

INTERFAITH VOLUNTEER
CARE GIVERS *of* GREATER NEW HAVEN
SUMMER 2018



WELCOME

Jane Ferrall, Executive Director

I've been on board as IVCG's Executive Director for just about three months, and what a time it's been! I've had lots to do to get up to speed on IVCG's daily operations; Diane Schultz, our Program Associate and ride booker par excellence has now retired; we held a great volunteer reception in June; and our amazing volunteers have provided almost 1,000 hours of service to our clients! We've been "on the road" more than ever – averaging 25-30 medical rides a week just with the rides booked through our office – and the demand is only growing, as we receive at least one new client referral each and every day of the month.

Please join me in welcoming new volunteers **Al May**, **Jean Sanderson**, and **Ron Gill**, and a big welcome back to **Evelyn Katz** who will also be driving for us again after an absence.

Welcome also to our new Board chair, Bob Serow. Bob joined our Board as Chair in April 2018 and succeeded Skip Borgerson, who will remain as our Treasurer. Bob is a skilled non-profit professional with his own firm, RLS Consulting, and will bring tremendous expertise and energy to our Board. You'll hear from Bob a bit later in this issue.

A final welcome goes to new Board member and Chair of our Governance Committee, Pat Endel. Pat is a long-time New Havenite with professional experience in fund-raising, event planning, and the

political world. At present Pat is the full-time caretaker for her own mother, Louise, so Pat has ample "first-hand" experience of the challenges faced by our elders, and the people who love and care for them.

I'm hoping that in our Fall Newsletter, I'll be able to tell you about some interesting new developments for IVCG. We have the possibility of some additional funding which may open new opportunities. Stay tuned!

TABLE of CONTENTS

Summer 2018

2	VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION TEA
3	A WORD FROM BOB SEROW
4	THANKS TO OUR DONORS LIZ'S DESK
5	AGING at HOME HONORING our PAST, ANTICIPATING our FUTURE

2 | CONNECTIONS

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION TEA

Thanks so much to the more than 60 volunteers (and honored guests) who made our June 8 Appreciation Event a roaring success! We were so pleased to get the chance to meet, and thank in person, some of the hard-working volunteers who make IVCG happen, month in and month out.

At the event, we heard from our new Board chair, Bob Serow; former IVCG President and CEO Kate Walton; and Beverly Kidder of the Agency on Aging of South Central Connecticut. We also had the chance to say a formal good-bye to our dear friend, Diane Schultz, who retired from her ride booker position as of June 15. Then we moved on to the awards and the prizes! We hope you all enjoyed your awards (as silly as they were) and your goody bags!

It was really an honor for IVCG's staff to get to meet our volunteers in person ... we just wish we could hold this every month to show you how much we appreciate you!

We would like to thank the organizations that made the event possible, including Spring Glen Hardware, RJ Shore Automotive of Branford, Dairy Queen of North Haven, Whitney Avenue Donut & Sandwich Shop, Paul & Eddy's Pizza, and Panera of Hamden. Special thanks goes to Whitney Center, which hosted the event at no charge to IVCG.

Next year's event is already scheduled, for **Thursday, June 6, 2019 from 3:30 to 5 PM** at Whitney Center. Mark your calendar because we expect to see everyone next time! No excuses!



MEET BOB SEROW



Dear Friends,

As IVCG moves toward its 35th birthday, I'm proud to serve as the new Chairperson of its Board of Directors. My relationship with IVCG extends back at least a few years, when I worked with the Board in 2016 to develop its Strategic Plan. It was at that time that I first became familiar with IVCG's great staff, volunteers and clients. Now, as Board chair, I am proud to be an official member of the IVCG "family," and to have the opportunity to help guide the process that brings IVCG forward into the 21st century, and to help IVCG in its quest to grow its core mission on behalf of those seniors who are in need of our services.

A few words about yours truly. I was born and raised in New Haven and continue to reside in the area. About 15 years ago, I founded my firm, RLS Consulting, which partners with non-profits to help them realize their organizational and philanthropic goals. Prior to founding RLS Consulting, I served as chief development officer for a number of distinguished institutions, including Yale-New Haven Hospital, New York University Hospitals, Lehigh Valley Hospital and Health Network, American Heart Association Heritage Affiliate, Hospital for Joint Diseases, Calvary Hospital and the Community Renewal Team (of Greater Hartford).

My wife Eileen and I have lived in Woodbridge since 2001, where we also raised our three children (all of whom are now adults). I'm an avid tennis player and have an unyielding love for the arts and culture.

And now a few words about IVCG. It has a wonderful mission and a committed Board of Directors. We are always on the lookout for candidates who wish to make a difference on behalf of our area's senior population. Should you wish to discuss your interest here, please know that our Board has plenty of room for additional members, and we're especially interested in recruiting folks with financial and development expertise. Please contact either me at bob@rlsconsult.net, or our Executive Director, Jane Ferrall, at jferrall@carenewhaven.org, if you have any interest in serving.

I'm looking forward to combining my passion for non-profit excellence, with the terrific people and programming at IVCG, to do great things for our community. Please join me!

FROM LIZ'S DESK

I would like to thank all the volunteers for their dedication to IVCG and our clients. I truly feel rewarded to know and work with all of you. It really makes a world of difference to the clients who are able to stay in their homes because of your generosity.

I would like to ask our volunteers that if your donated time goes over two hours please notify me or Jane so we can record it.

To our clients, please remember to ask for your rides as soon as possible. The more notice I receive the better the chances are of finding a volunteer to drive you. If IVCG can help you in making your day to day lives just a little easier, we've done our job!

4 | CONNECTIONS

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

It is contributions from generous, caring folks like those listed below that “keep us in business.” IVCG would like to thank the following for their contributions made since the beginning of 2018:

Robert Appicelli
Sally Ann Beeman
Skip Borgerson
Bette Bosse
Sheila Brandy
Brenner Saltzman & Wallman LLP
Madalyn Caputo
Marie Carangelo
Annette Carbone
Meg Church
Dorothy Clement
Sue Cohen
Anthony Consiglio
Barbara Corbin
Charles Curello
Eleanor DiLieto
Ruth Ewaskio
Al & Marianne Fontana
Carol Galanter
Peter Gibb
Marion Greene
Caterina Grosso
Donald Grubert
Joan Handschumacher
Annie Hardy
Rhea Hirshman
Berdest Huggins
Barbara Jankowski
Martha Johnson (in honor of Kate Walton and Roger Tausig)
Mary Johnson
Miyoko Kinoshita
Cheri Kobe
Marian Penny Lesco
Lorraine LaTerza
Doris Manseau
Antoinette Nuzzo
Sharon O’Neil
Madeleine Paul
Irene Pixley
Fred Quartiano

Leonara Russo
Bob Serow
Alice Simon
Teresa Sirico
Andrea Spence
Gloria Testa
Shirley Velardi
Kate Walton

Aging at Home Appeal Donors include:

Virginia Adams
Rosemary Barrett
Carol Bartlett
Mary Beltramello
Marilyn Bergen
Shirley Dobihal
Ruth Falcigno
Louise Fitzsimons
Janet Goldberg
Kim Karlin
Jane Kellogg
Miriam Klein
Grace L’Manian
Jacqueline Masulli
Alison Mosher (in honor of Shirley Dobihal’s 90th)
Donna Murphy
Gertrude Olson
Paula & Frank Panzarella
June & David Schafer
Kathy Sharp (in memory of Rocco Panella)
Hillary Singer
Alexandra Weiss
Joan Zurolo



The most recent news is that folks from the Steering Committee of Aging at Home met on 5.21.18 with representatives of Open Door and Spring Glen Church. Open Door is a luncheon program open to members of the community. Meals are provided by students in the Culinary Program of Eli Whitney Technical School. For a nominal fee of \$6.00, a complete dinner is served which is then followed by a short program of interest.

They were interested in speaking with us since we also have a monthly program. They no longer have the members to organize it and were looking to us for support. The AAH members present supported this progression into a new model. A second meeting took place on 6.26.18 when more details were discussed. The coming year will be the inaugural year!

We are also profoundly grateful to the folks who stepped up to answer our appeal. At press time, we had raised almost \$1,000, which will be devoted to programming for Aging at Home in the coming year.

For more information please call (203) 230-8994 or email agingathome@gmail.com.

IVCG: HONORING OUR PAST, ANTICIPATING OUR FUTURE (PART II)

Over the years Downtown Cooperative Ministries, the founder of Interfaith and so many other New Haven social justice initiatives, broadened its membership. In 1995, recognizing the need to become more ecumenical, DCM became explicitly interfaith and re-named itself Interfaith Cooperative Ministries. With time, however, the original passion slipped away, as did its original founders. Today, many of the once-powerful downtown New Haven mainline churches are struggling with aging buildings, declines in

membership, and face challenges in sustaining their own operations, much less financing extensive community support programs. Political differences took their toll - as did the fact that many of ICM's original mission projects were ultimately absorbed into state or local government agencies. In 2015, Interfaith Cooperative Ministries was officially laid to rest, although as noted, many of its programs survive, showing DCM's significant impact on the life of New Haven.

IVCG was also the beneficiary of one of the largest initiatives ever undertaken by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, when in 1983 it began a pilot program of supporting "faith in action" programs such as IVCG. This program model involved the recruitment of volunteers from the community and local faith communities, who were in turn organized and supported by a professional coordinator. The coordinator reported to a board composed of the leaders of the supporting organizations. Services were provided free of charge to both elderly and disabled people, with religious proselytizing prohibited. The pilot program, started in 1983, proved successful and of 25 original coalitions, all but one matured to become a viable interfaith coalition (and as of 2001, 15 of the original programs were still operating).

As originally conceived, then, IVCG worked primarily with churches to organize members into teams of volunteers who helped provide services for seniors. Over the years, as funding sources and the mandates they imposed ebbed and flowed, the range of services provided by IVCG has changed as well. Future articles will explore the changing leadership and fascinating history of the agency. Today, though, we remember that IVCG is one of the surviving programs founded through the Downtown Cooperative Ministries - an organization that, while probably recalled by few in New Haven today - left an enduring legacy of social justice and good deeds for the people of our communities.

INTERFAITH VOLUNTEER CARE GIVERS
of GREATER NEW HAVEN

30 Gillies Rd
Hamden CT 06517-2113

NONPROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE PAID
NEW HAVEN CT
PERMIT NO. 124

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

WE'RE SEEKING A FEW GOOD WOMEN (AND MEN)!

Let's respect and protect the elderly – for all that they are, for all that they were, their input into our lives and their wise counsel. For their decades of contributing to society, they deserve to enjoy a dignified life. Help your friends and neighbors age with strength, grace and friendship, by volunteering with IVCG!

Do you want to make a practical difference for a senior?

We're always recruiting new volunteers because the need is always there. In addition to driving for medical appointments, we also welcome volunteers for friendly visiting with seniors at home or on the phone, grocery pickup, or one-time special help such as shoveling or yard-work. Contact Jane at jferrall@carenewhaven.org for a volunteer application. We perform a reference and background check, provide a short volunteer training, and you're in business!