



CONNECTIONS

WELCOME

Jane Ferrall, Executive Director

Autumn, with its beautiful colors and cool weather, has arrived just in time! It's been a great summer, with lots of help from our volunteers, and the addition of over 100 clients to our rolls just in the past four months. Fortunately not every client needs a ride every week, but we certainly have enjoyed getting to know lots of new people.

I'd also like to welcome new volunteers **Melinda Tuhus** and **Minna Kaufman**. These terrific ladies are rolling up their sleeves and getting it done!

Fall means all the wonderful holidays and that includes Thanksgiving, which means Thanksgiving for All! Please read on to find out how you can take part this year. We have some interesting news from Aging at Home, which continues to transform itself as it moves forward, news from Liz LaPierre, a painless way to support IVCG (promise!) and a very special treat for you long-time IVCG fans.

As many of you may know, in 2019 IVCG will be celebrating 35 years of service. This is remarkable, and truly a testament to the dedicated men and women who have provided such wonderful, caring service and enthusiasm for so long. There are very, very few non-profits "out there" these days that have the record of unbroken and distinguished service possessed by IVCG.

As part of our celebration of 35 years of caring, we're recognizing and honoring some of terrific people who provided the enthusiasm and energy that made IVCG happen in the first place. We'll also be rolling out a very special fund-raising initiative that will help insure another 35 years of faithful service to our community.

Having been on board as your Executive Director for just five months, I am humbled every day by the willingness of our wonderful volunteers and supporters, including our dedicated Board members, to give so freely of their time to help our community. When I give thanks this Thanksgiving, I will most definitely include all of you!

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THANKSGIVING IS COMING!

Since its inception, IVCG has provided logistical and organizational support for Thanksgiving for All, a team effort that provides hot, home-delivered Thanksgiving meals to over 1,200 of our neighbors in the Greater New Haven area. Incredibly enough, the program originally provided a grand total of 70 meals!

Here's how it works: at the end of September, paper forms to reserve a meal are distributed to recipients of Meals on Wheels, people who receive at-home food delivery through FISH (Food in Service to the Homebound), and senior and residential complexes throughout our service area. Folks who would like a Thanksgiving meal delivered to their home on Thanksgiving morning either fill out their form and it's returned to IVCG or (new this year) may register online through our website (carenewhaven.org). A copy of the meal request form is also enclosed with this newsletter.

The final deadline for both paper forms and online registration is set for **November 15** this year.

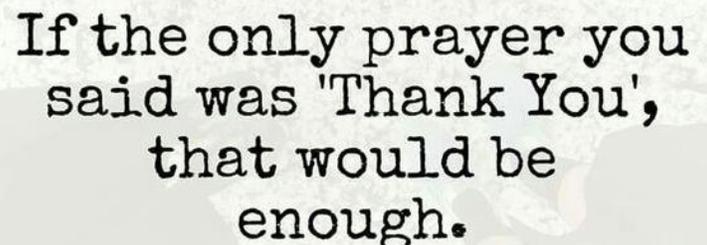
Throughout October and November, we busily input all of the requests and create a master database. We also recruit volunteer drivers who can pick up meals at DESK (Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen) in downtown New Haven on Thanksgiving morning and deliver them to 10-15 households. Many of our drivers make delivering meals for IVCG a family holiday tradition. We'll be using Google Maps this year to help us plan out the most efficient routes for all our drivers. By the way – in 2017, U.S. Senator Chris Murphy and his family delivered for us... now we can't guarantee any celebrities this year, but you never know!

About a week out from "go time," we deliver the collated meal requests to our food partners, who have been busy themselves sourcing all the many turkeys, potatoes, and green beans required to prepare over a thousand yummy dinners. On Thanksgiving morning, we're at DESK bright and early, to meet our drivers, give them their route lists and so they can pick up their boxes of meals. After

all the preparation, this process goes off like clockwork and we head home early Thanksgiving afternoon, a job well done.

IVCG is privileged to work with the City of New Haven's Elderly Services Department, Lifebridge Community Services, and FISH to collect the names of recipients for the meals. The food and cooking, and delivery to certain areas, are provided through DESK in collaboration with Yale Hospitality, the New Haven Athletic Club (Knights of St. Patrick), First Congregational Church of West Haven, and Community Dining Room (Branford). Financial support also comes from the Marrett Fund and generous donors from our faith partners and the community. We also acknowledge the support of Agency on Aging of South Central Connecticut, which makes our operation possible.

As with other efforts of this magnitude, it truly "takes a village" to make this project happen, year after year. If you'd like to volunteer to deliver meals on Thanksgiving morning, please contact Jane at jferrall@carenewhaven.org. If you'd like to supply food or help assemble and plate meals on Thanksgiving morning, please contact DESK at volunteer@deskct.org. And if you'd like to make a financial contribution towards the effort, you may make it through our website, carenewhaven.org, or by sending a check to IVCG at 30 Gillies Road, Hamden, CT 06517 with the re: line "Thanksgiving."



If the only prayer you
said was 'Thank You',
that would be
enough.

Meister Eckhart

We started off the new program year with our Annual Meeting on September 12, 2018. We honored two members, Rocco Pannella, in memoriam and Ann Levison, currently serving on the Steering Committee. Rocco was the the "go to guy" for whatever was needed! Rocco passed away suddenly in 2018. We miss him terribly. His certificate was accepted by his family.



Ann Levison is a force of nature, always the first to offer a ride, to visit someone or to offer a smile and a welcome. It must be her British accent, which is ever so charming, but Ann is a doer and a dear friend. We are ever grateful she shares her energy and enthusiasm with us!



Our guest speaker was Carl Zimmer, noted author and lecturer, who spoke to us on heredity and evolution and how our notions of these have changed over time. His most recent book, *She has her Mother's Laugh* outlines these thoughts in a clear, concise and readable format. He spoke at length and was most gracious to respond to the many questions from the audience. As one participant left, he thanked me for a wonderful program! It seems as if we're off to a good start!



I spoke at the at the Sunday Service at Spring Glen Congregational Church on September 23, 2018 regarding the continuing evolution and growth of Aging at Home as we join with the Open Door Program beginning on October 4, 2018. It is thanks to the dedication and hard work of Laura Carlson that this program has continued through the years. The Church community recognized Laura with the flowers that graced the altar on Sunday.

So, October 4 will be our inaugural meeting of Aging at Home with Open Door. Lunch will be provided together with the Culinary Program at Eli Whitney Technical School at 12 p.m. followed by the program at 1:00 p.m. on "Living Prepared for an Emergency." We extend our ongoing gratitude to Spring Glen Congregational Church for their generosity and hospitality in making their space available to us for our continuing gatherings! We look forward to our coming year!

Marilyn J. Bergen, Chair
Steering Committee

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FROM LIZ'S DESK

Happy Fall Everyone! I am so glad to have been working with all the volunteers at IVCG and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. Thank you all for the time you take out of your daily lives to help so many people, myself included. What IVCG does would not be possible without you!

I am happy that I am able to email most of the drivers in order to schedule rides. If email is a problem for anyone I would love for you to give me a call. It's always good to keep the volunteer list up to date. Thank you all again and have a wonderful Fall season.

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 from mid-July through the end of September 2018:

Sandy Barabieri
Mary Beltramello
Marie Carangelo
Dorothy Clement
Sue Cohen
Anthony Consiglio
Charles Curello
Constance & Vincent Decker
Carol Galanter
Olivia Grippo
Beatrice Grosse
Caterina Grosso
Martha Johnson
Miyoko Kinoshita
Marian Penny Lesco
Lorraine LaTerza
Carol LeSuer
Grace L'Manian
Doris Manseau
Augusta Mantia
Carol Mitchell
Madeleine Paul

Marie Picarello
Fred Quartiano
Leonara Russo
Lorraine Salerno
Lillian Serafino
Virginia Spahr
Wallingford Foundation

Aging at Home Appeal Donors include:
Carol Galanter
Ann & Bruce Levison (in memory of Rocco Panella)
Herbert & Ann Schneider
Maureen Williams

SMILE! (AMAZON SMILE THAT IS!)



Did you know that you can contribute to IVCG, easily, painlessly and at no cost to you, by doing something you would do anyway? Yes it's true! When you use Amazon Smile, IVCG will receive a percentage of every dollar you spend – and your bill won't increase at all. If you're new to Amazon Smile, go to <http://smile.amazon.com/about>, sign in with your Amazon account information, and choose "Interfaith Volunteer Care Givers of Greater New Haven" as your charity. If you have already chosen a different charity and would like to switch to IVCG, log into your Amazon account and you'll see the word "supporting" in the middle underneath the banner. The dropdown will give you a "change" option; enter our full name in the selection box and you're good to go. Amazon will remember your charity selection and you'll only have to enter it once. If you have any questions or have trouble getting it to work for you, please email Jane at jferrall@carenewhaven.org and I'll be happy to walk you through it. And thank you!

I recently had the incredible opportunity to catch up with Carol LeSuer, the first Executive Director of IVCG who was there at the beginning of our agency. Carol, who started with IVCG in 1984 when it was founded as a program of Downtown Cooperative Ministries, actually spent her very first day on the job traveling to Wisconsin, where she met with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation officials who had selected New Haven as one of the first 25 sponsored "Faith in Action" programs.

This selection was a distinct honor for the Downtown Cooperative Ministry, as it was then competing with hundreds of other applicants. And, the \$150,000 initial funding from the RWJ Foundation that established IVCG definitely gave the program a "running start" as it embarked on its now-almost-35 year history of providing care and friendship to seniors in the Greater New Haven area.

In the first few months, the program shared space within the DCM office in St. Paul's Episcopal Church on Olive Street in New Haven. Soon IVCG found a home in the Center Church Parish House. The office space was generously donated and the program remained there for the eight years. Carol began her term with IVCG as its first, and only, employee, but the program grew quickly, adding a secretary later that summer and many more dedicated employees during her tenure. IVCG began as a coalition of the 12 DCM congregations and eventually expanded to include 30 local faith partners. "Church Contact Persons," the individual faith community coordinators, provided the critical link between IVCG and the volunteers, providing a wide range of services to elders.

Although IVCG was headquartered for eight years at the Center Church Parish House in downtown New Haven (where Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen operates today), St. Rita's R.C. Church in Hamden (now Divine Mercy parish) offered IVCG office space when IVCG finally outgrew the Center Church space. By the time IVCG moved to St. Rita's in 1992, it was overseeing a wide variety of

programs: an Alzheimer's respite care program, Intergenerational Caregivers, Adopt-a-Grandparent, and of course a variety of services for elders through their faith communities.

Carol reluctantly left IVCG in 1993 when her husband accepted a position in the Boston area, and IVCG welcomed its second Executive Director, Pat Anderson (who had been with IVCG prior to that time, overseeing the Intergenerational Caregiving area). Carol remained connected with the elder services area for some time until family responsibilities took over, and has been employed in the library sector for the past several years. She remembers her time with IVCG extremely fondly and will always be grateful for the wonderful friends she made here, the great time they had serving clients together, and the good work they accomplished.

Thank you Carol for sharing this invaluable glimpse of our early days with us. With Carol's help, we plan to showcase IVCG "then" and "now" in our Winter 2018 edition of Connections, so stay tuned!



Carol and Marion Ammons, long-time IVCG Board member, back in the beginning. Dressed for success!

INTERFAITH VOLUNTEER CAREGIVERS

of GREATER NEW HAVEN

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OR CURRENT RESIDENT

NO MAN (OR WOMAN)...

is an island entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main;

if a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as any manner of thy friends or of thine own were;

any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind.

And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.

MEDITATION XVII, Devotions upon Emergent Occasions (John Donne)

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

Give thanks for the gifts you have received by making a tangible contribution to your community: contact Jane at jferrall@carenewhaven.org for a volunteer application and to learn more about how you can help the neediest.