-8080 to register and payment is made directly to the AARP instructor on the first day of class. Auto insurance companies offer insurance rate discounts from 10-30% for completing this course.

Karen Saravia - Manager of Volunteers
volunteers@fiacollinsville.org

From the Heart of Your Manager of Volunteers

Every day, our volunteers show what compassion in action truly looks like. Whether offering a helping hand, sharing a kind word, or showing up with a caring heart, they make an incredible difference in the lives of those we serve and in our community as a whole.

Volunteer Appreciation is more than a celebration of hours given or tasks completed. It is a celebration of people -- people who choose kindness, generosity, patience, and service. Our volunteers bring warmth and connection to every interaction, reminding others that they are seen, valued, and cared for.

At Collinsville Faith in Action, we are continually inspired by the dedication of our volunteer team. Many balance busy schedules, family responsibilities, work, and



personal commitments, yet still make time to give back. Their willingness to serve reflects the very heart of our mission and strengthens our organization in countless ways.

The impact our volunteers make cannot always be measured in numbers. Sometimes it is found in a smile, a moment of encouragement, or the comfort of knowing someone cares. Those moments matter deeply, and they happen because of the incredible people who give their time and talents so selflessly.

To each volunteer: thank you. Thank you for your compassion, your commitment, and your servant hearts. You are appreciated not only during Volunteer Appreciation celebrations, but every single day. Our community is stronger, kinder, and more connected because of you.



How does volunteering benefit our seniors, you, and our community?

- * Builds meaningful connections and relationships
- * Reduces loneliness and social isolation among seniors
- * Brings joy and emotional support to older adults
- * Provides valuable life perspectives and wisdom
- * Develops empathy and understanding across generations
- * Creates a sense of purpose and personal fulfillment
- * Improves communication and interpersonal skills
- * Strengthens community bonds and connections
- * Encourages respect and understanding between age groups
- * Helps seniors stay active, engaged, and valued
- * Contributes to a healthier, more supportive community
- * Promotes a compassionate and inclusive environment

Contact Karen Saravia today at 618-344-8080 or
volunteer@fiacollinsville.org

BE WITH Research Study

Participants Needed

\$180 compensation

We're currently looking for older adults (55 years and older) who wish to join a research study on how we can best train volunteers to support the wellbeing of older adults.

Requirements

- 8-week calling program
- Both control and treatment groups: complete a phone survey every other week
- Treatment group: talk to a volunteer on the phone weekly
- Time: up to 40 minutes/week



Potential Benefits

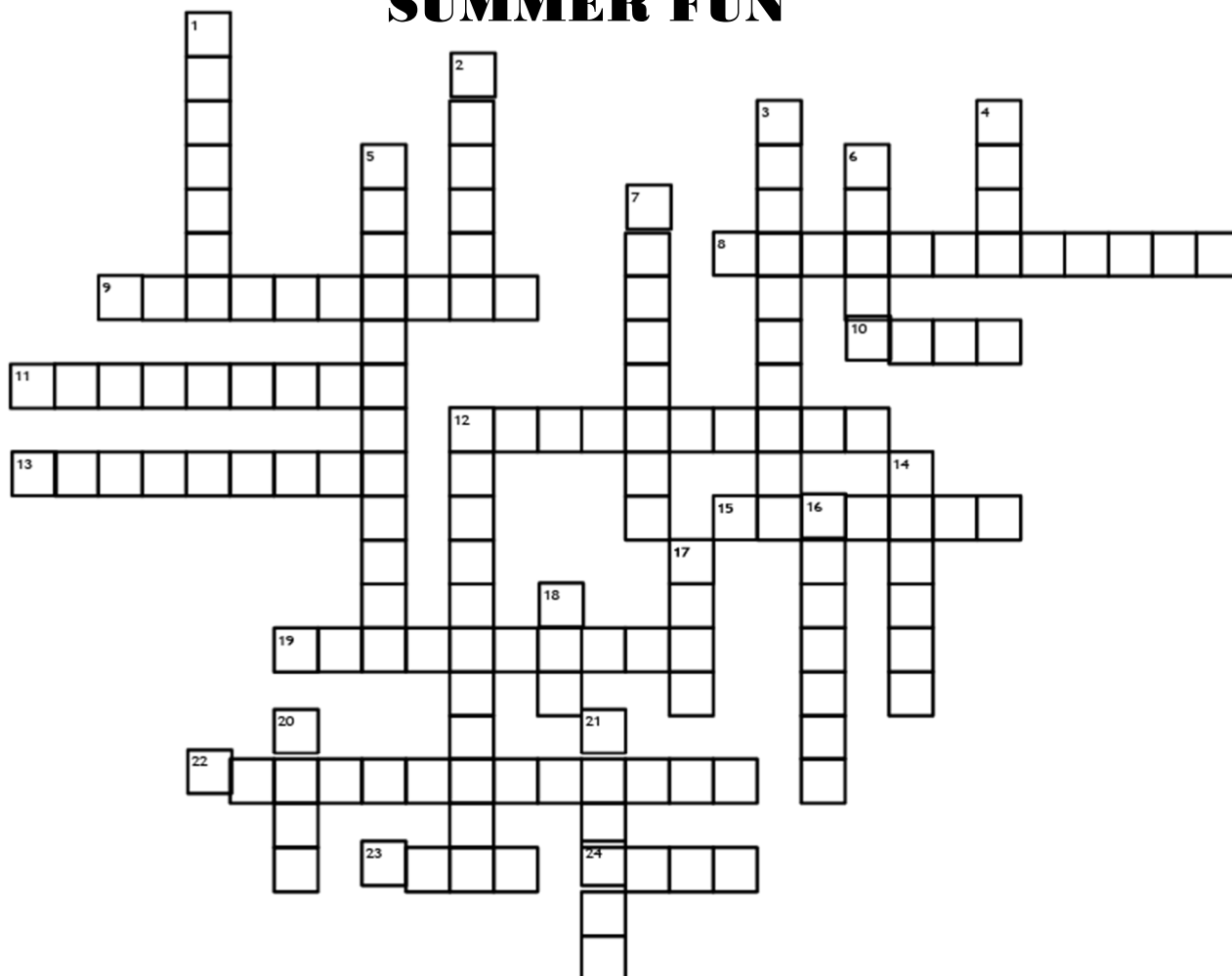
- Improved wellbeing
- Help us develop a nationwide program
- Up to \$180 compensation

Contact Information

Lab phone number: (352) 221-9280

If interested, please call
(352) 221-9280 for
more information!

SUMMER FUN



DOWN:

1. an event where participants bid on items and experiences and raise funds for CFiA
2. a container used to hold auction items
3. an institution financed by a legacy that financially supports and aids other organizations
4. a method of doing developed in advance
5. a direction, usually written, by the physician to the pharmacist for the preparation and use of a medicine or remedy
6. a person who joins a celebration and enjoys a gathering organized by a caring host
7. a government health insurance program for people aged 65 or older and people with disabilities
12. a party or other festive event
14. soundness of body or mind; freedom from disease or ailment
16. a business or organization that helps financially support the work of CFiA
17. to be concerned or to have kind thought or regard for another usually accompanied by action
18. Faith in Action
20. National Volunteer Caregivers Network
21. influence and effect of an idea or action

ACROSS:

8. freedom from the control of others
9. readiness or liberality in giving
10. the words of something printed or written
11. a person who performs a service willingly and without pay
12. a feeling of deep empathy for another who is stricken by misfortune accompanied by a strong desire to alleviate the suffering
13. a section of the dinner-auction festivities with delicious baked goods and garden produce
15. provides an appropriate response to questions and possible solution to problems
19. an event designed to raise funds that make CFiA's impact possible
22. a communication used to raise awareness or sell a product
23. an alcoholic beverage with a rich history and will be available in a Wine Pull game at CFiA's auction
24. a nonprofit and nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering people over 50 to live independently and confidently

Answers on Aging

My name is Justin Grzywacz, a certified Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP) counselor. and I am proud to serve as the Answers on Aging Specialist at Faith in Action of Collinsville. In this role, I work with older adults and individuals with disabilities throughout our community to help them better understand the programs and services available to support their health, financial stability, and independence.

- Ongoing support and assistance with questions about
Medicare
- Assistance with programs that help lower healthcare expenses for individuals with limited income or resources
- Guidance on **Extra Help (Low-Income Subsidy)** to reduce prescription drug costs, including premiums, deductibles, and copayments for Medicare Part D
- Support with understanding and applying for **Medicaid**, including eligibility and application guidance
- Help navigating complex healthcare and financial assistance program options
- Assistance with the **Illinois Benefit Access Program**, which offers:
 - Discounted license plate renewal stickers
 - Free public transit rides for qualifying individuals age 65+ or with disabilities
- Information and support for additional financial assistance programs, including:
LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program) to help with heating and cooling costs
- Guidance on resources that help individuals remain:
 - Safe
 - Comfortable
 - Independent in their homes
- Connections to **local organizations and community resources** for services not offered directly

As summer brings longer days and warmer weather, I look forward to continuing to help individuals and families connect with the resources available in our community. If you have questions about Medicare, prescription drug assistance programs like Extra Help, Medicaid eligibility, or the Benefit Access Program, you can contact me at (618) 344-7788 or by email at aoa@fiacollinsville.org.

Thank You to a Funder

CFiA is able to offer free services and programs to seniors because of the generosity of donors, successful fundraisers, and foundations that provide grants. One such foundation is the Marillac Mission Fund (MMF).

The Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent DePaul came to St. Louis from Baltimore, Maryland, in 1828 and were renamed the Daughters of Charity in 1850. In 1990s, when the Daughters of Charity sold DePaul Hospital to the SSM Healthcare system; the funds from that sale were used to establish a foundation. In 2019, the Daughters of Charity Foundation of St. Louis (DCFSL) changed its name "to better reflect the Foundation's legacy and ongoing belief in the intrinsic value and dignity of all persons, especially those who are experiencing poverty and vulnerabilities." Daughters of Charity Foundation of St. Louis is now Marillac Mission Fund (MMF).

MMF has supported the CFiA mission for many years and continues to do so by awarding us grants to pay for our programs, helping us build capacity so that we can serve more people, and by giving loving attention to the staff and volunteers who work directly with CFiA clients. For instance, MMF recently hosted a Wellness Retreat for employees of the nonprofits they fund. MMF has also played a critical role in funding and connecting our organization with professionals who have helped us complete a Comprehensive Organizational Assessment Report (COAR) and a Strategic Plan; both of these activities give our organization stability for the future and have taught us how to maintain and/or grow our impact.

We are grateful for the relationship we have with MMF and their ongoing support of the CFiA Mission.



MMF Staff: (L-R) Program Manager Emily Stuart; Executive Director Claire Hundelt; Director of Partnerships and Organizational Development Lucinda Perry-Jones; Administrative Assistant Bonnie Juene; Program Manager Katie Keller

We could never do what we do without our generous donors. Thank you!

Individual Donors

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Todd Zavaglia

Church Donations

Caseyville United Methodist Church
Christ Church Collinsville
First United Methodist Church
Our Lord's Lutheran Church
St. John UCC Troy United Methodist Church

In Memory of

Jeanine Bivens by Patrick Bivens
Dolores Leitner by Milton & Louise Klaus
Paul Pfaff by Jane Pfaff

In Honor of

Collinsville High School Student by
Nancy L Deason

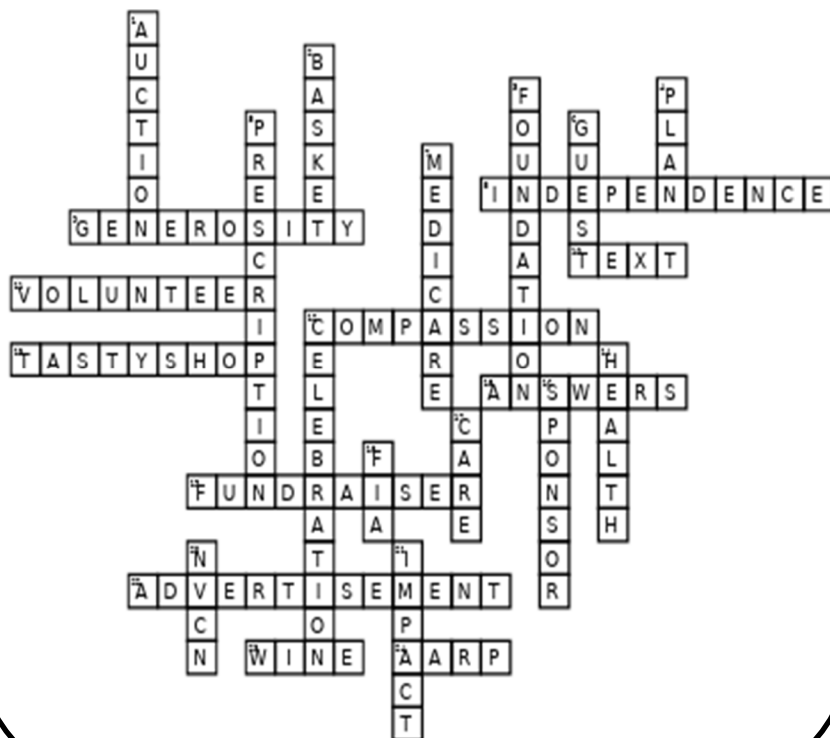
Community Group Donations

Citizens for Jeff Conner

Business Donations

First National Bank of Waterloo
Thrivent

Donations are recognized quarterly in this newsletter. Gifts received after our newsletter has been sent to the printer will be recognized in the next newsletter.

SUMMER FUN answer key

"Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in." - Author Unknown



How can you Help Collinsville Faith in Action?

There are several ways you can make a one-time or recurring donation

Click the DONATE button on our webpage www.fiacollinsville.org

Text to Donate: Text the acronym FIA to 50155 on your smart phone

Call to Donate: Call us at 618-344-8080

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.

Plan to Donate: Create a Donor Advised Fund with your financial advisor.

Other options to support CFiA

Forever Postage Stamps help us stay in contact with volunteers, clients, and supporters.

Gift Cards Make lovely gifts to our volunteers and can be lifesavers for some of our clients.

Volunteer to help our organization with administrative jobs, to work directly with our clients, or to help lead CFiA into the future.

Ask your church, business, or volunteer leadership if someone from CFiA could come share about the work we do, and how we are a service to our community



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Collinsville Faith in Action
233 North Seminary
Collinsville, IL 62234

Neighbors Helping Neighbors!™

Faith in Action

Our mission is to provide services and information to community members
ages 60 and up to promote dignity and independence.

Our Founding Churches

Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Collinsville; St. John United Church of Christ in Collinsville;
and
Our Lord's Lutheran Church in Maryville