

Sharing Joy

At Interfaith we get to see firsthand the results of sharing joy. We hear it each week in the phone calls we receive, thanking us for helping their mom or dad get to their doctor's appointments. We see it in the smiles of the Time for You participants at our dementia respite program. We feel it each week when we connect our volunteers with the perfect match. While many people are struggling today, we know that by helping our volunteers put their faith in action, we are helping them spread joy.

As I think about Interfaith and all the change we have seen over the years, I'm reminded of all the people and programs that have made that change possible. I recently heard a quote from Queen Elizabeth II that really resonated with me: "It is often the small steps, not the giant leaps, that bring about the most lasting change."

This new building wasn't one giant leap, but hundreds of small steps, one after the other. We knew this new facility would have a tremendous impact on our community, but we didn't expect it to start so fast. The community definitely knows we are here and is utilizing our services. Some days we can have up to sixty contacts via phone calls or visits.

We are so thankful to be able to expand our services and create an even deeper impact in our community. Our volunteer services continue to increase, and in 2023 we added thirty-one new volunteers to help Interfaith reach even more seniors as they age in place. Thank you to each one of you, the new volunteers and the long-standing volunteers. You are truly what makes all of this possible.

In February, we expanded our Time for You Dementia Respite Program to five hours a day on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This program currently has thirteen participants and has helped over forty families. This requires six to eight trained and caring volunteers, along with our dedicated staff. We hope to add another day in the future, depending on funding, volunteers, and staffing.

We have hosted our Aging Gracefully Conference, a Stand Up and Move More Program, and many trainings and meetings for our volunteers and staff. As much impact as we are having inside this new facility, the impact Interfaith's two-hundred plus volunteers are having outside this building is tenfold.

Each month volunteers provide over sixty round trips to appointments, and our Groceries to Go Program is delivering to eighty households some months. The Visually Impaired Program, Jackson United Mentoring Program, and Library to Go all continue to grow!

All of this growth and coordination of programming sounds like a lot; while it is, we are able to do all of this so much more cohesively in our new facility, thanks to all of you! The impact that our new facility is having on our community is already happening. We are so thankful to be able to continue spreading joy, thanks to each one of you! This year, as you make your pledge to Interfaith, we want you to know that your impact is going even further! Thank you for helping us put Faith in Action and spreading joy to all those we are able to help.



With much appreciation,

Lori Chown, Executive Director

Bethany Sartor, Volunteer Coordinator

Carol Jarrett, Program Assistant

Laura Hansen, Bookkeeper

Shawn Callisto, Time for You Coordinator

Bev Zink, Time for You Respite Assistant

Interfaith Volunteers – Putting Faith in Action for 34 years!



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Donate online at www.jcivc.org or checks made payable to **Interfaith** can be mailed in the enclosed envelope.

Interfaith Volunteers, 1451 Tyler St, Black River Falls, WI 54615
Phone: 715-284-7058 E-mail: Interfaith@JCIVC.org www.jcivc.org

All donations will be recognized in our newsletter.

We are a 501(c)(3) organization. Your gift is a charitable tax deduction to the extent allowed by law.



**Interfaith
Volunteers**

1451 Tyler Street
Black River Falls, WI 54615



*"When you give joy to others,
you get more joy in return."
—Eleanor Roosevelt*

Mission Statement

Volunteers of Jackson County Interfaith put their faith in action by using their gifts and talents to serve those living in our area communities.



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