

Caregivers' Corner

We get by with a little help from our friends

By Mary Neumann, Community Correspondent

I don't know about you, but I couldn't get by without help from my friends. And neither can Community Caregivers. We simply couldn't do what we do if we didn't have help — and a lot of it!

Volunteers are at the top of our list of friends. They're on the front line, providing services and helping in countless ways. In addition, we are extremely fortunate to have the financial support of a number of local businesses. These friends sponsor our annual fundraisers: the Golf Outing in June and the Gala in November. Individual donations from friends in the communities we serve also help sustain us.

Extra help

During 2011, Community Caregivers received grants and gifts from another group of friends. We'd like to express our sincere appreciation to the following organizations for their support:

- The Equinox-Albany Community Fund Foundation;
- The Charles and Carole Bryant Generation Grant Program;
- The Barry Alan Gold Memorial Fund;
- The William Gundry Broughton Charitable Foundation;
- Phila (a student group at the Emma Willard School);
- The Wright Family Foundation;
- The General Electric Foundation (in honor of Bob Malitz);
- The Keehfus Family Foundation;
- The Walmart Foundation;
- SEFCU, the State Employees' Federal Credit Union;
- Stewarts Holiday Match Fund; and
- The Price Chopper Foundation.

Thanks for all you do!

Caregiver honorees

As a very small way of saying thank you, Community Caregivers names a volunteer of the month. (There's a list on our website: www.communitycaregivers.org.) Here are some recent honorees:

- October Volunteer of the Month: Petra Malitz has been a Caregivers office volunteer since 2009. She arrives in the office every week, ready to do whatever needs done. She handles incoming phone calls like a pro and has even helped out at the Enterprise when it's time to "stuff" newsletters into the paper. Petra is pleasant, gracious, and always willing to help.
- November Volunteer of the Month: Andy Tinning will soon celebrate his fourth year of being a Caregivers volunteer. Shortly after he joined in April of 2008, Andy began making weekly visits to a client. And even though "his" client has moved from his home to assisted living facilities, Andy still visits him faithfully and calls the office to report on how things are going. What a great relationship!
- December Volunteer of the Month: Elizabeth Vandercar has been a Caregivers volunteer since November 2009. In addition to providing transportation for clients, Elizabeth also works as a [Navigator](#) volunteer. She is helpful, pleasant, gracious, and a conscientious, compassionate volunteer — we couldn't ask for more.

Would you like to "friend" us?

If you're interested in finding out more about Community Caregivers, come to an orientation session. (All volunteers must attend an orientation session before they can provide service to clients.) Just email the Community Caregivers office (info@communitycaregivers.org) or call us at 456-2898 to let us know you're coming. Orientation sessions generally take about an hour and there are several scheduled:

- Thursday, February 16, at noon at the Community Caregivers office (feel free to bring your lunch);
- Tuesday, March 6, at 10 a.m. at the Community Caregivers office;
- Thursday, March 22, at 11 a.m. in the Community Room at the Voorheesville Public Library; and
- Wednesday, April 4, at 10 a.m. at the Community Caregivers office

Thanks for all your help!