

# VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION ANNUAL REPORT 2009

## Volunteers in Action Helps People Help Each Other Out

These are challenging times for many people. Higher unemployment, a slow economy, health issues and other difficulties people face in their lives have many wondering how they will make life work. We need to help each other out, especially in tougher times. VIA serves our communities by recruiting, linking and supporting volunteers to “help out” their neighbors. We create supportive relationships so that people can walk alongside their neighbors as they face challenges in their lives.

This report reflects the VIA programs, services and activities that were carried out in 2009 in order to accomplish these purposes. In 2009, including all VIA programs, 295 disabled, elderly and low income clients were served by 303 volunteers giving over 3,540 hours of supportive service. Thank you to all those who have supported VIA, made contributions, prayed for us and volunteered to make this ministry happen. VIA is here to walk alongside you as you face challenges in life and support you as you “help out” your neighbor.

Donn Hansum, Director

**Mission Statement:** *“Volunteers in Action serves the community by equipping and enabling Christian volunteers and churches to be Christ’s transforming presence.”*

## 2009 IN REVIEW

### Faith in Deed:

- **361** home visits and **1022** hours volunteer service were reported.
- **52** one-on-one supportive relationships were started or maintained.
- **65** families were served one time by Faith in Deed volunteers.
- **124** referrals from **35** different agencies were made to the Faith in Deed program in 2009.
- Numerous hospital visits were made, lunches were had together, movies attended, games played, furniture moved, boxes were packed, grocery shopping was done, books were discussed and trusting, supportive relationships were built.

### Service Projects:

- In August, VIA partnered with Confluence Ministries Extreme Community Makeover to spruce up **10** homes and a church in a West Denver neighborhood. **55** volunteers laid sod, stained a large fence, mowed lawns, trimmed bushes, cleaned up yards and alleys, and did construction work.
- In November, VIA and Denver Christian Schools cooperated to sponsor the annual leaf raking project. **167** students helped **83** Denver homeowners by raking their lawns.
- **7** volunteers provided **1479** hours of service doing repair, maintenance and remodeling work for the Joshua Station transitional housing facility.

### Partners for Success Mentoring:

- There were **19** ongoing mentoring matches in 2009. Mentees identified and worked on planned life change goals through the Partners for Success program.
- Mentors recorded **404** hours of mentor volunteering. Working toward stability, mentees have recently secured employment through the DenverWorks’ entry level program for the employment-ready and/or the prisoner re-entry population.
- **32** other unemployed persons were assisted in developing a Plan for Success, helping them identify and develop short and long term personal life goals.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### At-Large Members

Robert Bandstra  
Cyndi Berghuis, *VP*  
Ruth Minnema  
Ed Schans, *President*  
Jason Soodsma, *Treasurer*  
Karen Waanders, *Secretary*

### Deacon Representatives

Connie DeNooy, *Third CRC*  
Jason Jonkman, *Crestview*  
Ray Mannes, *First CRC*  
Nick McNeill, *Second CRC*  
Troy Prinsen, *Horizon*  
Marv Sjaardema, *Hillcrest*  
Chad Vermeer, *EHCC*

### Liaison Representatives

Carol Ackerman,  
*CRWRC Board Rep.*  
Walt Ackerman  
*Disaster Response Rep.*  
Pastor Bob Westenbroek  
*Pastoral Rep.*

## STAFF

Donn Hansum  
*Director*  
Donna Van Elderen  
*Partners for Success,  
Program Manager*  
Rachel Miedema  
*Volunteer Coordinator*  
Jaime Antolini  
*Administrative Assistant*

## 2009 DONORS & FUNDERS

A big THANK YOU to the **21** churches and over **150** individual donors who generously gave to VIA this past year. We also thank the Chevron Mining Co., Colorado Compassion Initiative through JVA Consulting and the Foundation for VIA for their grant support to VIA in 2009.

9185 E. Kenyon Ave., #130  
Denver, CO 80237  
Phone: 303.713.9144  
Fax: 303.713.9155  
www.volunteersinaction.info

## 2009 in Review (cont.)

### Other VIA Programs:

- Workshops were provided for deacons on: "The Role and Calling of the Deacon", "Improving the Way We Help with Financial/Benevolence Aid", "Leading the Church in Service", "Vision Casting for Deacons", "Newly Elected Deacon Training", and "Chair of Deacon Education". Consultation and "just talking things over" is provided ongoing to deacons.
- Resources, Referrals and Problem Solving: VIA staff responded to many phone calls for help finding social service resources and with solving problems. We also linked a variety of church groups with volunteer projects in the community.
- **24** individuals were provided with durable medical equipment through the Orthopedic Bank. These individuals were referred by hospital social workers, deacons and rehabilitation staff.
- **8** vehicles were provided to **8** families/individuals in dire need of transportation to seek or maintain their employment through the VIA Used Car Ministry Program. **137** families have been helped with vehicles since VIA started this program.

## VIA PROGRAMS

### Faith in Deed

Volunteers are matched with elderly and disabled individuals with basic needs such as transportation, shopping and reading. Involvement can be on a one-time or on-going basis.

### Partners for Success

Volunteers serve as mentors for up to one year, to walk alongside and encourage a low-income individual or former offender in becoming successfully employed.

### Education

Agency staff train lay leaders and deacons on the dynamics of mercy ministry within their congregations and community and give them an opportunity to join in the volunteer base of the agency.

### Orthopedic Bank

Used, durable medical equipment is loaned to individuals free of charge.

### Service Projects

Several times a year volunteers work as team members for larger community improvement projects, such as Make-a-Difference Day and the Paint-a-Thon.

### VIA Used Car Ministry

This program accepts donations of reliable, used vehicles. The vehicles are then given to low income families who need a car for work, education or medical reasons. Families are usually referred to the program by the deacons or pastor of their church.

### INCOME - 2009

Churches & Classis	\$66,236
VIA Foundation	27,554
Individual Contrib.	62,889
Grants	9,906
Prog./Other Inc.	6,577
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>173,162</b>

### EXPENSES - 2009

Programs	125,718
Faith in Deed	
Partners for Success	
Car Ministry	
Orthopedic Bank	
Service Projects	
Education & Training	39,464
Fundraising	5,457
Administrative	6,997
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>177,637</b>

