

# Neighbor to Neighbor



FAITH  
IN ACTION

Winter Issue

Laurel Area *Faith in Action*

March 2010

## Laurel Faith in Action Announces New Initiative

Laurel Area Faith in Action, covering the Greater Latrobe area since 2002, Ligonier since 2005 and Derry area since late 2009, is partnering with Excelsa Health Latrobe Hospital for an exciting new initiative for Medicare recipients. Called "Hospital to Home", the new program will help elderly patients with the transition of care from the hospital or nursing facility to their home. This program is part of a national Medicare initiative that is working to help our elderly residents better manage their health conditions so that they have better quality of life and **do not have to return to the hospital.**

Patients being discharged who do not have strong support systems from family or friends will be referred to Laurel Faith in Action for help. We will visit them in the hospital or soon after they return home to help schedule their follow up doctor appointment and arrange to transport them. We will help them to prepare for the doctor visit by writing down their questions. We can help them sort through their stacks of mail, arrange to shop for groceries, and other services offered by Laurel Faith in Action.

We are recruiting Coordinators for each of the three communities and volunteer caregiver teams to work with the Coordinators. Teams will be recruited through the local churches and the community at large. **As always, volunteers are only asked to give two (2) hours per week.**

Those interested in becoming a Coordinator, joining a volunteer team, or learning more about "Hospital to Home" or the Laurel Faith in Action Program may

**Call 724-539-4357 or  
Email [faithinaction@msn.com](mailto:faithinaction@msn.com).**

## Laurel Faith in Action makes a difference in our communities

Laurel Area Faith in Action, now in the **ninth** year serving the Laurel Area, continues to register an average of **two new care recipients per week** and is always busy recruiting and training more volunteers. The program is **founded and grounded in the faith community** and currently works with *twenty-nine local churches* to get the word out about our services.

We are proud of the following accomplishments last year:

Registered	106 new Care Recipients
Trained	76 new Volunteers
Served	308 Care Recipients
Provided	307 rides to the doctor 84 rides to church 231 rides to the store 707 errands for groceries
Logged	5,700 Volunteer hours

With the support of churches and organizations in Derry, we expanded the service area to include Derry and New Derry in late 2009. We introduced the Laurel Area Fund Memorial program and realized over \$8,000 in individual donations!

We are committed to adding more churches as Community Partners and working to raise awareness in Ligonier and Derry (Latrobe too!) in 2010 so that we can reach more of our elderly population in need. Please consider how you can help and call today!

**A great New Year's resolution - To give back to the community a small part of your time, talents, and treasure to make the entire Laurel area a place where we want to live, raise our children, and retire with grace and dignity.**

***Our Mission: To enhance the quality of life for persons 60 years and older who reside in the Greater Latrobe, Ligonier and Derry areas by providing companionship and assistance.***

***Our Vision: “Through the efforts of a dedicated team of professional staff and trained volunteers, the Laurel Area Faith in Action program is recognized as the organization which provides the opportunity for older adults to continue to live in their homes with an overall sense of well-being.”***

## NEWS AND NOTES

- **We are moving!** On March 15, the Faith in Action offices will move to the **Latrobe Presbyterian Church, 428 Main Street, Latrobe**. We will be on the second floor. Our mailing address (P.O. Box 854), phone number (539-4357) and email address ([faithinaction@msn.com](mailto:faithinaction@msn.com)) will **NOT** change. The pastor at our current location is retiring and the lovely parsonage that has been our “home” for the past eight years will be the home for the incoming pastor. We have been truly blessed to have built and grown the organization with the strong support (and donation of space) from the Christ United Church of Christ and we wish the church many blessings and Pastor Sautter a wonderful retirement.
- **New Board members** – Welcome David Campbell, Human Resource and Training Consultant, as the newest member of the Board of Directors for Laurel Faith in Action. We are currently seeking two additional members to join our governing body that meets once a month. Call for more information.
- Ligonier currently has 30 active volunteers, five Congregation Coordinators, and four church teams (Heritage Methodist Church, Holy Trinity Parish, St. John’s United Church of Christ in Darlington, and St. Michaels of the Valley Episcopal Church) supporting the efforts in Ligonier. Three members from the Board of Directors reside in Ligonier – Kimberly Payne, Mary Jane Snyder and Margot Woodwell. Derry has four churches supporting the program with one Congregation Coordinator and team from the Derry United Methodist Church, and eight trained volunteers. Two members of the Board of Directors from Derry include Marie McCandless and Susannah Calvo. We are actively seeking more church partners, coordinators, volunteer teams, and care recipients. Please pass the word!
- Mark your calendars for the eighth annual **Awards luncheon** on Thursday, May 20, 2010. It will be held from 11:30 am – 1 pm at the Rogers Center, Saint Vincent College. Senator Kim Ward is the keynote speaker and honorees are Bethlen Communities, McFeely Rogers Foundation, and Derry Township Supervisors. Senator Ward serves as Chair of the State Committee on Aging and Youth. Cost is \$25 per person and sponsorships are \$500 which includes a table of eight for lunch. Call to make reservations or to find out more.
- Tune in to ***Faith in Action Live!*** on **1480 am WCNS radio** the fourth Saturday of each month at 9:30 am. We host a thirty minute radio show that features guest speakers with topics of interest for the aging population in our community and interviews with program volunteers and care recipients. The show is sponsored by Excelsa Health. If you would like to “appear” on the show, please let us know.
- **Please visit our website – [www.laurelfia.org](http://www.laurelfia.org) – for more program information.**



***Laurel Area Faith in Action***  
**Neighbors helping Neighbors... Since 2002**

**Laurel Area Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers, Inc. *Faith in Action***  
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