Our Year in Review...

2014-2015 marked a 30-year milestone in the history of Volunteer Caregiving in the United States. CAREGIVERS: Volunteers Assisting the Elderly is forever distinguished as one of the 25 pioneers of this national movement, comprised of hundreds of organizations—providing services at NO COST—in communities like Honolulu, Minneapolis, Boston, Tampa, Austin, Boise and in between.

Our biggest challenge is to identify funding streams that sustain current services and allow growth to serve a broader base.

To that end, the movement is uniting through the National Volunteer Caregiving Network (NVCNetwork.org) to share best practices. Ventura County remains a demonstrated leader for successful Volunteer Caregiving.

At the local helm are our dedicated Board/Honorary Directors, most of whom have contributed years of experience to this organization. That bank of “Institutional Memory” is not on the Balance Sheet, but it is by far one of our most valuable assets. At our epicenter, though, are the Volunteer Caregivers, many of whom provide years of dedicated service to our seniors. These individuals, who are among the most compassionate, steadfast people among us, represent the hallmark of CAREGIVERS.

Augmenting these core efforts are our Phone Friends and our Student Volunteers from the Building Bridges Intergenerational Program. Furthermore, Event Committees come together to fund raise, while still other volunteers help with special projects around the office. CAREGIVERS is a community-wide constitution that targets Ventura County’s 28,305 adults over the age of 60 who are living alone. 6,611 of those seniors are 65 and older, and disabled.

Basic self-care, social engagement, and activities of daily living are key indicators in keeping a senior healthy and at home. Should one of these indicators be off kilter, the individual’s situation becomes risky with an increased opportunity for placement in facilities such as nursing homes, where high risks of death are documented within the first year of transition.

CAREGIVERS is an effective, efficient response with a high success rate for independent living through end of life.

This brings us to Donors who generously underwrite the day-to-day operations. We are grateful for a strong base of support from private foundations, a growing interest from local corporations, and individuals who include us in their philanthropy. What we hope for are donors who will leave a legacy with us through a planned gift. Creating a pipeline of future funding through willed donations will ensure our survival.

Your continued interest and support gives us all hope for the future.

With sincere appreciation,

Tammy I. Glenn
Executive Director
Our efforts to strengthen CAREGIVERS’ role as part of the community-based care continuum remain a priority. In addition, our presence on the advisory board to the Ventura County Transportation Commission allows us to troubleshoot challenges and reinforce ease-of-use for our senior population. The combination of these activities complements the partnerships CAREGIVERS enjoys with 149 other community programs that work with us to provide a comprehensive support system in the County.

Diversifying funding streams continues to dominate our strategy. The Pacific Coast Business Times recently reported that Ventura County ranks far below neighboring counties and the state in per capita nonprofit revenue, according to a 2015 state of the region report by the Ventura County Civic Alliance. In 2014, Ventura County nonprofits raised $2,153 per capita compared to $5,356 in Los Angeles County, $5,366 in the state and $6,074 in Santa Barbara County. While reasons for the lag are debated, we conclude that CAREGIVERS must remain vigilant in our fundraising efforts, with an emphasis on Individual and Planned Giving that will create a pipeline for future funding.

In comparison to the previous year, we were able to decrease fundraising and management costs by three percent. This is a direct result of the Office Team’s attention to detail and commitment to maintaining a competitive edge in the community.

The Board of Directors moved the endowment on the front burner a couple of years ago. Investing for the future sometimes poses its own set of challenges when donations have tended to fluctuate somewhat. Foundations and corporations change their priorities, funding might be delayed due to economic drivers, and funding the endowment becomes an act of faith. We believe our individual donors will help us strike that balance, by considering gifts of insurance, stock and planned gifts that keep one eye on the future.

Note: The number of resources does not necessarily correlate to community needs. For example, Transportation and Access to Healthcare represent the majority of senior requests.

Note: CAREGIVERS’ endowment for general operating support is administered by the Ventura County Community Foundation. Individual naming opportunities are available.

*Includes Building Bridges Intergenerational Program and Phone Friends


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