

# Faith in Action of Edgar County

104 E. Washington St. P.O. Box 154  
Paris, IL 61944



(217) 466-6388    [faithinactionparis@gmail.com](mailto:faithinactionparis@gmail.com)    [www.fiaec.com](http://www.fiaec.com)    January~ February~ March 2016  
"Like" us on Facebook!    ~    See what's new on [www.fiaec.com](http://www.fiaec.com)

## *Faith in Action Christmas at Tuscany's December 11, 2015*



What a great day for a Volunteer Christmas get together! This year we had the largest turnout of forty-six volunteers and guests enjoying a great time of fellowship. We decided it would be a great opportunity to help feed others as well as ourselves during the holiday season. Nonperishable food items were brought to the luncheon by the volunteers. It was such a great outpouring of love through food donations that we were able to share with three different families! To see the look of surprise, joy and appreciation on each the recipient's faces was truly priceless! Thank you to all who made it possible. You were a blessing to each family. This luncheon has become a yearly event and plans have already been made for next year's luncheon to be held December 9, 2016 at 11:00am. Be sure to mark your calendars and plan to join a great group of friends for lunch next Christmas Season!



## *Thank You Monical's Pizza!*



December 8<sup>th</sup> the Monical's Pizza Corporation and Monical's of Paris chose Faith in Action of Edgar County to give a catered pizza party! That day we were able to have the Card Angel's and Special Building Crew get together to enjoy a huge feast! We appreciate the honor of being selected by Monical's for this amazing feast!

## *Nila's Corner*

As I reflect over the blessings of the past year, I have to stop and thank God for all He has done to extend our outreach to even more residents of Edgar County! We were happy to welcome 11 New Volunteers in 2015 and blessed to bring in 78 New Care Receivers! This brings our active Care Receiver list to 311! We have 113 Volunteers listed as active! We see amazing growth every year and the opportunities to reach out and help those in need are limitless! One of the greatest advantages of living in a small community is that everyone is so willing and eager to help others!

We have been doing the end of the year charting for all of our services. It is still not completed, but I am excited to report that our transportation volunteers have made 785 roundtrip transports! This involved helping 82 residents of Edgar County who need assistance to doctor's appointments, beauty shop appointments and help with shopping and errands. All of the volunteer activities haven't been recorded yet but we know that at least 43 drivers helped with this amazing service!

Last year we also completed 23 wheelchair ramps, built 11 sets of steps and handrails, reclaimed 11 ramps put up 3 grab bars, helped with a door installation, worked in 3 yards and made a minor home repair! The ramp construction brought our total number of ramps built to 406!

Coming soon will be our 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Chili Cook-Off! More information can be found inside of this newsletter. That is always a "super-fun" fundraiser!

Judy Benton is busy scheduling her trips for this coming year. There is a flyer enclosed that shares information about Mt. Rushmore. She is also looking into a trip to Branson and adding a third short trip to Chicago! So if you are a traveler, please contact Judy to find out where the bus will be headed to next! A small portion of each of these trips helps raise funds for the work of FIAEC. All of our services are provided without cost to their receiver. What an amazing ministry for the residents of Edgar County who struggle with chronic illness and/or long-term physical challenges. Our goal is to help these residents remain safely living in their homes for as long as possible.

If you have thought about being a Faith in Action Volunteer, now is the time to call and find out what it is all about!

*We Wish You a Happy, Safe and  
Healthy New Year!*

*Nila*



**HERE WE GROW AGAIN! Faith in Action would like to welcome our newest FIA Volunteers:**

*Carolee Hicks, Nancy Foote, Peter Kollinger, Linda Bearlock and Jerry Bearlock*

This year is getting started off with an amazing leap thanks to our newest volunteers! Carolee and Nancy are already helping with transportation. Peter and Jerry are interested in helping with our special projects as well as outside work and Linda is excited to help with visiting and whatever is needed! The need for transportation is always in great demand and in need of volunteer help. It is exciting to watch the growth in FIAEC!

*Welcome!*

**Thank you for supporting the work of FAITH IN ACTION .....Ideas for “creative” giving!**

It is the generosity of this community that has made FIAEC a growing outreach program. Another creative means to help cut our expenses is through the donation of Office Supplies and Gas Cards. Basically any type of supplies used in an office setting such as reams of copy paper, 5160 Avery White Easy Peel Address Labels, Forever Postage Stamps, etc. would be appreciated. \$10 gift cards from Wal-Mart used for gas reimbursement are very helpful. Faith in Action is a 501(c)3, non-profit, charitable organization. Therefore all donations are tax deductible.



**Faith in Action of Edgar County**

104 E. Washington St.  
P.O. Box 154  
Paris, IL 61944  
(217) 466-6388  
[www.fiaec.com](http://www.fiaec.com)  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 217  
PARIS, IL 61944

**Faith in Action**

**Nila Nugent ~ Program Director**

**Board of Directors**

Linda White      President  
Karl Marshall    Vice President  
Judy Benton      Secretary  
Ron Hensley      Treasurer  
Diana Acord  
Terry Bergdolt  
Lillie Davis  
Rita Goodman  
Trish Hammond  
Norma Henson

Jan 1 – Year's Day - Happy New Year! Office Closed  
Jan. 6 - Board of Director's Meeting 8:30AM -  
**Feb 3-** Board of Director's Meeting 8:30AM  
Feb 9- Card Angels Meeting at 9:30AM - FIA  
Feb 14 - Happy Valentines Day!  
Feb 20 -Faith in Action of Edgar County Chili Cook-Off  
                  LRCC Family Life Center 4:30-7:30pm  
**Mar 2-** Board of Director's meeting 8:30AM  
Mar. 15 – Card Angels – 9:30AM – FIA  
Mar 27 – EASTER SUNDAY

*Reminder: Check us out on the WEB!*

[www.fiaec.com](http://www.fiaec.com) & “Like” us on Facebook!

email:faithinactionparis@gmail.com



The United Way Campaign 2016 is in full swing!  
Please support the  
**United Way of Edgar County**

**FAITH IN ACTION VOLUNTEERS.....ON THE MOVE!**

<u>Service</u>	<u>October - December Hours</u>
Transportation	416
Visiting	24
Shopping/Errands	2
Light Housekeeping	0
Yard Work	3
Telephone Contacts	5
Sewing and Mending	0
Laundry	0
Meal Prep	0
Special Projects - (ramps/steps/handrails, etc.)	314
Special Care Receiver Event	0
Admin/Fundraising/Training	491
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>1255</b>
<b>Total Miles Driven</b>	<b>7890</b>

Volunteers reporting hours Average monthly: **44**  
Contacts made with care receivers Average monthly: **131**

**VOLUNTEERS PLEASE REMEMBER TO CALL-IN , MAIL or EMAIL YOUR SERVICE TIMES AND MILES ~ Thanks**

**Communication is the Key .....**The following is an article written by Brett Hammond, minister of Kansas Christian Church, the father of Connor. Connor's mother Trish is a member of our Board of Director's. Their story is inspiring as they face the challenges of helping their son Connor be all he can be. You can follow Brett and this story at:

**<http://www.awordfortheweary.com/category/autism/>**

## **Giving Connor Back His Voice**



APRIL 30, 2014      BRET HAMMOND

One of the realizations we had to come to as parents was that we didn't lose our son to autism. Autism muzzled him, muffled his voice, clouded his head and put a barrier between him and our world. As devastating as that was, I'm constantly reminded that there is a little boy still in there. He laughs, he cries, he eats like a horse. He loves his daddy and interacts with me as best as he can. We have a pretty good time together.

When we determined that something was wrong with Connor's development we immediately went looking for help. One of the best resources we found has been Eastern Illinois University's Speech, Language and Hearing Clinic. The instructors are incredible and the student clinicians are receiving great training with excellent oversight. Connor gets wonderful care there and many opportunities for growth.

With growth comes success. As we began therapy I quickly found myself looking for any glimmer of hope we could build on. As opportunities to communicate were given to Connor I started looking for more intentionality in the things he was already doing.

When he was about three years old, I watched Connor playing with some wooden alphabet blocks. Connor loved to line things up, make trains of books, blocks or anything. It was his way of creating order in his world. Something about the way he lined those blocks up caught my eye—they were all right-side up. The "A" was not inverted, the "D" was not laying on its side, and when I turned the "Q" upside down he spotted it immediately and corrected it. They weren't in alphabetical order, but Connor definitely understood which way the letters were to be oriented.

A few weeks later I watched him thumbing through one of his books. Again, it was right-side up and he seemed to be paying as much attention to the letters as the pictures. Could he be understanding them somehow?

I took a piece of paper and with a bold Sharpie marker wrote the word "KISS." I got on my knees in front of him and, making sure not to pucker up or give any visual cues, I let him read it. He looked at the paper and then back at me and kissed me. "Surely it was a fluke," I thought. So I had his sister do the same. He kissed her. Then we tried it out with his mother. Again, he kissed her. What was going on in that head?

A few days later I had created a series of flashcards that I laminated and stuck on the side of our refrigerator with magnets. They were simple cards that would communicate the essentials. "I want" was color-coded in pink to stand out from the others. "More" was included since it had been essential in his communication therapy. Along with them were cards like "to go to the park," "tickles," "candy," "drink," and "hugs." Connor used them flawlessly, over and over again. But he soon grew bored with them. It was very difficult finding a way to hold his interest in communication. In therapy he began matching picture cards with word cards with a better than 90% accuracy. Even better, he seemed to enjoy the challenge and the chance to show off. Connor truly desires interaction with others.

**(Part-two of this article will continue in our April, 2016 FIAEC Newsletter)**



## We need Chili Chefs! Join the fun!



### Faith in Action to Host 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Chili Cook-Off

This annual event will take place Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, from 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm. in the Family Life Center at Lake Ridge Christian Church, 122 E. Steidl Road, Paris. Chili makers are encouraged to enter their favorite pot of chili for competition. There is no entry fee! Each contestant will be asked to **provide three gallons** of their favorite chili. All who attend the dinner will cast a vote for the chili they consider to be their favorite. Prizes will be awarded to the top three entries receiving the most votes, in three categories of “Mild” and “Hot” and “Unique”. Medium will be categorized as “Mild”. The grand prize winner over-all will have their name engraved on a Grand Champion Chili-Cook Off plaque! This plaque proudly hangs in the FIA Office with the names of all former winners. The grand champion will also receive a trophy to commemorate their accomplishment. Each entry will receive a number the evening of the event. The entry will need to be designated as Hot, Mild or Unique. We encourage individuals, congregations, agencies, organizations, clubs and businesses to enter their favorite pot of chili and join the fun! **We are limited to the first 18 entries.**

So call soon to reserve your spot!

**“Deadline for chili entry is Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup>.”**

**This is a great evening with light hearted friendly competition. It is also one of the two major fundraisers hosted by Faith in Action for the year. The cost for the dinner continues to be DONATION! All you can eat Chili, Veggies, Hot Dogs, Cheese, Crackers, Drinks and Cookies will be included in your donation. The proceeds from this event will go to support the work of Faith in Action of Edgar County.**

See and Share the enclosed Flyer and Chili Chef Sign-Up Sheet!

For questions, to enter your chili for competition or to receive information contact, Nila Nugent,



*Congregation Contact Person Informal Tea*



*November 20, 2015*

The Second Congregational Contact Meeting was held at Tuscany’s Steak and Pasta restaurant at 2:00pm on Friday afternoon. Seventeen ladies and gentlemen attended the Tea which represented 12 Edgar County congregations. The intent and purpose for these relaxed, informal gatherings is for everyone to hear the story and mission behind the ministry of Faith in Action. Many residents would be in danger of losing their independence were it not for services provided by their Faith in Action volunteers. All volunteer caregiving services are nonmedical for residents with chronic illness and/or longterm physical challenges. All guests were encouraged to help create awareness for the work of Faith in Action within their home churches. The mission

of Faith in Action is to help all of our residents to remain living in their own homes for as long as it is safely possible.