



# ***Annual Report***

## **2021**



# ANNUAL REPORT 2021

**Laurel Area Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers, Inc.**

*Faith in Action Program*

A 501(c) 3 Nonprofit Corporation

**Serving the area since 2002**

**Mission:**

*To enhance the quality of life for persons 60 years and older who reside in the Greater Latrobe, Unity Township, Derry, Derry Township, Ligonier and Ligonier Township Areas by providing companionship and assistance.*

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**Find us on Facebook: Laurelfia**



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**“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful,  
committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s  
the only thing that ever has.”  
- Margaret Mead**

## Stepping Forward in Faith

Laurel Faith in Action is overjoyed to share that we are now working in our 20<sup>th</sup> year of volunteers serving their neighbors. The helping hands and caring hearts of volunteers have enabled many to remain independent in their home with continued quality of life since 2002. As we reminisce about the beginning and see how far we have come, it is fitting to offer sincere gratitude to those who have given of themselves to serve their neighbors. Laurel Faith in Action has been blessed by many who have served as officers, directors, staff, and volunteers that can truly attest to how serving can change two lives at a time. As we continue into our second decade, we humbly offer our sincere gratitude to all of those who are part of the Laurel Faith in Action family.

I would be remiss if I did not say that 2020 was a year filled with challenges, obstacles, fear, loss, and the unknown. Together we have continued to persevere and provide service to the aging community while maintaining the well-being and safety of staff, volunteers, and recipients. Our commitment to serve the aging community did not waver as the country faced the COVID pandemic. We continued our commitment to provide the care and service through the caring and loving hands and feet of faith through the dedication of directors, staff and volunteers.

This year has been a challenge, yet at every obstacle, a blessing rained down to provide for the needs of our recipients. The struggle is real as the sociological norm is that the nuclear family all living within close proximity to each other is no longer the case. Many elderly people do not have a family member, neighbor or friend who can assist them with these everyday tasks. As we age the physical demands of maintaining a home, purchasing groceries, and driving to appointments can become overwhelming. The isolation and loneliness that can accompany aging only add to the struggles some of our elderly neighbors endure. Laurel Faith in Action continues to provide services so our recipients can remain in their homes.

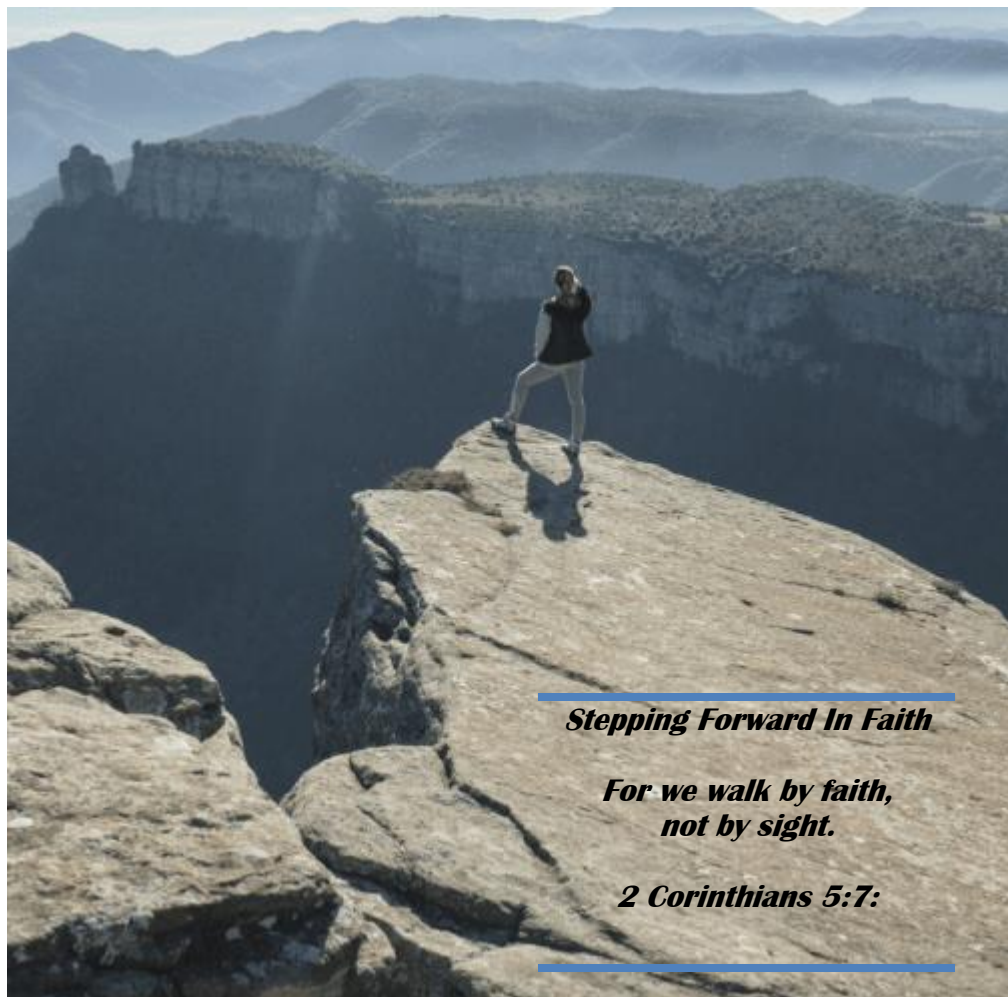
Laurel Faith in Action is a volunteer driven organization. There is never a charge for the services provided. The economic demographics of our area show that many of our neighbors live on fixed incomes and find it difficult to afford the basic needs of survival that many of us take for granted. Many are isolated and spend their time alone with little to no interaction with others. This year of social isolation and stay-at-home orders as well as the threat of COVID-19 exposure has exponentially increased the isolation, loneliness, and depression experienced by many of the aging community. Even though Laurel Faith in Action had to change the way we provided service during this time, we persevered through the faithfulness of staff and volunteers. When our office had to close during the mandated stay-at-home orders, the staff moved to their kitchen tables and continued to make contact through telephone, letters, cards, emails etc. with our recipients and volunteers. Our volunteers continued to call their telephone reassurance recipients to provide the human interaction they were so desperately craving. The services provided by the amazing Laurel Faith in Action family made a monumental difference in the elderly recipient's overall wellbeing during this unprecedented period of isolation.

The census shows that the population of the United States is indeed graying. Adults over the age of 60 number more than 46 million in the United States alone. Many sociologists predict that by 2050, that number will grow to almost 90 million. There has been speculation that the number of older adults is expected to surpass the availability of caregivers. Laurel Faith in Action is "stepping forward in faith" to prepare to be able to meet this exponential growth in the years to come. Throughout this year of challenges, our connection with local churches, organizations, agencies, schools and families continued to foster new ways that volunteerism is a part of the lives of the younger generations, as well as in the lives of all volunteers.

As we step forward in faith, Laurel Faith in Action is committed to welcoming new volunteers and recipients into the program. We are committed to continuing the legacy of the past, preparing for the needs of the future and sustaining the care provided in the present. We are reminded that with faith nothing is impossible, and that together we can move mountains. The time is now for everyone to “step out” and become involved. The time is now to make a difference in the lives of those around us. The need is great and with the help of the entire community, the challenge can be met. Time, talents, and treasures are needed, and each person is encouraged to become involved because *together we can move mountains!*

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy McLendon  
Executive Director



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***Stepping Forward In Faith***

***For we walk by faith,  
not by sight.***

***2 Corinthians 5:7:***

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## Services

Laurel Faith in Action addresses the issues of isolation, loneliness, and basic needs. Working with local churches, schools, organizations, and agencies, the program works to fill the gap between current initiatives and services. Some of the services are temporarily on hold during the COVID-19 pandemic and will be resumed when it is safe to do so. ***The intent of the program is to complement existing community services, not replace or compete with them.***

Caring Volunteers are trained to assist elderly individuals with the following:

- **Appointment Escort** – a friendly support person to meet the recipient at doctor appointments or go with them
- **Caregiver Relief** – much needed 1-2 hour breaks for full-time caregivers
- **Correspondence** – help with paying bills, writing letters, completing forms
- **Errands** – picking up prescriptions, groceries, toiletries
- **Friendly Visitor** – weekly friendly visits to talk, share interests, discover music
- **Handyman/Yard work** – minor repairs, installations, yard work, as needed
- **Referral Services** – link to other services in the community
- **Technology Mentor** – help with cell phone, computer, e-Reader, cable remote
- **Telephone Reassurance** – monthly calls to reduce isolation and remain connected
- **Transportation** – rides to the store, doctor, social events during the day

**Prospective Care Recipients requesting services qualify as follows:**

- Live in Latrobe, Unity Township, Derry, Derry Township, Ligonier and Ligonier Township areas AND
- Aged 60 years and older AND
- Request services offered by the Program AND
- Complete and sign an application for services

**Care Recipients can expect to receive an average of up to 2 hours of service a week.**

**All services are provided FREE of charge.**

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## **Response to COVID-19 Pandemic**

The year 2020 seems like it should have been a year of perfect vision and clarity. However, that was not the case. The year 2020 for many brought about times of uncertainty, loneliness, and fear, as we all attempted to navigate our way through uncharted territory. The Laurel Faith in Action family experienced these challenges alongside all of our neighbors. When the governor's order to "stay at home" came down in late March of 2020, the staff of Laurel Faith in Action did not stop operation; we simply began operating from our kitchen tables. The faithful staff, Sandi, Sibby, Jackie, Dee, Peggy, Taylor, and Amy all worked tirelessly to ensure that our recipients were being contacted and that they were not experiencing any hardships.

Laurel Faith in Action wants to share our thankfulness and appreciation for everyone that continued to work as essential workers; those in the medical field, those in the retail world, everyone who continued to work through one of the scariest times this country has even experienced. As the whole community banded together to ensure that the marginalized in our community were not facing hunger and total isolation, Laurel Faith in Action was called upon to "step forward in faith" in a myriad of ways. Major Stokes restaurant in Greensburg donated 10 meals per day for 8 days for 80 meals that were delivered to recipients whose meals programs were interrupted as the "new normal" was being developed. Westmoreland County Emergency Management provided us with more than 750 masks so that members of our Laurel Faith in Action family as well as our neighbors could wear the PPE (personal protective equipment) required. Not only were we blessed with the masks from the county, but many angels sewed and donated masks so that we were able to assist Adelphoi, housing buildings, care facilities, as well as staff, volunteers, board, and others in procuring the needed PPE during the time when it was incredibly scarce. Gloves and hand sanitizer was procured and delivered to those in need. During this time of meal delivery, delivering of needed supplies, picking up masks and delivering them, where needed, Amy McLendon, Executive Director joked that she put more miles on her car in that two-month period than ever before.

A couple of very special young all-star volunteers, Lucas and Ava, have been making handmade birthday cards for volunteers and recipients since April 2020. Each person received a beautiful card with a birthday greeting from these amazing siblings. The cards along with the care and compassion behind them mean so much to recipients. Laurel Faith in Action staff has received many calls saying these cards are displayed in a place of honor and that this act of kindness brightened their day. Thank you does not seem adequate for the joy and happiness this volunteer endeavor has provided, yet "Thank you!" Lucas, Ava, and thank you to your family for this wonderful gift you have given so many.

Food insecurity quickly became a major obstacle for many of our aging population as they were among the most vulnerable members of the population. The risk of becoming infected with COVID 19 and experiencing severe symptoms and even death was causing many to forgo grocery shopping. An amazing group of volunteers stepped up from the St. Vincent faith community and took on the opportunity to provide grocery-shopping service. The staff of Laurel Faith in Action would take the list over the phone, and email it to the coordinator of the group along with contact information. They would assign it to one of the volunteers who would pick up payment method (socially distanced and masked), go shopping and then deliver the groceries to the door of the recipient. This service has been very well received and has been instrumental in warding off possible food insecurity.



The amazing staff of Laurel Faith in Action made phone calls to recipients and volunteers to provide interpersonal communication that ensured a caring voice be heard, that no one was experiencing an extreme hardship, and to maintain a connection so that everyone knew that together we can move mountains. Hundreds of phone calls were made each week with reports of needs being given to the Executive Director who worked to make sure each need was fulfilled.

As we continued to navigate through this journey, the next hurdle was the availability of the COVID-19 vaccine. Signing up for an appointment was a harrowing task for most, not to mention those without computers or who are technologically challenged found this task to be almost impossible. Laurel Faith in Action collaborated with The United Way of SW Pa, Excelsa Health, Open Your Heart to a Senior, Westmoreland County Area Agency on Aging, and Westmoreland Community Action and provided assistance to those in our area over the age of 65 to schedule an appointment to receive the vaccine. Not only did we assist with the setting of appointments, but we also provided transportation to and from the vaccination sites. Laurel Faith in Action set over 300 appointments for members of our at risk community. The telephones did not stop for weeks on end, however we would do it all again as it was a way to help bring about a light at the end of the tunnel allowing us to continue to “step forward in faith.”



United Way  
of Southwestern Pennsylvania





## **Summary of Program Acts of Kindness**

### **Provide Services to Meet the Needs of Community**

Laurel Faith in Action currently has approximately 500 recipients and approximately 450 volunteers counting long-term as well as episodic volunteers. During 2020 there were more than 7210 total volunteer hours provided during 5518 times of service. The impact of these numbers is staggering on the quality of life of the recipients. According to *The NonProfit Times*, published April 20, 2021, the value of a volunteer hour jumped almost 5% reaching an estimated \$28.54 per hour in 2020, up \$1.34 from the \$27.20 per hour rate reported for 2019. At this value per hour, the volunteer hours for Laurel Faith in Action has a value of \$205,773.40. The staggering impact of these volunteer statistics is by far a significant statistic showing the amazing acts of kindness provided by the Laurel Faith in Action program.

### **Volunteer Recruitment**

Laurel Faith in Action continues to experience great success in sustaining and recruiting new volunteers. We have remained active in the communities we serve and are always seeking additional avenues of volunteer recruitment. It is imperative that we continue to share the mission, vision, and opportunities for acts of kindness so that those seeking opportunities can join Laurel Faith in Action and step forward in faith to help others.

### **Aging-Down Volunteer Pool**

A major strategy for volunteer recruitment, beginning in 2016, was to develop programming and projects to attract Millennial and Generation X volunteers. The strategies have continued with success. Volunteers from Adelphoi Village and Saint Vincent College and Seminary worked in a variety of ways, through community service as well as the practicum program at the Seminary. One paid intern also worked with Laurel Faith in Action through graduation 2020. She was paid through PHEAA funding at Saint Vincent College. We have also collaborated with Seton Hill College, Latrobe High School, Derry High School, Blairsville High School, as well as youth groups from churches, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, as well as several scouting programs. Several hundred Generation Y and Generation Z volunteers participated in the annual leaf-raking event. Social distancing and mask guidelines were followed for the safety of everyone involved. We continue to look toward the future and to carry on aging down the volunteer pool to ensure that Laurel Faith in Action is able to meet the increased needs of an aging population.

### **Elder Abuse Task Force**

Laurel Faith in Action joined the countywide task force in late 2016. This task force brings together professionals from the community at large to educate and protect aging residents from physical and emotional abuse, neglect, cyber scams and financial exploitation. These meetings were held virtually during this challenging time. However, the events of staying at home made the need of the task force even more essential due to the isolation of our elder population.



### **Strategic Planning**

The staff and Board of Directors continued the process of strategic planning to sustain and grow the Laurel Faith in Action Program. Due to the pandemic, meetings were held virtually as we planned on ways to navigate these uncertain times and continued to provide services to our recipients. A marketing plan, an economic plan, as well as a post COVID-19 plan were put into place. As we navigated the uncharted waters of this year with much less than 2020 sight, we continued to step forward in faith and are seeing the blessings at each junction in the journey.

### **Sentimental Journey Music program**

The pandemic has placed this program on hold for the foreseeable future. We hope to be able to continue the connection with Bethlen Communities, Ligonier Gardens, Loyalhanna Care and Saint Vincent College Service Learning, offering the music program home. It is well documented that music is processed in a part of the brain that can be reached even into the late stages of dementia.

### **Food Security Grocery Shopping Program**

Knowing that there is a roof over one's head and food to eat are just a couple of the basic needs of human survival as labeled through Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. Through the unselfishness of a group of volunteers as well as the staff of Laurel Faith in Action, our recipients as well as community members in need were assisted in obtaining groceries during the pandemic. An amazing group of volunteers from St. Vincent stepped up and provided this much-needed assistance. They are continuing to this day to provide this grocery shopping service so that no one has to worry about having nothing to eat. So many in our service area have been blessed by these dedicated and selfless individuals who navigated the empty shelves, donning masks, as they met the needs of their aging neighbors.



**“Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can.”  
~Arthur Ash**

## **Board of Directors and Staff**

### **Officers 2020-2021**

**President: David Kirkland**

**Vice President: Dr. Kathleen Kelley**

**Secretary: Rex Ashbrook**

**Treasurer: Shannon Wilson**

### **Directors - 2020**

**Kathy Bartolomucci**

**Dr. Daniel DiCola**

**Rev. Ron Durika**

**Sara Hart**

**Dorothy Lynch**

**Marie McCandless**

**Paula Maloney**

**Tammy Miller**

**Mary Jane Snyder**

**Jeremy Springer**

**Marie Zanolli**

### **Advisory Board**

**Courtney Baum**

**John Graziano**

**Harry Speedy, M.D.**

**Jeremy Springer**

**Louis Steiner**

### **Staff**

**Amy McLendon, *Executive Director***

**Taylor Kilmer, *Director of Marketing***

**Sibby McLaughlin, Jackie Kollar, Dee Kane**

**Peggy Carey, *Office Staff***

**Kelsey Myers, *Intern, Saint Vincent College***

**“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, what are you doing for others?”  
~Martin Luther King Jr.**

The end of 2020 marked a change of the Executive Committee of Laurel Faith in Action. Simon Chamberlain, President, Johnette DeRose, Vice-President, and Lillian Crusan, Treasurer all tenured out of their positions. All of us at Laurel Faith in Action want to thank them for their dedication and hard work in their respective positions. As we bid farewell to the officers in the Class of 2020, we also wish to welcome David Kirkland as our new board president, Dr. Kathleen Kelley as our new board vice-president, and Shannon Wilson as our new treasurer. We also would like to welcome the following members who have joined the Board of Directors during 2020: Reverend Ron Durika, Paula Maloney, Tammy Miller, Mary Jane Snyder, and Marie Zanotti.

The dedication and compassion of our board provides the basis for our continued success as an organization that “Changes lives two at a time!”



## Community Connection

Virtually everything we do, we do with partners. Examples of such collaborating are the following:

- **Excela Health Latrobe Hospital** – The partnership with Excela Health continues as the program serves on the Palliative Care committee and receives referrals through the “Hospital to Home” program as well. Excela Health sponsors the “Faith in Action” monthly radio show airing the fourth Saturday of the month at 8:30 a.m. on WCNS 1480 AM. As the hospital system works to reduce healthcare costs and provide “excellence in health care,” the program works to support their efforts. In the beginning of 2021, we collaborated to assist the elderly population schedule COVID-19 vaccines through Excela Health.
- **Adelphoi Village** – The collaboration with group homes at Adelphoi Village has been a tremendous success and the relationship continues to grow. Supervised youth cut grass, rake leaves, and shovel snow for more than 40 elderly homeowners year-round in the Greater Latrobe area. Since the work began with Adelphoi group homes in 2003, ten group homes have provided **over 25,000 hours** of service!
- **Saint Vincent College** – Since 2002, the program has worked with the college and students who help with household chores, yard work, friendly visits, recording memories, and technology assistance with many care recipients. In 2017 and 2018, the Sentimental Journey program was implemented and developed as a long-term program service offering. Interns paid through PHEAA have also worked with the program since 2004. This year St. Vincent Arch Abbey has provided a group of volunteers that have assisted with grocery shopping for our recipients.
- **Saint Vincent Seminary** - Seminary students are enrolled in an ongoing practicum program with Laurel Area Faith in Action where they earn credit and gain field pastoral experience. We are looking forward to the continuation of this program.
- **United Way of Westmoreland County Day of Caring** – Employees from local businesses participate through the United Way and directly with the Program to provide projects that directly help recipients remain living in their homes.
- **Elder Abuse Task Force** – The program serves on the countywide initiative to “reduce the number of victimized older adults through prevention, education, identification, and prosecution through a joint effort.”
- **Latrobe Presbyterian Church** donates office space for staff and meeting space for Board and volunteer meetings. During this past year, we have expanded into an additional office to permit social distancing and allow adequate space for effective operation of the administrative functions of Laurel Faith in Action.
- **Senior Employment Program (SEP), Westmoreland County Community College** provides paid office staff who work on-site 16-20 hours per week; Laurel Faith in Action has been a training site since 2002.
- **Unity Township Supervisors, Derry Township Supervisors, and City of Latrobe staff** pick up hundreds of bags of raked leaves from recipients’ homes and provide financial and other support.



## **Events**

**Annual Celebration of Community** – We had planned a “Spring into Action” event for Spring of 2020. However, this event was cancelled due to the pandemic. Even though we were not able to hold the event, we received \$6,790.00 in donations prior to the event being cancelled. Laurel Faith in Action sent notification to each donor as well as an offer to return their donation due to the cancellation, but not one donor asked for their money to be returned. We are looking forward to 2022, when hopefully we can be together again for this celebration. Fun in the Sun 2021 celebration is being held virtually from July 19-23 and will include an online auction, basket auction, speakers, and fun events.

**Volunteer Appreciation Dinner** - Our Volunteer Appreciation Dinner also fell victim to the pandemic and was not held in person. We instead held a virtual event where we drew tickets for a gift card give away. Volunteers received a handmade card thanking them for their service as well as a sweet treat donated by Latrobe DQ. We are hopeful that 2021 will allow an outside picnic volunteer appreciation event to be held in the fall.

**Leaf Raking** – Since 2002, leaf raking has been an annual youth event in the Laurel area. The event was held in 2020 on the first and second Saturdays in November and was another successful event with more than 250 youth participating from local churches, scout groups, Adelphoi group homes, families, schools, and Saint Vincent College! Each team was assigned a home and all social distancing and COVID restrictions were followed. Water and snacks were delivered to each location by the staff of Laurel Faith in Action.

**United Way Week of Caring** - Was held in cooperation with United Way Volunteer Teams providing yard clean up, distribution of gravel in a driveway, and the painting of porch and fence at two of our recipient’s homes. This is an annual event held where volunteers from local businesses sign up to provide assistance to the aging members of our population.

**Thanksgiving Outreach Event** – Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, Laurel Faith in Action and Valley School of Ligonier collaborated to send messages of cheer to approximately 500 people. This message consisted of a greeting to the recipient, as well as hand colored cards to be sent along to another, “each one reach one” was a huge success. The students and staff of Valley School of Ligonier did a phenomenal job with this project. In addition to the “each one reach one” mailing, residents of Ligonier Gardens, Bethlen Home, The Gables, and Loyalhanna Suites also received these Thanksgiving works of art. This event had the potential to reach over 1200 people letting them know that someone was thinking of them during such unprecedented times.

**Advent Project** – For the 20<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, volunteers worked on the signature project that provides a gift to each care recipient for Christmas. Advent bags were delivered to 457 recipients by staff and our Advent Angel Volunteers. This year we expanded our outreach to include 21 advent bags and shoulder wraps to Gables, 105 shoulder wraps and sweet treats were delivered to The Grove, 17 advent bags and shoulder wraps were delivered to Kelly’s for both the Latrobe and Greensburg locations, 17 advent bags were delivered to Life’s Promise in Ligonier, 10 walker pockets were delivered to Barnes Place, and 44 placemats, crosses, and candy canes were delivered to Laurel Highlands Village (NCR).

We utilized the remnants of years past in stockings, placemats, walker bags, etc. to augment this year’s giving to the various care facilities. The response has been wonderful. We have reached 671 with gifts this season.



Volunteers that have assisted with this project as well as others projects throughout the year are being sent a Christmas card sharing our gratefulness for their gracious love, compassion, and generous spirit.

Planning for next year is already in motion. We have knitters, crocheters, and sewers already gearing up to make 2021 great. If you are interested in getting involved with this amazing project, please contact the office of Laurel Faith in Action.





## **Funding**

Laurel Area Faith in Action continues to be blessed by the generosity of spirit and donations from many local organizations and individuals. Income reported in the Annual Report is based on a *cash basis* while the financial reports are based on an *accrual accounting basis*. *The exact audited income appears on the current tax returns available at [www.laurelfia.org](http://www.laurelfia.org) and will differ from this reporting due to the differences in accounting and reporting.*

**Donors** – Laurel Faith in Action was blessed by the generosity of 393 donors during 2020. The statistical breakdown of the donors were 37 organizations and 356 individuals. The year 2020 was a time like none other in the history of Laurel Faith in Action. Events cancelled, financial hardship was all around during the closures resulting from the pandemic, yet the continued philanthropic generosity of those who support Laurel Faith in Action did not waiver. The ongoing generosity and support of the mission and vision of Laurel Faith in Action provides hope and promise that we will be able to continue to reach out into our community and continue to be a beacon of light to our aging neighbors.

**We continue to receive donations through purchases made on Amazon.** *The Amazon Smile link is <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/20-4380836>.* Continuing through 2020, we received donations from Network for Good through our Facebook page; individuals designated the program for “birthday” donations. Please remember when shopping on amazon to utilize the above link so that a percentage of your purchase is given to Laurel Faith in Action as a quarterly donation.

### **Fundraising Events and Projects**

- **Celebration of Community** – This event fell victim to the COVID19 pandemic. Even though we had to cancel this event, we collected \$6,790.00. Over \$9,000.00 less than anticipated should the event have been held.
- **Annual Appeal** - The annual appeal for 2020 brought in \$16,125.00 from 185 individuals with an average gift of \$87.16!
- **Individual donations and gifts** – In addition to the Annual Appeal, 137 individuals sent \$16,421.35 for “general support”, and memorial donations totaled \$2560.00 from 21 donors.
- **Significant Gifts and Grantors**
  - Laurel Faith in Action is blessed to receive every donation. Whether the donation is \$5.00, \$50.00, \$500.00, or \$5,000.00 it is considered significant for the continuation of the mission and vision of the program. Thank you to all who support Laurel Faith in Action.
  - Community Foundation of Westmoreland County
  - Derry Township Board of Supervisors
  - Excelsa Health – Sponsorship of annual awards luncheon and WCNS radio show
  - Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation
  - Latrobe Area Hospital Charitable Foundation
  - McFeely-Rogers Foundation
  - Network for Good
  - Pittsburgh Foundation
  - Richard King Mellon Foundation
  - Sawyer Foundation
  - United Way of SW PA – grant and designations

- Valley School of Ligonier
- Churches, including but not limited to Heritage United Methodist Church, Latrobe Presbyterian Church, St. Michael's of the Valley Episcopal Church, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, and Unitarian Universalist Church.

**Legacy gifts** were received from several individuals in 2020, including gifts for the Laurel Faith in Action endowment at The Community Foundation of Westmoreland County and as designations from IRA distributions.

***“Kindness in words creates confidence.  
Kindness in thinking creates profoundness.  
Kindness in giving creates love.  
-Lao Tzu***

### **Participant Demographics 2020**

#### **Adult Volunteers –**

- 44 New volunteers
- 63% of volunteers are female and 37% are male.
- Most volunteers choose to assist with shopping, visits, special projects, transportation, and telephone reassurance. Volunteers can choose what services they wish to provide.

### **Participant Demographics 2020**

#### **Care Recipients –**

- 37 New recipients
- The majority of our care recipients are between the ages of 71-90.
- Average Length of Stay in the program is 64 months.
- Referrals to the program are by word of mouth from friends, family, volunteers and churches. We also receive referrals from service agencies and organization, outreach activities, social media, and marketing.

## **Program Activity – 2019**

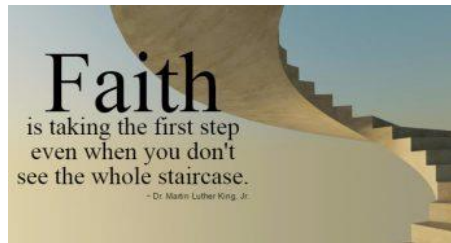
<b>Volunteers*</b>	<b>44 new</b>	<b>149 active*</b>	<i>Since 2002</i>
<b>Care receivers</b>	<b>37 new</b>	<b>497 served</b>	<i>1612 total served</i>
<b>Volunteer Activity</b>			
	<b>Hours</b>		
<b>2020 Total</b>	<b>7210</b>		<i>128,624 total hours</i>

### ***Top # of individual services reported by category***

<b>2020</b>	<b>Services</b>	<b>Hours</b>
Friendly Visits/calls	3,497	
Rides and errands	947	
Caregiver relief	15	
Special projects**	1,059	
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,518</b>	<b>7,210</b>

*\*Includes adults only and does not include additional average of 75 youth from Adelphoi Village per year on regular basis. Additional periodic youth volunteers from SVC Service Learning, Valley Youth Network, churches, and scout troops totaling 300+ in 2020.*

*\*\* Includes lawn mowing, leaf raking, and snow shoveling and special projects-indoors and outdoors*



### **Remarkable return on investments!**

Each year, the *Independent Sector*, a coalition of nonprofits, foundations and corporate giving programs, calculates the Value of a Volunteer Hour. In 2020, *The NonProfit Times* reported the value calculated was at \$28.54 per hour nationwide, up \$1.34 per hour from the previous year.

Considering the 7210 volunteer hours tracked last year in the Laurel Faith in Action program, the value in 2020 alone is valued at \$205,773.40! Since 2002, the value at the 2020 rate of \$28.54 per hour multiplied by the 128,624 total volunteer hours, the value would be an incredible \$3,670,928.96!

## **Yet To Come in 2021**

The year 2020 has been challenging. The COVID-19 pandemic affected every aspect of life as we know it. It especially was difficult on our aging population. Recognizing that the elder population was at the greatest risk of serious complications, hospitalization, and even death from COVID-19 many chose to stay at home in order to minimize exposure. However, this simple act made it difficult to ensure food security as well as access to medications and other necessities. Laurel Faith in Action recognized this need early on and began to implement a plan to guard against food insecurity, ensure access to medications, as well as maintain interpersonal communication through frequent telephone calls.

Triumphantly 2021 presents vaccines, freedom from wearing masks, ability to visit with family and friends, resumption of religious services, reopening of restaurants, as well as a return to normalcy. None of us will soon forget 2020, the lives lost to this horrible virus, the isolation, schools closed, businesses closed. Yet through all of this were the shining stars of all of those who served so altruistically. The health care community, the front line workers, the teachers all were called to work as never before. It is with hope for the future that we continue to press forward through 2021. With the pandemic prayerfully behind us, the future looks bright. Volunteerism is on the rise. People helping each other through adversity, neighbor helping neighbor, and yes-even strangers helping each other. Laurel Faith in Action is built upon this foundation – volunteerism being the way of the future. Laurel Faith in Action is blessed to have so many volunteers who are our shining stars. It is through the dedication and compassion of our amazing Laurel Faith in Action family of volunteers that the services provided to our elderly neighbors are completed.

The journey into 2021 is still a journey into uncharted waters. Virtual events have become the norm. Zoom meetings instead of gathering together, social media game nights, etc. have out of necessity become the “new normal”. Let us continue to move forward to our post-COVID-19 normal. Rebuilding relationships that may have waned during the past year, returning to social events, and regaining the ability to be the inter-relational beings we are created to be.

As we move into the 20<sup>th</sup> year of service to those aged 60 and older living in our communities, the Laurel Faith in Action program is focused on reaching into the community as well because together we can move mountains. Relationship building is at the forefront of everything we strive to accomplish. In 2020, Laurel Faith in Action began new season under Amy McLendon as the new Executive Director. What a time to begin with Laurel Faith in Action. Navigating through this season of continued change, our amazing all-star board, staff, and volunteers will continue to play a greater role in providing quality of life and independent living supports. During conversations with our many recipients, it has become quite clear that most wish to remain in their own home while maintaining their quality of life. Help us to continue to make this simple wish come true. It is through the continued philanthropic support and the amazing volunteers that Laurel Faith in Action has met in the past, is meeting presently, and will continue to meet in the

future this goal of ensuring that our recipient's wish of remaining in their home comes true.

### **Opportunities To Give**

Laurel Area Faith in Action is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit. We rely completely on grant funding and the generous donations of our community to run our program. Donations can be made through our website, by check or via our Facebook page. Every donation, big or small, makes a HUGE impact for our recipients! 100% of donations remain within the local community. They are used directly to support program efforts to serve the frail and elderly throughout our service area.

### **Attention all Amazon users:**

**Amazon Foundation will give 1/2 of 1% of all purchases on Amazon when you select Laurel Faith in Action as your charity when ordering. Use the simple link below or log on to Smile.Amazon.com when ordering!**

**<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/20-4380836>**

### **Facebook “friends”**

**Consider asking all your Facebook friends and family to give this year's birthday gift to Laurel Faith in Action. They can donate directly on our page, using a credit card.**



**Laurelfia**

**“Great things are done by a  
series of small things brought together!”  
~Vincent Van Gogh**

