



WELCOME

Jane Ferrall, Executive Director

How can autumn be here already? It seems as if we were just gearing up for the summer!

Speaking of gearing up, this fall is going to be a busy one here at IVCG. This newsletter has all the great details about our 35th Birthday Party on November 3, Thanksgiving for All, another year of great Aging at Home programming, and more.

To help us navigate all of this, we are happy to welcome our new Board member, **Marcie Dimenstein** of Hamden. A licensed clinical social worker, Marcie has provided clinical, management and fund development activities for not-for-profit organizations for over thirty years. She brings extensive experience but, more importantly, a heart for our clients and our mission. Welcome Marcie!

We also welcome our new drivers **Donna Fioretti**, **Ann Levison**, **Bruce Levison**, **Stephanie LaMacchia**, and **Laurel Schneider**. We sadly but fondly bid farewell to driver **Bela "Cowboy" Garrison**, who has moved to Pennsylvania to be closer to family. As you'll read later on in this issue, these new drivers are coming online just in time, as our active client base has almost doubled in just one year, and we struggle to provide both our old and our new clients with the caring service they deserve.

I also want to take this chance to give a shout-out to the wonderful people at St. Rita's (Divine Mercy) Parish. As many of you know, St. Rita's has been hosting IVCG at the former convent building on Gillies Road since 1992. Our homey office space and all utilities and cleaning service are provided to us, by the parish, at a significantly below-market rate. Without the support of St. Rita's, IVCG could not operate so all thanks to them!

I hope you'll take a minute to look at this issue of Connections and remember that, if you're interested in signing up for at-home Thanksgiving meal delivery, the form is on the last page of the newsletter.

Have a terrific autumn!

Jane J. Ferrall

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AGING AT HOME ANNUAL MEETING

Giggles and laughter abounded at the recent Aging At Home Annual Meeting, held on September 5 at Spring Glen Church, as **Dr. Joyce Saltman** shared some of her jokes and her insights on aging with humor with approximately forty appreciative audience members. It seemed everyone was smiling as they left.

Member of the year **Kathy Sharp** was honored for her many years of devoted service, including her much-appreciated efforts to make our meetings look good with her decorations and flowers. **Jane Ferrall** was also honored with the prestigious, inaugural Mae's Closet booster award.

In October, Aging At Home with Open Door will swing into action again with the "**Lunch and Learn**" programs. The list of programs for the year, which was mailed out in August, included a wide variety of subjects. Our program year begins on Thursday, October 3 with "**Are You in the (Financial) Know?**" in and ends in June with "**Edwardian Style: Authentic Clothing**" – and features an impressive variety of subjects in the months between.

Our monthly luncheon is served at noon on program days (the first Thursday of each month, except for January when it is the second Thursday) and the program itself starts at 1 PM and runs approximately 30-45 minutes. The cost of the lunch is \$5, for a hearty and delicious meal, and all RSVP's for lunches are due by the Friday of the week immediately preceding the program week. If you would like to attend the program only, just be to the church by 1 PM and there is no need to RSVP.

If you, or anyone you know, would like to participate in these activities, which keep seniors involved in the community, please call **(203) 230-8994** or email **agingathome@gmail.com** for more information.

RIGHT: Dr. Joyce Saltman

BELOW: Jane Ferrall, Kathy Sharp, and Ann Levison



OPERATING ACTIVITIES IN: FISCAL YEAR 2019, YEAR TO DATE

ELEVEN MONTHS ENDED AUGUST 31ST

Service Hours	3936
Total Clients Served	365
<i>of whom</i>	
Age 75+	204
Minority.....	119
Poor	58
Near Poor	76
At Risk	310

A NOTE TO OUR CLIENTS:

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to address a development that I know has created some stress and upset for our clients.

Over the summer and continuing into the fall, the number of ride requests we have received has greatly exceeded our ability to fulfill them. Using creative scheduling and strategic volunteer deployment, we make the very most of the volunteer hours available. However, we are finding that almost every week we are having to close new ride bookings earlier, sometimes much earlier, than the seven-day window we had previously allotted for making appointments. As many of you know, once we've made the decision to close bookings, we do leave that message on our office line, so that our clients have sufficient lead time to make other arrangements.

When clients call and there are no rides available, we feel terrible! I truly wish that we could guarantee everyone who calls within the seven-day window a ride... alas this simply is not possible. If you have an important appointment and you absolutely positively have to be there, please call us as soon as you are humanly able. There is no "outer limit" on how far ahead you can book; in fact we have numerous rides already booked for 2020. There is no need at all to wait until seven days before the appointment to make the request and in fact, at least with the way things have been going, this can often lead to us being unable to fulfill your request.

We've been really fortunate to recruit several new drivers lately; with some extra hands, we're hoping this is only a temporary problem and that we'll soon be able to return to honoring all timely requests. Please know that we are making our very best efforts to step up our service and that we're extremely sorry when we cannot serve our clients to the degree that any of us would like.

Hang in there! Call us early if you can!

COME TO THE CELEBRATION!

On November 3, IVCG is throwing our crazy amazing birthday bash, and YOU'RE invited!

We're celebrating 35 years in the business of senior service, and that's certainly worthy of a blow-out.

Our birthday party happens from 1 PM to 4 PM on Sunday, November 3, at the congenial **Square Foot Theatre and Tavern**, located just off Exit 66 from the Meritt Parkway in Wallingford. There is ample free parking in front of the venue, which is a short 16 minutes from downtown New Haven!

The inspirational documentary "**Lives Well Lived**," will be shown twice during the party in the theater portion of the venue. On the cabaret side, we'll have all the popcorn you can eat, additional snacks and goodies, raffle baskets, door prizes, live piano music, and a cash bar. Your ticket of \$35 (\$30 if you purchase before October 10) will help us meet our 35th Birthday fund-raising goal of \$35,000, and support all the great senior services that IVCG provides.

Many of our clients and supporters will shortly receive their invites in the mail. You can purchase your tickets by:

Returning your RSVP card and check in the mail (this saves us fees!)

Visiting...

carenewhaven.org, and clicking on the "**35th Birthday**" button on the front page of the site (you'll use PayPal to purchase your ticket through our site)

eventbrite.com and searching for "**IVCG's Afternoon at the Movies**"

our Facebook page (like us while you're there!) and buy tickets under "**Events**."

Thanks so much and we hope to see you at the party!

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS:
SUMMER/FALL 2019

We are grateful to our friends and supporters in the community; your generosity makes our mission possible. Note that due to printing considerations, some donors from this quarter will be recognized in the Winter issue of Connections. Our donors in the third quarter of our fiscal year 2019 include:

Leila Adams	Jacque Attard	Marie Carangelo	Lena Carbone
Nancy Casapulla	Anthony Consiglio	Louis Coppola	Charlie Curello
Connie Decker	Frank Farrell	Carol Galanter	Marguerite Gardner
Linda Gershman	Oliva Grippo	Rina Grosso	Irene Haller
Irma Hammer	Patty Kalisz	Lorraine LaTerza	Anita Manginelli
Sharon O'Neill	Madeline Paul	Marie Picarello	Fred Quartiano
Lorraine Salerno	Nicholas Sepesko	Rosemary Shaw	Ruth Welch

Donors to Aging at Home & Mae's Closet:

Dru Cherry	Vincent deLuca	William Donaldson	Miriam Klein
Grace L'Manian	Julia LaLiberte	Jocelyn Malkin	Dominic Suraci

Our Alumni Project Donors:

Robert Lyons	Ellen Schowalter	Al Mahan
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LET'S READ
Estelle McKiernan

Are you legally blind or have difficulty holding a book in your hand? Then, I have a wonderful place for you - the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, located on West Street in Rocky Hill, Connecticut. After you complete an easy form and have it signed by your physician, you are eligible to receive a digital tape player as well as tapes. The tapes cover every topic imaginable. You can receive classics, romance, history, biographies, memoirs, westerns, plays, children's books and magazines. The readers are skilled professionals who use their voices to enhance and dramatize the story. They even master a variety of languages from Yiddish to Japanese whenever necessary. It is easy to become lost in the stories and forget to be lonely or bored.

THE STATE OF VOUNTEERISM

Jane Ferrall

A recent Connecticut Public Radio **program**—to which I listened with great interest—focused on the state of volunteerism in the United States generally and in Connecticut more specifically. As many readers may know, the events of 9/11 sparked a revival of interest in volunteering in this country, in which many people re-affirmed their commitment to volunteering and civil participation. The "volunteer rate" reached a two-decade high of 28.8% in 2003, and 9/11 was officially re-purposed as a National Day of Service and Remembrance.

According to a 2018 **survey** conducted by the Do Good Institute at the University of Maryland, however, today "fewer Americans are engaging in their community by volunteering and giving than in any time in the last two decades."

The authors of the report analyzed data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey to conduct a fine-grained analysis of volunteering patterns in all 50 states. The report looked at the concept of social capital, measured by several factors known to affect volunteerism rates. These include such positive factors as rate of homeownership, education levels, and unemployment rate; negative factors include commuting time and the poverty rate. Volunteerism itself creates social capital, as it strengthens ties, trust and understanding between individuals, and contributes to overall well-being in a community. Historically, Americans have provided more than eight billion hours of service annually to their communities, by working through non-profits such as IVCG.

One might reasonably wonder why, given the strong economy as of late, volunteering rates appear headed in the wrong direction. Since a large

percentage of volunteer hours are contributed through churches and faith communities, the overall decline in religious membership and participation may account for some of the drop. In IVCG's case, this is undoubtedly true. When IVCG was founded in 1984, it followed the then-popular "faith in action" service model, in which the agency coordinated and equipped religious communities to provide for seniors. At one time, IVCG oversaw an incredible 45 faith community programs. Today, although IVCG continues to receive volunteer and financial support from our area's churches and other faith communities, we retain semi-formal relationships with only two, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Hamden and Immanuel Baptist in New Haven. IVCG now connects individual volunteers with individual clients - a service model that also works well, but which lacks some of the stability and predictability that came from connections to established institutions.

Copious research has shown that people who volunteer are happier and healthier than people who don't. At IVCG, this is our experience. Every one of our volunteers has opined, at one time or another, that they get more than they give with every client connection. And our volunteers devote a remarkable number of years of service once on board. We have several volunteers whose years of service are measured in decades!

The Do Good report concludes by noting that the United States appears to be "in a period of great 'uncivil disagreement,'" and suggests that it will be imperative to put more Americans "back to work," improving their communities and connecting with their fellow humans. No matter which side of the political aisle you're on, or maybe not in any aisle, we can all agree on that!



HELLO EVERYONE!

This lovely young woman's name is **Catherine Spears** and she is our Work-Study Intern here at Interfaith Volunteer Care Givers. She is currently a graduate student at the University of New Haven, majoring in Criminal Justice and also obtaining her certificate in Nonprofit Leadership, Innovation, and Organizational Sustainability. During her undergraduate career, she double majored in Criminal Justice and Psychology because she really wants to help members of the community by getting a better understanding of the justice system and mental health issues.

Here at IVCG, Catherine will be taking the lead on our Thanksgiving for All program. She will be handling all the logistics for the program and coordinating with other organizations to hopefully make this Thanksgiving for All the smoothest one we've ever had. She will also be assisting us in our 35th Birthday Fundraising Benefit by reaching out to potential sponsors. Catherine will also assist with Mae's Closet.

Catherine has always had a real passion for helping her community. She has a lot of experience working with women and children, but now she gets to experience working with the elderly. She is so excited about taking on this position and she really enjoys what she is doing for us. In the future, she plans to run her own nonprofit organization geared towards helping child trauma victims. We are so excited to have her on our team.

THANKSGIVING FOR ALL

Once again, IVCG is proud to partner with local agencies to provide nutritious and delicious Thanksgiving dinners for our friends and neighbors in the Greater New Haven area, delivered right to your door on Thanksgiving morning, November 28, between the hours of 10:30 AM and 1 PM.

This program provides free Thanksgiving meals for Greater New Haven's elderly and home-bound. To sign up to receive a meal, please complete and mail or drop off the form on the facing page so that we receive it no later than Friday, November 22. You can also go to carenewhaven.org and click on the orange "Thanksgiving" button to register online. Online registration closes at midnight on November 22.

If you or someone you know would like to volunteer to help out with this project, we are recruiting volunteer drivers to deliver meals on Thanksgiving morning. If you'd prefer to help out with cooking and packaging, our primary food partner **Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen** begins work on the Monday of Thanksgiving week and they have lots of opportunities!

In addition to DESK, our food partners include the New Haven Athletic Club, Community Dining Room, and the First Congregational Church of West Haven. Thanksgiving for All also receives significant support through the City of New Haven's Department of Elderly Services, Yale Hospitality, LifeBridge Community Services, the Unitarian Society of New Haven, and Temple Emmanuel of Greater New Haven. It truly takes an army, but everyone involved considers it an honor and a blessing to serve so many on one wonderful day.

Our dedicated email address for this project is thanksgivingnewhaven@carenewhaven.org, if you have any questions or would like to reach us about anything having to do with Thanksgiving.



Thanksgiving for All Meal Request Form

Interfaith Volunteer Care Givers of Greater New Haven, together with Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen, New Haven Elderly Services, and other community groups, invite you to take part in Thanksgiving for All. Thanksgiving for All is made possible in part thanks to the support of the Philip Marett Fund.

Thanksgiving for All brings traditional Thanksgiving meals to the homes of the elderly (65+) or homebound in the Greater New Haven Community. In order to receive meals on Thanksgiving (this year, November 28th), eligible seniors or homebound persons must submit this form. For a faster, more secure way to register, visit carenewhaven.org/tfesignup.html.

Our volunteers will arrive at your home between the hours of 10:30 AM and 1 PM, and will only deliver meals if someone is present to receive them. All meals will include reheating instructions. We are unable to accommodate dietary preferences. For further information, you may contact IVCG during office hours at (203) 230-8994 or email thanksgivingnewhaven@carenewhaven.org.

All forms, both paper and online, are due on November 21, 2019

Information about you—so we can find you on Thanksgiving!

If you received a Thanksgiving meal in 2018, and your information hasn't changed, you just need to write your name and the names of the guests for whom you are requesting Thanksgiving meals.

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Street Address: _____

Apartment #: _____

City: _____

Zip Code: 06 _____

Instructions for the volunteer: _____

(i. e. ring the doorbell, knock door, enter back door, dial ### on intercom)

If you are a resident of a complex such as an apartment building, public housing, or retirement home, please indicate the name of the facility: _____

Who's coming to dinner?

If you have requested meals for your guests (max 3), please indicate their names here.

Guest 1: _____

Relation: _____

Guest 2: _____

Relation: _____

Guest 3: _____

Relation: _____

Total Meals: 1 2 3 4

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“ Volunteers do not necessarily have the
time; they have the heart.

”

—ELIZABETH ANDREW

**We look forward to seeing our friends in the Greater New
Haven community and beyond at our 35th birthday celebration
this November 3rd.**