

**Our Mission:** We are a network of interfaith volunteers committed to improving the quality of life in the homes of our elderly and disabled neighbors, as well as their caregivers. As a sponsored ministry of the Congregation of St. Joseph, we work together so that, “all may be one.”



Bev and Lloyd cherish Bill's weekly visits!

## CARING VOLUNTEERS & SCRABBLE BRINGS NEW LIFE TO FAMILY

“I can never leave him alone for more than an hour because I'm afraid he will fall or something will happen to him,” says Beverly, a loving caregiver to her husband, Lloyd. Six years ago, Lloyd had a life-altering stroke. Cancer and a heart attack would soon follow. Lloyd, a former Boy & Girl Scout camp manager and Access Bus driver, couldn't drive or be as active as before. **The dramatic change was like trapping a bird in a cage.** Recovering from cancer, Beverly, suddenly found herself in the role of a caregiver. Falls, feeding tubes, and exhausting hospital stays are just a few of the things that Beverly and Lloyd have to face. Each fall for Lloyd is a fracture or a feeding tube malfunction is a serious emergency. Beverly often gets up 4-5 times each night to monitor Lloyd's feeding and to make sure he is okay. **This exhaustion is too much for anyone to bear alone.**



Bill lends a helping hand as Lloyd does his exercises.

Beverly learned about Caregiver Companion and called the office to see if volunteers could spend time with Lloyd so she could take a couple hours to get some desperately needed rest. Lloyd was also feeling discouraged sitting at home all the time and needed activity. Each week, our volunteers, Bill and Anthony, visit Lloyd for a couple hours to play Scrabble, visit, monitor his exercises, and bring compassion and friendship. These caring volunteers put Beverly's mind at ease so she can take more time away to refresh and take a breathe. **“Lloyd really needs the male companionship and really enjoys the competitive game. He also wanted me to take time for myself. This gives me a chance to get away and do something different for a couple hours. You really need that time away,”** Beverly says.

Lloyd, Anthony, and Bill also don't mess around at Scrabble. **“It gets pretty competitive, sometimes!”** Beverly says, smiling. Lloyd laughs with the volunteers as they visit and play Scrabble, giving him new strength and encouragement. **“The two men are wonderful visitors.”** Lloyd says. Our volunteer, Bill, also values and enjoys his friendship with Lloyd. **“I love our spirited conversations about faith and current events...it's really engaging to visit him each week,”** Bill says. Bill has also used his special skills of building things to make life easier for the family. **“Bill made a holder for Lloyd's cane because it was always falling on the ground. That has really helped Lloyd a lot.”** says Beverly. (Story continues on page 2.)



Bill's invention for Lloyd's cane.

## Front page story continued...

Our Purdue student volunteer, Anthony, also looks forward to playing Scrabble with Lloyd. **“Anthony is getting better! Last time, he beat me by 1 point.”** Lloyd says. Anthony shares that his time with Lloyd and Beverly brings him so much joy. **“It’s a great opportunity to be able to spend time with such wonderful people and help them out at the same time. Lloyd and Bev have taught me so much about what it means to love each other and have a happy marriage.”** Please call our office at (765) 423-1879 to join us in this life-giving experience!



Lloyd and Anthony compete for the win! Anthony also remembers playing Scrabble with his grandparents.

## THANK YOU to our generous sponsors for honoring weary caregivers during National Family Caregiver Month!



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Caregivers connect with others who are on a similar journey. Many felt encouraged after they shared with someone who truly understood them.

The above generous sponsors helped hardworking caregivers feel loved and cared for in their journey at our Caregiver Healing Retreat in November. One attendee said, **“It was meaningful to have the chance to have a few hours to not be needed by someone else and being fed a delicious lunch instead of always eating fast food.”** Another said, **“I realized that I am not alone in this caregiving life.”** Thank you for coming alongside our caregivers and reminding them they are not alone in their journey.



Nourish for Caregivers speakers, Kelly (left) and Deb (right), bring perspective and hope to attentive caregivers.

## Our Community Shows Love to Our Volunteers on Valentine’s Day



Our volunteers, Joe and Kevin, enjoy frozen custard and visiting with other volunteers.



Igloo Frozen Custard and CVS Pharmacy said **“Thank You”** to our caring volunteers for all they do for our neighbors. At our Volunteer Appreciation Valentine Party, volunteers enjoyed lunch, delicious candies and desserts donated by Igloo Frozen Custard and CVS Pharmacy. Our volunteers said, **“The goodies were great! It was very thoughtful”** and **“Thanks so very much for the volunteer recognition day.”** It was a special way for volunteers to connect with each other. Thank you for showing your appreciation and support for all they do to help isolated seniors and weary caregivers around us!



Caregiver Companion volunteers so appreciated the special day!

Your financial support brought over 4,300 volunteer hours of needed care in 2018 to neighbors in your community. Thank you to everyone who contributes including all who are not listed below. Our neighbors have expressed they feel loved and cared for because of your generous giving!

### IN MEMORY

Gail Baugh in memory of *Marjorie Hainje*

Janet Baumgartner in memory of *Sr. Veronica Baumgartner, CSJ & Ann Baumgartner Puzello*

Jan Blau in memory of *Jack Johnson*

Larry Brafman in memory of *June Brafman & Sr. Veronica Baumgartner, CSJ*

Dean and Helen Butz in memory of *Anita Eckman*

Carolyn Campbell in memory of *Anita Eckman*

Donal & Kristen Carlston in memory of *Eleanor Johnson*

Carol Casey in memory of *Anita Eckman*

Jule Collins in memory of *Anita Eckman*

Nancy Connor in memory of *Anita Eckman*

Carl & Julia Covely in memory of *Anita Eckman*

Russ & Connie Davis in memory of *Mary Brown*

Donald & Barbara Eckman in memory of *Anita Eckman*

Lloyd & Bev Fike in memory of *Joseph Jackson*

Michael & Luanne Frampton in memory of *Bob LaGoy & Anita Eckman*

Tony & Joan Gutzwiller in memory of *Tony & Loretta Greving*

Mary Grever in memory of *Dick Grever*

Linda Halsema in memory of *Charles E. Halsema*

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Joseph & Suella Kovich in memory of *Irene Held*

Phyllis Lane in memory of *Mr. Butz*

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Joyce Moore in memory of *James W. Moore*

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Jerriann O'Herren in memory of *Edna O'Herren*

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David & Pam Royer in memory of *Daisy Burnette*

Cecilia Senesac in memory of *Ruth Long, Jane Burrell, John Johnson, & Anita Eckman*

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Teresa Spitznagle in memory of *Anita Eckman*

Kenrick Stone in memory of *Sr. Veronica Baumgartner, CSJ*

Patty Sturm in memory of *Mr. & Mrs. Leo F. Sturm*

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Sue Voigt in memory of *Mary Brown*

Tom & Mary Wade in memory of *Hellen & Ray Batina*

David & Tamzon Wilensky in memory of *Mary Brown*

### IN HONOR

Douglas & Cynthia Baumgartner in honor of *Connie & Dennis Bruner*

Dennis & Connie Bruner in honor of siblings, *Douglas Baumgartner, Phillip Baumgartner & Linda Melsa*

Addie Marie Dimmick in honor of *Kay Noyes*

David & Pam Royer in honor of *Joy Bergman*

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Read how a weekly game of  
Scrabble brings fun back  
into a family's life!

## Neighbors & Friends Share Their Gratitude for Caregiver Companion!

"Thank you so very much for helping me! Everyone is so helpful to one another. I appreciate all your smiles and rides. God bless you all." -*Fran W, Neighbor*



"Caregiver Companion has been so wonderful! They are helpful and they are my friends. That worry is gone when you have people who really care. It's so comforting and I'm very grateful." -*Gloria S, Neighbor*

"It's wonderful to have people like the volunteers come and spend time with me, so my wife can do errands. It's so valuable, useful, and helpful for Caregiver Companion to be here. We really appreciate the volunteers we've had." -*Herbert O, Neighbor*

"I don't know what I'd do without you! Everyone there has been so kind and so nice. I am very grateful for your help." -*Dorothy C, Neighbor*

"I have received much more than I have given from Caregiver Companion — the satisfaction of knowing you are making a difference for someone and everyone is so appreciative. The friends I have made make the small amount of time spent well worth it!"

-*Steve Y, Volunteer*

"Thank you for your ministry. May it continue to help others for years to come." -*Larry B, Donor*

