

# VIA

*"Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue  
but with actions and in truth." | John 3:18*

# news

A Quarterly Publication of **Volunteers in Action** ■ *Service in Christ's Name* ■ March 2014

**OUR THOUGHTS ON.....**Showing "**mercy**", what's that all about? We have entered the season of Lent. The church calendar and our contemplation of **mercy** shown to us is elevated. Christ has called us not just to absorb but to follow His example and be His "**heart and hands**" in a hurting and broken world. We're just ordinary people but we're people given a task, a mighty task, to extend **mercy** also known as showing compassion. Perhaps you're thinking "**this just isn't one of my gifts**" but recently I read, "**many Christians have developed a 'sponge' attitude. They go to church and attend Bible studies, soaking up spiritual truths, yet they never squeeze anything out onto others.**" From Blessed Are Those Who Comfort by Charles F. Stanley. If you've been contemplating your life and the time God has granted you then possibly you'd like to consider **mercy** and become involved. If so, give us a call at Volunteers in Action and together we can begin to "**squeeze**" out more time for compassion and mercy in the lives of others.

—Kelli Schuttinga, Volunteer Coordinator

**Matthew 28:5-6** *"Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; He has risen, just as he said."* The staff at VIA wishes you a blessed Easter—Donn, Kelli & Jaime

**VIA WORKSHOP I "Having Faith Conversations"** was held on February 6, 2014. Barb DeKruif led 33 attendees in a thought-provoking and challenging session. We were encouraged to chart out our life and ask the Holy Spirit to guide us in looking for specific ways God has shown up, been faithful and spoken to us through our life experiences. Barb spurred us on to recall how the Father God desires that we have an awareness of His great love for us on a daily basis so that we in turn can tell others

**WHY** we love Jesus. Here are a few suggested readings:

- \* "*Speaking of Jesus*" by Carl Medearis
- \* "*Share Jesus Without Fear*" by William Fay
- \* "*How to Tell Your Friends the Best News They Will Ever Hear*" by J. Mack Stiles

Keep recalling the verse from **I Peter 3:15** "**Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the HOPE that you have. But do this with gentleness & respect.**"

VIA's hope is that you may see that your faith story is about Jesus, not about your church, your activities or anything else except the Master Himself.....Jesus!

**The next scheduled Workshop II is on June 6, 2014 covering the topic "Setting Boundaries" and will be facilitated by Lucy Draayer, MSW.**

—Kelli Schuttinga, Volunteer Coordinator

## Shine On VIA Dynamic Duo's

Highlighting individuals can be a bit difficult, you don't want to leave anyone out or generate negative feelings and yet you do want to acknowledge folks for their contributions. We at VIA realize the extreme blessing of each and every volunteer so we praise the Father for the gifts & talents of all our wonderful volunteers. Over the course of the past nine months as the VIA Volunteer Coordinator I have noted four couples that "**shine**" as a team: Dick & Marilyn Anema, Don & Marj DeBoer, Nolan & Joey VanderArk and Ralph & Emilie Wiersma. Here are some of their "**shining**" characteristics:



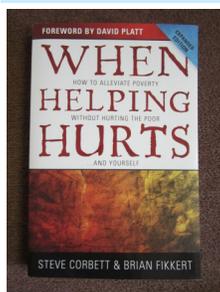
- \* When we contact them they respond with positive enthusiasm.
- \* They are cheerful givers of their time & talents.
- \* They are "go-to" folks for last minute requests (which are in abundance).
- \* They are humble, compassionate & joy-filled.

They are all the kind of people we can emulate for they are action oriented and Christ followers....they truly **shine HIS light** and people are blessed through them.

*(Dick and Marilyn Anema shining)*

**Have you ever had a pen pal?** Those were fun times, anticipating a letter in the mail, learning about someone in another city, state or country. In most cases pen pals never personally meet one another but they develop a sharing relationship that could last for a lifetime. VIA has partnered with a 2nd grade class from Eastridge Elementary School in Aurora who are pen pals with some of our Long Term clients in our Faith in Deed program. What a delight for our clients to receive a letter written by a 7 or 8 year old child that asks all kinds of questions. The child in turn receives a letter back, often dictated to our Long Term volunteers, from a senior or disabled individual highlighting their lives and in turn asking the children lots of questions. These letters provide a twofold blessing; the children gain greater compassion and understanding of a senior or disabled person and the client/friend engages in conversation with someone new and fresh in their lives. What joy can be found in simple words of encouragement. God's gift of the written word, in letter form, is a lovely reminder that we can read and reread wonderful words of life to fill hours of void. Maybe it's time we engage in writing a "real" letter to someone we've not communicated with for a while. Mmmmmm, lots of joy could be generated!

*--Kelli Schuttinga, Volunteer Coordinator*



**Helping Instead of Hurting** - How do churches and deacons really help people who are struggling to make growth and change rather than fostering dependency? This is the topic addressed in recent deacon and church gatherings in Denver and with North Front Range churches at Immanuel Church in Ft. Collins. Concepts encouraged are how to establish ongoing supportive relationships, how to do things with people rather than for people and how to help people accomplish the goals they want to achieve in their life. As a guide for our discussion we utilized the book, **When Helping Hurts**, by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert. *--Donn Hansum, Director*

## 2013 Ministry Activities of Volunteers in Action

- **45** long term supportive relationships between a volunteer and a disabled or elderly person were coordinated. These volunteers provided practical assistance to someone who has few resources or support systems. This involved over **1100** unique visits with people needing help.
- VIA organized and carried out **25** moves for elderly or disabled individuals who needed help moving into a better living situation.
- **48** individuals were helped with one time needs such as a ride to a doctor appointment, minor home repair, help completing paperwork, help getting a Colorado ID, etc.
- **77** senior homeowners were helped with lawn raking through VIA/DCMS Leaf Raking Project.
- **41** people were provided with needed equipment through the VIA Durable Medical Equipment Loan Bank.
- Over **80** other people were helped with problem solving and linking them with community resources that fit their needs.