

Faith in Action for Monroe County

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PROGRAM MODEL

We work with individual congregations to help them reach out to the older and disabled members of their own community by providing a uniquely tailored model that works within, or out of the congregation. We work with congregations, first to build an internal ministry, and then to link congregations together in a comprehensive caregiving network. We work together as an interfaith community to share common resources, and we provide a link to the many service agencies in the community that can provide additional help to our neighbors in need.

Some congregations may identify one or two individuals within a congregation to act as liaisons to FIAMC. These liaisons work individually within the congregation to identify potential volunteers and people in need, and together with the FIAMC office to share resource, ideas and support. This person may also be the link between your congregation and the *Faith in Action* office.

WHAT THE NETWORK OFFERS:

TO CONGREGATIONS:

- A comprehensive, yet flexible, model for outreach to our older and disabled neighbors.
- An opportunity to share resources with neighboring congregations.
- An opportunity to share the caregiving ministry with members of the congregation, reducing the current workload of staff and increasing the congregation's ability to serve.
- Community-wide trainings and workshops for all volunteers and interested congregation members.
- A link with local services agencies, which can facilitate more comprehensive assistance for those in need.
- The opportunity to be part of an active Monroe County *Faith in Action* project.

TO FRAIL, OLDER, AND DISABLED ADULTS:

- The help they need to remain safe and secure in their own homes and avoid unnecessary or premature admission to a nursing home.
- Real practical assistance, as well as companionship and emotional support.
- A way to be re-connected to the community for those who are homebound and isolated.

TO INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEERS:

- A real opportunity to live out their faith by reaching out to their neighbors in need.
- Individualized matching with, and introduction to, the person(s) they will be helping.
- Training, education, and support to ensure them success in their roles.
- Networking with other FIAMC volunteers.
- An opportunity to put your "Faith into Action".

TO THE COMMUNITY:

- A cost-effective way to care for our older and disabled neighbors which helps preserve their dignity and independence.
- A working partnership between religious congregations and social service agencies that often reach out to the same individuals.