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MN FIA 2010 SPRING TRAINING

The 2010 Spring Training session has been set for Friday, May 14, 2010. The event will be held at Bridge Community Church in Sauk Rapids, Minnesota.

This year's session will focus on strengthening your program's foundation. The day will start with our keynote speaker, Ellen Benavides. Ms. Benavides is an independent contractor whose past work includes researching and developing new tools to improve organizational effectiveness, board development and governance in small, grassroots and community based organizations, which resulted in co-authorship of "Coloring Outside the Box; One Size Does Not Fit All In Nonprofit Governance" and the "Ten Dimensions That Shape Your Board" workbook; and facilitating strategic and succession planning for non-profit organizations. Ms. Benavides will show us what is possible and what keeps us all working together to accomplish our dreams.

From there we will go into our Building Block break-out sessions for the day. You will have a choice of four sessions that will be offered in the morning and in the afternoon. You are encouraged to bring one or more people from your organization in order to glean tidbits of information from all four sessions. The Building Blocks include Churches & Community Relations, Funding Your Program, Mission & Program Development, and Volunteers. These break-out sessions were developed based on feedback you gave us from previous training sessions and retreats.



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MN FIA 2010 SPRING TRAINING**

SAVE THE DATE

Looking ahead, the date for the 2010 Fall Retreat has also been set. Mark your calendar to join us on Thursday, October 28 and Friday, October 29, 2010. This year we will be holding our retreat at St. John's Guesthouse in Collegeville (just west of St. Cloud). More details to follow.

If you have an idea for a training topic or a speaker, please contact Myra at mhorner96@gmail.com.



**Thank you for your support of the
MN Faith in Action Association!**

Caregiver Response Effort & Service Team
(C.R.E.S.T.)

Faith in Action of Wright County

Lakes Area Interfaith Caregivers

Rural Stearns Faith in Action

Sibley County Faith in Action

Volunteers for Seniors of Brown County

Legislative Talking Points

As part of our public awareness/marketing campaign, it is very important that each of our programs is contacting their local legislators and making them aware of our efforts. Below are some points to address the question “Why should the legislature support the work of Faith in Action programs throughout the State?” This is not an exhaustive list, but a simple outline of our work.

Faith in Actions programs are:

- Neighbors helping neighbors as volunteers and paid professionals within the Programs’ neighborhood or small community boundaries,
- Enhancing quality of life for elders and caregivers,
- Preventing “spend down” to welfare programs,
- Building more elder friendly communities,
- Not simply “service providers.” Local Programs are organized, grassroots efforts to do “whatever it takes” to help elders stay at home. They are “community building specialists.”
- Delaying or averting admission to nursing homes,
- Adept at working alongside existing health care services,
- Promoting a sustainable, long-term model of elder care,
- Successful, cost-effective and caring community owned Programs, whose sustainability is tied closely to community ownership,
- Staffed by people who are out in the community working with elders and caregivers. Program directors are not simply “administrative staff.” They are actively engaged with elders in addition to performing the administrative functions of the Program.
- Part of the solution for providing for the growing population of elderly in the state.

Meets the Department of Human Services long-range goal of rebalancing long-term care delivery in Minnesota away from an institutional approach.



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LEGISLATIVE TALKING POINTS**



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Each session has been designed to allow interaction amongst the attendee’s, as well as providing valuable information you will be able to take away and use in ensuring your program’s foundation is healthy and strong.

Registration is due by May 1, 2010.

Registration forms can be found on our web site, www.mnfia.org. Visit the Upcoming Events page for additional details, directions, and registration form.

We hope to see you there!

Announcing a Message Board Forum on www.mnfia.org

Based on feedback received from all of you, our web site has a new feature—a message board forum!

Visit www.mnfia.org/forum to begin your registration. Once you have created a user name you will be able to start a discussion, respond to someone’s posting and participate with your fellow Faith in Action programs. This forum will be a great tool to use in researching ideas, obtaining feedback, or simply keeping in touch with one another. Just be sure to come back and visit often so you can stay on top of what’s being discussed.

If you have any problems, please let Myra know and she will assist you. Your feedback or thoughts on how to keep improving this new venture is appreciated.

See you on the boards!

Volunteers make a difference—
Eager to help in every way,
Valuable for the role you play,
Exceptional in responding to needs,
Ready with all the right words and deeds,
You're dependable as you do your part,
Day in and day out with a giving heart,
Always there to show you care,
You've won our praise as a great volunteer!



LEGISLATIVE TALKING POINTS
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Shifting more resources to community based long-term care initiatives is the most cost effective and realistic way to deal with the increasing costs of providing care to the rapidly increasing percentage of elders in the Minnesota population. The legislature should set a goal to have 60% of public long term care dollars invested in community based services.

The Faith in Action programs have a proven record of community-based care for older adults and persons with significant life challenges. Investing in Faith in Action programs helps keep people living at home and out of expensive nursing facilities.

Faith in Action programs need the ongoing state base support to effectively leverage local community dollars and foundation funding. The leveraging is critical!

Investing in Faith in Action results in building community commitment to persons in need and organizing resources to assist their care in the homes they love—neighbors helping neighbors as volunteers enhances the sense of local community, increases the common good and saves State funds.



A volunteer based program is only as good as their volunteers. Make sure to acknowledge how great your volunteers are, not just every day, but specifically

during National Volunteer Week, April 18-24, 2010. Perhaps you already have events planned for this week, if so wonderful! If you've thought about it and just haven't had the time to research a special way to show your appreciation, below are just a few ideas.

The President's Council on Service and Civic Participation (the Council) was established in 2003 to recognize the valuable contributions volunteers are making in our communities and encourage more people to serve. The Council created the President's Volunteer Service Award program as a way to thank and honor Americans who, by their demonstrated commitment and example, inspire others to engage in volunteer service. (www.presidentialserviceawards.gov)

For small fee (\$2.00 to \$4.00) award packages can be ordered based upon the hours of service the volunteer has put in. There are three award packages and they include a lapel pin (Bronze, Silver, Gold,



or President's Call to Service Award); a personalized certificate and congratulatory letter from the President of the United States; or the last package includes all three items—lapel pin, personalized certificate and a congratulatory letter from the President of the United States. The Council does ask that your organization become a Partner Organization and this can be done on their web site. This allows your program the opportunity to register your volunteer opportunities on serve.gov. For more information visit the Presidential Service Awards web site,

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 NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK**

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www.presidentialserviceawards.gov.

While this may be a great campaign to look at for next year, time may have slipped by this year. But you still have time to create a special campaign to acknowledge those volunteers, and to let your community know about them as well. The following are 20 tips taken from the www.nationalserviceresources.org web site on ways to plan for National Volunteer Week.

1. If your organization is not currently registered, register as a Certifying Organization for the President's Volunteer Service Award.
2. All President's Volunteer Service Awards must be verified and issued through institutions which are called Certifying Organizations (CO). These may include faith-based nonprofit and community-based organizations, schools, higher education, business, labor unions, civic or service clubs, membership and trade associations, and federal, state, or local government agencies.
3. To qualify as a CO an organization must:
 - Be legally established and located within the United States, the commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or a United States territory;
 - Agree to review and verify the records of service of prospective



individual and family/group recipients, and then distribute the award only to those who meet the established criteria;

- Either directly or through sponsorship pay for each award package that it requests.
2. Announce your participation in the President's Volunteer Service Award program by providing a news release to your local newspaper.
 3. Remind or inform your volunteers about your participation in the Award program.
 4. Identify your volunteers who can receive the President's Volunteer Service Award.
 - Eligibility requirements:
 - Individuals five to 14 years of age must complete a minimum of 50 service hours during a 12-month period.
 - Individuals 15 years and over must complete a minimum of 100 service hours during a 12-month period.
 - Individuals, families and groups must keep a record of volunteer activities and hours served. This Record of Service may be kept as a diary or calendar or tracked online using the USA Freedom Corps Record of Service. Individuals must submit their records to certifying organizations that will review and verify their records and order and distribute the award.
 - To be recognized, service activities should meet national or community needs in the areas of youth achievement, parks and open



spaces, healthy communities, and public safety and emergency response.

Activities should be unpaid and may not include court-ordered community service or service while incarcerated.

5. For complete information, visit the [President's Volunteer Service Award](http://www.presidentialserviceawards.gov) web site.
6. Nominate your top volunteers who are meeting community needs for the [Daily Point of Light Award](http://www.dailypointoflight.com).
7. Send a Proclamation Request Letter to your mayor, county executive, governor, or other appropriate elected official to acknowledge/observe National Volunteer Week.
8. During National Volunteer Week, nonprofits, community groups, volunteer centers, businesses, and local and state government agencies may host events to publicly recognize their volunteers. Many of these events include receptions or luncheons where volunteers actually receive their awards and/or a small token of thanks from elected officials or local dignitaries.

If you plan on holding such an event, start planning at least a few months in advance. Tasks include: identify and confirm venue, invite speaker(s) and local dignitaries, hire event

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NATIONAL VOLUNTEER
WEEK**

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photographer, and so forth. (See, listed below, the related effective practice, "Holding a celebrity waiter event," for further tips on how to plan for a formal event.)

9. * Order your volunteer recognition items (i.e., small tokens of thanks).

10. * Download and customize the National Volunteer Week Certificate of Appreciation for distribution at your awards event or to be sent directly to deserving volunteers.

11. * Write your National Volunteer Week event speech. To give your speech added impact, you could include some *Famous Quotes on Volunteering* and appropriate *Statistics on Volunteering*.

12. Follow up with elected officials to check on the status of your proclamation request.

13. Be sure to place order(s) at least one month in advance for President's Volunteer Service Awards that you want to present during National Volunteer Week (which begins the Sunday after Easter of each year).

14. Approximately a month before the event, send a notice about the



occurrence to community calendar editors at local newspapers.

15. * Two weeks before the event: Send reporters your customized news release and place follow-up phone calls to editors and reporters to remind them about your National Volunteer Week activities.

16. * Four days before the event: Send reporters your customized media advisory (and place a follow up call to ensure receipt).

17. * Beginning on the first day of National Volunteer Week, place the National Volunteer Week logo on your organization's website.

18. Celebrate your volunteers during National Volunteer Week!

19. The day after the event: Send event photos (and a thank-you note) to print journalists who attended the event and those reporters who didn't attend but expressed interest in the event.

20. Consult the Points of Light National Volunteer Week toolkit for any additional help needed on planning your event. The toolkit has FAQs, downloads, samples and more to save time in organizing your week.

* **Asterisks** indicate that these items are found in the *Points of Light National Volunteer Week toolkit*—http://www.handsonnetwork.org/files/NVW_ResourceGuide_2010_FINAL.pdf



Here is another idea on an event to recognize your volunteers.....

Hats off to Volunteers

Our theme last year for Volunteer Recognition was "Hats Off to You". All the staff came wearing outrageous hats of all kinds, the potted plants as centerpieces were in hats turned upside down. But the most fun was that all 100 of those present made newspaper hats - the kind that it takes at least 3 people to make - one as model, one to hold 3 or 4 sheets of newspaper down on model's head, one to wrap tape around the model's head and paper, and many hands to roll the paper up as the hat's brim. Volunteers met and worked with all sorts of new people, decorated the hats with flowers and balloons and whatever else they could find and had so much fun. I have never seen a room full of people who did not know each other have so much fun working together. Everyone left with a totally unique hat and a great memory. Their sense of commitment to our organization for another year was sealed by newspaper hats.

Submitted by Catherine Graham, Volunteer Services Manager, IHS, The Institute for Human Services





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Registration forms for the 2010 MN Faith in Action Association Spring Training are due to Myra Horner by 05/01/2010. Visit www.mnfia.org/upcomingevents for more information.

Contact us...

MN FIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Bridget Britz
bbritz@horizonhealthservices.com
 800-224-6451



Jeff Fromm
jeff.fromm@holdingfordhelpinghands.org
 320-746-9960

Nancy Biele
trustinc@visi.com
 612-827-6159

Lee Neste
fia@redwing.net
 651-385-3290

Dorthea Doty
ddoty@lyngblomsten.org
 651-632-5333

Krisie Charnley
kcharnley@horizonhealthservices.com
 800-224-6451

Sonya Taylor
cgccs@frontiernet.net
 507-824-3290

Kim Askeland
wellspringfia@co.watonwan.mn.us
 507-375-1276

Mary Tetzloff
MBeartetz@aol.com

Patrick Day
pday@pjdcoaching.com
 763-390-4853

Administrative Assistant
 Myra Horner
mhorner96@gmail.com
 218-330-8155



If you are interested in becoming a member of the board, please contact Myra via email mhorner96@gmail.com or 218-330-8155.