



INTERFAITH VOLUNTEER  
CAREGIVERS  
of GREATER NEW HAVEN

# CONNECTIONS

WINTER 2018-19

## WELCOME

Rather than hearing from me this month, I thought I'd let you hear from a few of our friends instead:

“

I wanted to extend my sincere thanks to you for your help in getting my mom's ride scheduled to the doc today...when I called her tonight she was absolutely delighted! She thought [her driver] was incredibly kind and understanding of her hearing loss, and the fact that he lived near her doc's offices and was familiar with the area helped her feel even better. She sounds not only completely relieved, but—dare I say it? —almost looking forward to her upcoming rides...even a ride to the doc is an adventure.

“

It was an absolute joy delivering meals. The folks receiving, were all great and had kind words to say. A couple of them invited us in for a cup of coffee, which we declined, stating there were more meals needing to be delivered...God is good, and worthy to be praised. Thanks for allowing us to feed his sheep.

Somebody even wrote us a poem!

“

Sometimes you meet someone who's good, when you ask for help for you, you just know they would. My thanks go to all of them, their kindness just never will end. I thank you all from the bottom of my heart, for in my life you're a very big part.

Among our other blessings this month are our three new volunteers: Elise Palmer, Ann Petrini, and Elizabeth Songer.

In this issue you'll find out the results from Thanksgiving for All, updates from Aging at Home/Open Door, our donor list and a very special holiday treat for you history lovers. We hope that everyone has a wonderful and fulfilling holiday season and we wish you only good things for 2019.

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of IVCG

### THANKSGIVING UPDATE

Thanksgiving 2018 has come and gone, and it was a marvelous experience in every sense of the word. As I wrote in our Fall newsletter, IVCG coordinates and handles all of the logistics for Thanksgiving for All, the hot holiday meal program that serves New Haven and the surrounding towns, and this year we distributed 1,223 meals on the morning of Thanksgiving. That's a whole lot of turkey! And for a program that started with 70 dinners back in 1984, this is an incredible demonstration of caring and compassion, not to mention an organizational *tour de force*!

We received over 1,300 requests for meals this year, which may not have broken any all-time records but almost certainly came close. Unfortunately, we weren't able to fulfill all of the requests, either because they came in after the deadline, or because the folks asking for the meals could otherwise travel to congregate sites. Our "at-home meal delivery" is intended for people who cannot leave their homes, so every year we do have to let some folks know about alternate meal sites. But we do do our best to fulfill all of the requests!

Our meal requests are sorted by location and thus to meal providers: all of our Branford and North Branford requests were handled by the **Community Dining Room**; West Haven, Orange, Woodbridge and Milford were fulfilled by the **West Haven Congregational Church**; and 275 of the New Haven, Hamden and North Haven requests were fulfilled by the **New Haven Athletic Club (Knights of St. Patrick)**. The remaining 932 meals were provided by **Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen**, and delivered by 75 volunteer delivery drivers. Many of our volunteer drivers enjoy this holiday mission as part of their family celebration.

In addition to the above wonderful care partners, we also thank **Yale Hospitality**, which helps tremendously with holiday cooking, **Chabaso Bakery** for bread donations, **LifeBridge Community**

**Services** for connecting us with Meals on Wheels participants, and the **City of New Haven Department of Elderly Services**, for connecting us with needy seniors and others in Elm City Communities housing. We also need to thank the **Unitarian Society of New Haven** and **Temple Emmanuel of Greater New Haven**, which provided financial and volunteer support, as well as the young art students of **Hamden Hall Country Day** and **St. Rita's Schools**, who produced lovely cards to accompany the meals.

One new "twist" this year involved offering on-line meal registration, which was used by about 130 people. This reduces our need to use paper forms, cuts down on errors, and hopefully streamlines the process for those who can use it.

In closing, again we thank everyone who participated in this monumental undertaking. It was a true "labor of love" for so many, and a deeply meaningful way for those who support IVCG to live out our mission.





## AGING AT HOME

Marilyn Bergen, Chair, AAH Steering Committee

The Aging at Home Group started off November with many thanks; as we joined with Open Door on November 1st for our first Thursday luncheon and program. We had a large crowd for lunch this day, a whopping 38 people! And an additional 10 people came in for the talk.

Of special note, Kathy Sharp decorated all the tables in beautiful festive harvest colors. She had a pumpkin decoration for each table which was given to the person with a colored sticker on the chair! The culinary students at Eli Whitney Technical School outdid themselves with a traditional Thanksgiving meal.



Joe Ferrall, organizing forms for Thanksgiving for All.

FACING PAGE: Jane Ferrall and Kate Walton on the scene at Thanksgiving for All.

Our program for the day was, appropriately, on Nutrition for Seniors by Natasha Burrell, an intern in the Dietary and Nutrition department at Yale New Haven Hospital. She brought portions of different food items and had each table discuss which had the higher calorie count. We might have been better about our luncheon portions, had the program been first! Just sayin'! She had us imagine our fist as the appropriate size for a portion for many food choices.

On November 13th, Interfaith Volunteer Care Givers (IVCG) held a fundraiser at the local Panera Bakery in Hamden. Several of us joined a large table of friends and supporters, to enjoy supper and to brainstorm fundraising ideas as IVCG celebrates its 35th anniversary.

Our next program and holiday celebration will be on December 6 with the return of the popular Flint Ladder band. Lunch is at noon and the performance (free and open to the public) is at 1:00. Hope to see you there! For future luncheons, you can reserve your meal by calling **203-230-8994** or emailing [jferrall@carenewhaven.org](mailto:jferrall@carenewhaven.org). All lunch reservations must be received by the Thursday before the Thursday of the program.

## FROM THE DESK OF LIZ

Elizabeth LaPierre, Ride Coordinator

Hello Everyone! Thank you all for the extra help to cover all the ride requests surrounding Thanksgiving. We were able to help so many people during a time that is difficult for many. So again I say thank you to all for the help you give IVCG and the clients!

Christmas is almost here and we will not be scheduling rides for the holiday week between Christmas and New Year's. I hope everyone will enjoy this well-deserved time with family and that you all have a healthy and happy holiday

## THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS:

FALL/WINTER, 2018

So many thanks to our wonderful friends and supporters, who contribute to help us keep our doors open! Folks who donated in the fourth quarter of 2018 include:

Leila Adams	Vilma Capozzi	Marie Carangelo	Annette Carbone
Dorothy Davis	Carol Galanter	Oliva Grippo	Rina Grosso
Sandra Hilton	Joseph Hoey	Lorraine LaTerza	Penny Lesco
Francine Lipka	Linda Macy	Robert Massini	Carol Mitchell
Tom Platt	Georgene Natarelli	Antoinette Nuzzo	Sharon O'Neill
Sandra Popp	Geraldine Pascale	Madeleine Paul	Marie Picarello
Helen Plenkens	Fred Quartiano	Leonara Russo	Lorraine Salerno
Mary Bales	Fortunato Schiavo	Michael Sutton	Paula Samuel
Vincent & Connie Decker			

We'd also like to thank the following for their incredibly generous contributions that helped make Thanksgiving for All happen for over 1,200 of our friends and neighbors:

Susan Bond	Margaret Ariori	Robin Caron	Dru Cherry
Joan Ciano	Ruth Ewaskio	Catherine Forrest	Miriam Klein
Patrick Leveille	Grace L'Manian	Susan Mayer	John Pawelek
James Ritter	Deborah Smith	Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church	



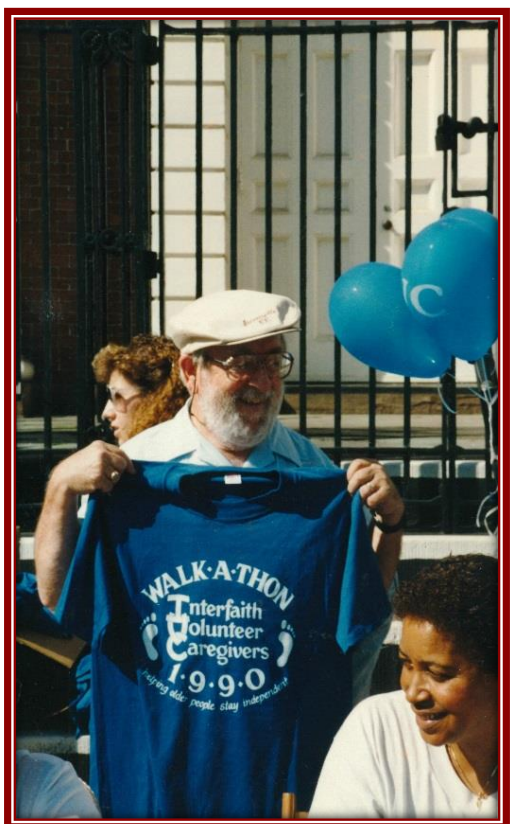
Our original database



Dorothy White Johnson, former IVCG Board member (left).



Rev. Andy Fiddler and Ed and Shirley Dobihal.



Ed Dobihal, doing what he did best!



Move-in day on Gilles Road: Jim Daniels and Karla Hobbe.

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

## HOLIDAY APPEAL

As the end of the year rolls around and you want to express your gratitude, we hope you'll remember Interfaith Volunteer Care Givers. We make the most of every penny and are so grateful for whatever you can spare to support us. And if you don't have "treasure," there's always time...consider volunteering with us in the New Year, to make a practical and positive difference for a senior. Your contributions are warmly appreciated and can be sent to **30 Gillies Road, Hamden, CT 06517**, or made online at **[carenewhaven.org](http://carenewhaven.org)**. We wish all of our clients, volunteers and friends the happiest of holidays!