



885 Badger Circle
Grafton, WI 53024
(262) 376-5362

info@interfaithozaukee.org
www.interfaithozaukee.org

Serving Saukville, Port Washington,
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United Way of Northern Ozaukee County

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gratitude |'grate, t(y)ood|
noun
the quality of being thankful; readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness

Thanks to the organization called Interfaith Caregivers of Ozaukee, I have recently experienced the feeling of gratitude as the dictionary states. I am thankful that my hopes came true. My husband is experiencing health issues that require respite care when I have to be out of the house. Appreciation set in when we were paired with awesome volunteers.

The program coordinator was sensitive to the suggestion of sending male volunteers to spend time chatting, getting to know my husband and taking care of him while I could be worry free doing what I had to do.

It sounds flowery or artificial to say the volunteers clicked immediately but it is honestly true. This situation was so welcoming and offered me relief and lowered my stress level right away.

Part of the learning process in this new life adventure is seeking help which they readily supplied. I cannot say enough for the sincere manner in which this organization is run. Interfaith of Ozaukee is competent and very confidential. They acquire outstanding volunteers.

Imagine waking up one day, going out of your way to volunteer and please the client just because you want to. Volunteering is very fulfilling especially when it is done with the guidelines, training and backing of a well-structured organization like Interfaith Ozaukee.

As the recipient of the organization's good will and awesome volunteers, I can honestly say I am blessed to have taken the steps to seek them out.

Linda (Wife of Interfaith Ozaukee Client)

None of this would be possible without generous support and donations from our community. Without you, we couldn't be there for Jerry, Bill, Linda and hundreds of others. With much gratitude, thank you!

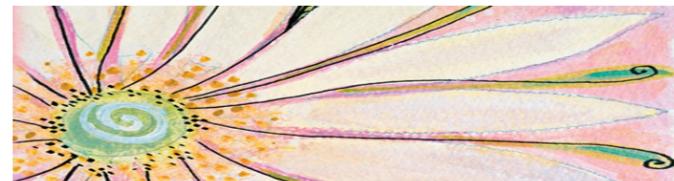
Richard has been helping those in his community by volunteering with Interfaith Caregivers for over three years. Somewhere between driving nearly 500 miles and contributing almost 70 hours of his time, one special friendship stands out. For the past year, Richard has been providing companionship visits for Jerry and they have become good buddies. A common theme runs between them- the shared blessing of family and friendship. When they talk openly and lovingly about their families, the pride in both men is impossible to hide. They beamed as they talked about their parents, siblings, children and grandchildren. Jerry's days are filled with relaxing meetings with friends like Richard, watching old classic movies, entertaining his children and grandchildren, singing, conquering puzzles, and leisurely walks. These gentlemen prove there is a thin line between volunteering and friendship. As the saying goes, "Strangers are just friends you haven't met yet."

Showcasing Our 2014 Gold Star Congregations!

Interfaith Caregivers is so grateful to acknowledge our "Gold Star" Top Donor Award to the following congregations:

-  **Faith Lutheran—Cedarburg**
-  **Crossroads Presbyterian—Mequon**
-  **St. Joseph's Parish—Grafton**

Your generous support ensures necessary and vital support systems to those throughout Ozaukee County. Thank You!



Save the Dates!

- ⇒ **Tuesday, June 16 8-12 pm**
Senior Conference, Grafton High School
- ⇒ **Tuesday, June 16 & 30 3-4:30 pm**
Database Training for Volunteers at the ICO office, call 262-376-5362 to register
- ⇒ **Wednesday, June 24, 2015 5-7pm**
Volunteer Appreciation Event & Annual Meeting at ICO,
RSVP by June 16 to 262-376-5362 or info@interfaithozaukee.org
- ⇒ **Thursday, November 5, 2015 5-7pm**
Fall Fundraiser at the River Club, Mequon

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Executive Director's Message: Our Community Benefits



At Interfaith Caregivers of Ozaukee County, we have a simple mission – to help senior citizens in our community remain independent in their homes. We accomplish this important work through a concept that is as old as time. Our shorthand for it is “neighbors helping neighbors.” People of good faith in our community step forward to volunteer their time and talents to help those in need.

So how are we doing? How successful are we? It is a reasonable question, one that prospective donors, among others, have every right to ask. We challenged ourselves to answer this question in a meaningful manner.

Maureen Squire

There are some things we simply don't know. It is not possible for us to determine how many people are able to remain in their homes because of the services we provide. We are confident the answer is many, but we just can't put a number on it. And we can't give a figure for total sales, because all of the services we provide are free.

And yet there is much we can quantify. We know, for example, exactly how many times our volunteers provided transportation to or from medical appointments. In 2014, that figure was 2,734. And we know about what this kind of transportation would cost if our clients needed to hire a car and driver/companion. So in this way we are able to calculate a total value for this Interfaith Ozaukee service.

We proceeded on this course to determine the value of the other services we provide:

- Transportation to grocery stores, pharmacies and banks – the vital errands of everyday life.
- Companionship visits that help our clients avoid the social isolation that too often accompanies aging.
- Respite care that allows around-the-clock caregivers to have an occasional break.
- Housekeeping and household chores, everything from changing a lightbulb and balancing a checkbook to shoveling a driveway and trimming the bushes.
- Telephone consultations that help families sort through their options as they search for ways to help a loved one remain independent at home.

All of this very simple math led us to one number – a number that represents the total direct value we bring to the community each year. And it's a big number: **\$901,000**. This number is nearly ten times our organization's yearly budget, meaning that we can boast a tremendous return on investment.

We engaged in this exercise not so that we could crow about how good we are. We wanted only to demonstrate the significant benefits the volunteers of Interfaith Ozaukee bring to those we serve and to our community.

There is so much more we can't quantify. For example, as our Interfaith Ozaukee volunteers spend time in the homes of our clients, they frequently identify unmet needs, potential problems, changes in health and other issues, and then alert family members or others. This, too, is a vitally important benefit for our community and has a ripple effect on the health of our seniors.

I will leave you with these two messages:

- 1) If you are looking to donate your time and talents, there are many people in our community who could use your help, and volunteering through Interfaith Ozaukee is an excellent way to reach those in need.
- 2) If you are looking for a way to ensure that your philanthropy will make a big impact in your own community, please consider Interfaith Caregivers of Ozaukee County. Our organization is supported entirely by gifts from individuals, faith communities, foundations and corporations. As our population ages, your gift will make a vital contribution to our efforts to meet the growing demand for services.

We may not be able to put a number on our total community benefit, but numbers will never describe the good will we generate as we facilitate the process of neighbors helping neighbors.

“The greatest reward in this world is to take care of others. The greatest loss in this world is to receive from others without gratitude .” — Buddha



Remembering Interfaith Caregivers of Ozaukee County in your planned giving is a generous and powerful way to ensure that Interfaith can continue to respond to community needs now and in the future. To support the mission of Interfaith, gifts are welcome in many forms including both lifetime gifts and bequests after death. Because Interfaith Caregivers of Ozaukee County is a qualified tax exempt organization under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, gifts made to support the services of Interfaith are tax deductible. Gifts and bequests can be cash or other investments. They can be a specified amount, a percentage of your property, or the residue of your estate after all other bequests, taxes, and obligations have been fulfilled.

If you choose to include Interfaith in your estate planning, we recommend the following language in designating Interfaith Caregivers of Ozaukee County in your will, trust, or beneficiary designations: “I leave (____% of my estate or \$____) to Interfaith Caregivers of Ozaukee County Inc., a non-profit organization located at 885 Badger Circle, Grafton, WI 53024, to be added to its general operating funds.” Interfaith Caregivers of Ozaukee County tax ID number is 39-1777946.

We Can Get You There!

When is it time for your loved one to limit or stop driving?

Interfaith Caregivers of Ozaukee County understands how important it is to remain independent, mobile, and socially connected. Transportation is not just about a ride, it is about freedom and safety. Caregiving is all about helping loved ones lead the best possible life. However, age-related changes—reaction times, medical conditions affecting the heart, eyes, muscles, and brain, and the medicines used to treat those symptoms—can affect fitness to drive. Staying safe on the road is just another important part of that picture. If the time comes to limit or stop driving, Interfaith Caregivers has transportation options to get your loved one to their medical appointments, grocery shopping and other important trips.

Your generous donations helped provide over 3,500 trips last year to those in the community. Ensuring these free services continue will enable seniors and adults with disabilities maintain the health and dignity of their lives.

We are Grateful

Interfaith Caregivers of Ozaukee County Board of Directors and staff thank the following organizations who collaborated with spreading holiday cheer to our clients: **United Way of Northern Ozaukee County, Grafton Lions/Leos Club.** Holiday gift bags were delivered to over 120 Interfaith clients. We received over 30 handwritten thank you notes. Here are a few quotes.

“What a delightful surprise. A jolly old elf delivered a special gift bag. Not much comes in by way of gifts so it was so special and so were the ornaments! Thank you all who made this possible!” - **Ruth**

“Thank you so much for helping me get to my last minute Milwaukee appointment. It was really important so I can get my medicine & back to work & activities. I appreciate all that you do for me. It means so much. And thank you for the beautiful gift bag. Happy Holidays.” - **Judy**

“Thank you, I was truly touched by the generosity & thoughtfulness of all who made my Christmas extra special with lovely gifts. I loved everything & can use everything. I am not able to see my family for Christmas. So I usually don't have gifts to open on Christmas. So it was fun this year to see all the thoughtful gifts.” - **Jody**

“Blessings to the staff and volunteers throughout the year – I'd be lost without you! The gift bag made my day.” – **Bob**

Without your generous donations and support, we would not be able to touch the lives of so many.