



# VIA

*"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds." Hebrews 10:24*

# news

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## Donn's Desk – *The Ripple Effect*

**How can you be part of the ripple effect?** This was the theme and the challenge given to about 170 people who joined together to support the Foundation for VIA at the 2011 fundraising banquet. Attendees were challenged to be Christ's transforming presence by giving of themselves locally, nationally and internationally. Many times this **ripple effect** happens when we do something good or kind for another person and that in turn allows or enables them to do good for someone else. Our actions often have an effect far beyond the initial act of caring that we do.

Carol, a client who shares in another article in this newsletter, said, *"Because (my volunteer) has taken me to buy teaching materials or to run off copies, I have been equipped for ministering myself to children and adults on Sundays or at other times."* That is one kind of ripple effect that we see.

A key to help make this ripple effect happen is that from the beginning we acknowledge, affirm and encourage the God given talents and abilities that all people have. No matter what kind of difficulty or need someone has, it is important to recognize that they have gifts and skills that can be mobilized and used. Our goal at Volunteers in Action is to walk alongside and build others up so that they can use their gifts and skills to work, to support their families and to, in turn, bless others around them.

How can you be involved in creating a ripple effect? You are challenged as well to start ripple effects for good. If you are interested in doing this through the ministries of Volunteers in Action, please call us at 303-713-9144.  
--Donn Hansum, Director

P.S. Over \$21,000 was raised to support the work of the Foundation for the long term ministry of VIA. These donations have their own ripple effect for years to come. Thanks to all who contributed in this way!

## FAITH IN DEED SPOTLIGHT

Below is an excerpt from a letter we received recently from a Faith in Deed client. It illustrates how our volunteers are helping us accomplish our mission of decreasing the isolation of seniors and helping them to live independently for as long as possible. Many thanks to all of our dedicated Faith in Deed volunteers!

*"My volunteer has been consistent to take me on errands, sometimes to the grocery store or the bank, the library or to Office Depot or the post office. She is always flexible to go where I need to go to accomplish tasks. When she hasn't been free to go, her husband has substituted for her. He also built an outside ramp for my steps that made walking on unshoveled sidewalks and steps safe in the winter. Being transported at least once a week by them has helped me so very much. I can always depend on 'getting out' to do what I want or need to do on a weekly basis. I feel very comfortable in asking for assistance from them, as they have a wonderful interest in my welfare. I want to thank Volunteers in Action for recruiting and organizing volunteers that have a wonderful attitude and are delighted to help people."*

–Carol, Faith in Deed client



A Faith in Deed Pair

## Moving Operation of Volunteers for the Elderly and Disabled

According to the Administration on Aging, the US population of seniors 65+ is expected to grow by almost 7% over the next 20 years. These seniors require appropriate resources and we are doing our best to try to provide these, especially for isolated seniors. Our **M.O.V.E.D.** program is meeting a critical need in Denver for those who cannot afford to move. Since the start of the program 3 months ago, we have completed 15 moves. We are taking a unique approach to the program by focusing on the resources of the individual being moved, asking them if they have family members or friends who can help be the volunteer movers. We then rent the suitable size Budget truck for the move and the client helps pay whatever they can towards the rental. The program has been running seamlessly so far under the great leadership of Nolan Vander Ark. We do still need volunteer movers sometimes! If you would like to help, please call our office.

--Rachel Johnson, Volunteer and Events Coordinator



Special thanks to Nolan Vander Ark  
our M.O.V.E.D. Coordinator!

### Faith in Deed Volunteer Needs

- Grocery Shopper for elderly woman in Denver
- Grocery Shopper for elderly woman in N. Aurora
- Rides to doctor's appts. for elderly woman in Englewood

### VIA's Used Car Ministry

The goal of the VIA Car Ministry program is to support and assist low-income families with a reliable vehicle in order to maintain or seek employment in situations where using the local RTD system is not realistic. VIA seeks to partner with people who are struggling so they can work to support their family.

People contribute according to their means to help cover the cost of getting the car ready and re-paired. We are in need of vehicles at this time, so if you have a reliable used vehicle that you could donate, please give Donn a call at the VIA office.



### Upcoming Events:

- **Fri., August 26, 2011: Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) Workshop** sponsored by Volunteers in Action and other ministries. Presented by the Communities First Association; George Montoya and Jeff Littlejohn facilitating.
- **Sat., Sept. 10, 2011: Community Serving Community Service Day** Volunteers in Action has been invited by a number of Denver area ethnic churches to partner for accomplishing various service projects together that day. Mark your calendar to join us Sept. 10. More information will be coming.
- **Nov. 4-5 Denver Justice Conference** two days of training on how to actively respond to local injustices, sponsored by a group of diverse churches and non-profits.

### VIA Financial Report Through April 30, 2011

Budgeted Income & Expenses	\$58,656
Actual Expenses	54,892
Actual Income	37,578