

ANNUAL REPORT
1-1-2022thru 12-31-2022

Faith In Action In Red Wing is a 501-C-3 not-for-profit public corporation with offices located at 320 West Ave in Red Wing, MN 55066

We provide services within the community of Red Wing, and in adjacent townships to an area approximately 6 miles from city limits. In 2022, 83 FIA volunteers provided 2,752 hours of services to 174 individuals in the Red Wing community

Mission: To enrich the lives of seniors, and other individuals in distressed circumstances; and to enhance their ability to remain independent, through faith and community-based volunteer efforts.

History, Values, Goals: Faith In Action In Red Wing grew out of a community/Goodhue Co Public Health assessment of needs facing the senior population in Red Wing. In 1998 the community was awarded a Robert Wood Johnson grant to establish a Faith In Action project. The main goal was to provide volunteer services which would help the senior population to maintain their independence. Although faith is in our title, we are not a religious organization as such. We have 11 congregations in our community who collaborate in the program with a congregational coordinator who can be a conduit with the program in enlisting volunteers, and assessing members in need of volunteer services. No volunteer or staff member of Faith In Action can proselytize. We also have many volunteers who have no religious affiliation with the congregations that partner with us.

Our main programs are:

Local transportation assistance. It is provided by Faith In Action volunteers. There is no charge for this service, but services are determined by availability of drivers. Requests should be made at least two working days in advance for medical rides and three working days in advance for all other rides. In 2022 our pool of roughly 78 drivers provided 2,497 hours of service and logged 22,375 miles. 63% of rides given were for medical purposes.

Our Friendly visiting program and book-house call program was provided by 11 volunteers. Many individuals suffer loneliness which can lead to depression. Our volunteers devote ½ to 1 hour visits weekly or bi-weekly with their matches. In 2022 these visits accounted for 180 hours of volunteer services. In addition 38 hours of their time was spent delivering books from the library to individuals unable to go to the library.

Our Radiation Treatment rides are a part of our transportation program, but unique, as they are the only out-of-town service we provide. This program provides rides for Red Wing residents who require radiation treatments for cancer or any other cancer related appointment. Our office works with the patient, their family and friends, and their faith community to fill the many rides needed to complete their treatments. In 2022 we offered assistance to 2 individuals needing transportation to Rochester. One was our own Don Tomczik who needed radiation treatment. Being able to provide Don rides when he needed, knowing how he has helped so many other get rides to important appointments was a bittersweet moment for Faith in Action.

FAITH IN ACTION IN RED WING BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board members serve 3-year terms, They serve until Feb. of the year shown behind the name. They may serve an additional 3-year term (Second Term) if they choose. Board members receive no compensation for their service.

Carol Andersen – 1828 Perlich Ave. #2A, Red Wing (Feb. 2023)
carolholmgrenandersen@gmail.com , C: 651-380-4409 *Secretary*

Elaine Beech – 2455 Wildwood Ridge, Red Wing (Feb. 2024 Second Term)
sepbeech@gmail.com C: 651-764-1528

Wendy Erickson – 625 W. 5th St., Red Wing (Feb. 2023 Second Term)
wendy@rehome.us, C: 651-301-9186 *President*

Verna Fricke – 1260 Foursome – Red Wing (Feb. 2023 Second Term)
vernafricke@gmail.com, C: 651-208-0771 *Secretary*

Dave Larson - 1029 Pleasant View Ave., Red Wing (Feb 2025)
dglarson72@gmail.com C: 651-301-9051

Laura Lutjen –26995 River View Court., Red Wing (Feb. 2023)
mrslutj@gmail.com, C: 651-442-7294 *Treasurer*

Mary Roskam - 1626 Cobblestone Court, Red Wing (April 2024)
maryroskam01@gmail.com C: 651-494-8439 *Vice President*

Ben Stephani - 31099 Hay Creek Trail, Red Wing (Feb 2025)
H: 651-388-2702

David Tincher - 29570 White Oak Lane, Red Wing (Feb. 2025)
582xm3@gmail.com C: 651-212-1792

Doris Wenzel – 209 Debra Ave., Red Wing (Feb. 2023)
dorismwenzel@gmail.com, C: 651-380-3402

Staff

Katherine Bonine - Executive Director, Director@FaithinActionRedWing.org
C: 562-606-3492

Don Tomczik – Transportation Dispatch, C: 651-380-0101

Gwen Krehbiel - Office Assistant & Transportation Dispatch, office@faithinactionredwing.org
C: 651-269-6219

Calli Ekblad - Transportation Dispatch, C: 651-380-0936

A couple of stories from the many activities every day at Faith In Action could be typical of the variety of effects our volunteers make in the community:

Many of our receivers don't have family nearby and with losing the ability to drive they have lost the ability to do the important things in life such as get to the doctor, the grocery store or even to the hair salon and fitness club. Two of our recipients use our services for all of the things mentioned above and request around 14 rides each every month. We are able to keep our citizens who have lost the ability to drive healthy physically and mentally and have relieved them of the burden of having to depend on their loved ones for help. We had one recipient who was calling to get a ride to pick up a prescription tell us "You guys at Faith in Action are all I've got. No one else can give me the rides I need." This woman is living at a motel in town and doesn't have any family to help her out. Another recipient told one of our dispatchers that "You guys saved my life" now the particulars of that statement we can not be sure but even if it was used as a figure of speech it tells us that we are a valuable service to those in our community.

We had what we called an envelope stuffing party where volunteers came to help us stuff envelopes to send out our newsletter. A woman showed up to help and when talking with her while we stuffed envelopes she mentioned how Faith in Action had helped her dad with transportation and how helpful it was to her. She asked more information and went through the orientation and became a volunteer driver. She now is so excited about offering help and paying back the kindness others showed her father that she gives around 5 rides or more a week. Another avid transportation volunteer gives around 10 rides a week and even calls us from his vacation in Florida to schedule rides for when he gets back. When I asked him why he liked volunteering he said he loved hearing the stories from all the people who he provided rides to.

Our friendly visiting program connects people in a very deep way. We received a thank you card from the daughter of one of our recipients of friendly visiting. In the card she mentioned how much her mother looked forward to her visitor and how they became real friends. She even included a donation to Faith in Action as a thank you for visiting program services her mother received.

Staff Experience

Katherine Bonine, Executive Director – 7 months in position
Don Tomczik, Transportation Dispatch – 17 years in position
Gwen Krehbiel, Office Assistant & Transportation Dispatch 5 months in position
Calli Ekblad, Transportation Dispatch – 3 months in position

Location: St Paul's Lutheran Church at 320 West Avenue, Red Wing, MN 55066
(handicapped accessible)
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