**Caregivers’ Corner**  
**Three Cheers for Volunteers!**  
*By Judy Rothstein*

Did you know that April is National Volunteer Month? And that April 15 – 21 is National Volunteer Week?

This year, the theme is Celebrate People in Action. Throughout the month, we’ll be sharing the stories of eight Community Caregivers volunteers. You’ll find out who they are, why they volunteer, and what they do.

**Carolyn’s Story**
Carolyn Wilson has been with Caregivers for 10 years. After retiring, she talked with various organizations to find out which one she wanted to be part of. But she also wanted to be able to travel and have fun. She chose Community Caregivers.

Carolyn is a driver and provides respite. She is also a member of the Volunteer Recruitment, Education and Recognition Committee and has helped with Caregivers’ fund-raisers. In addition, she has been trained for the Navigator Project.

One of the things Carolyn likes most about driving is the personal interaction she has with clients.

"They seem to enjoy the conversation and I enjoy it, too. There's satisfaction that I'm helping somebody." The best part, she says, it’s "in my own backyard."

Caregivers is considerate of Carolyn’s travel plans.

"The staff are the nicest bunch of people to work with. No hassles, no ego trip. Everyone wants to work together to help the community." Carolyn really appreciates their positive attitude.

**Grant’s Story**
Grant Randall of Glenmont has been driving for Caregivers for three years.

"I transport clients to doctors' appointments, to their hair dressers and to work," he says.
Grant learned the value of volunteering early because his parents were volunteers when he was growing up. He learned that you take care of family.

"I believe it's our duty to take care of people in our society and community." They've given, now it's time to help them. "I grew up with that philosophy," he says.

Reflecting on why he volunteers, Grant says, "It's satisfying. Clients turn out to be close friends in a certain way. They depend on me. I'm a familiar face."

He says they talk about family, kids and their lives as they drive to appointments.

Grant became involved with Community Caregivers.

"Someone gave me a brochure," he says.

Being a volunteer has allowed him to be involved with people in his community, and he says they're very appreciative. He's giving back now, but knows that someday, he may need help.

"Hopefully," he says, "this service will be around when I need it."

**Critical Need for Transportation**
Community Caregivers’ mission is to connect those in our community who can help with those who need help in order to stay in their homes and live independently with dignity. Transportation is our most requested service. Our volunteers drive people to medical appointments, to hair appointments, to the YMCA, to visit people, and even to work.

In 2011, according to Larry Miller (Caregivers’ System’s Manager), there were 2671 scheduled transportation services. Currently, we have about 75 active drivers. More are needed.

If you think you could find an hour or two a month to help a neighbor by being a volunteer driver for Community Caregivers, go to our website for more information: [www.communitycaregivers.org](http://www.communitycaregivers.org).

**More To Come . . .**
Next week, you’ll meet two more people who make volunteering for Community Caregivers a rewarding part of their lives — one from Berne and one from Slingerlands.