

# 5 VOLUNTEERS STEP UP AND ENRICH A LIFE

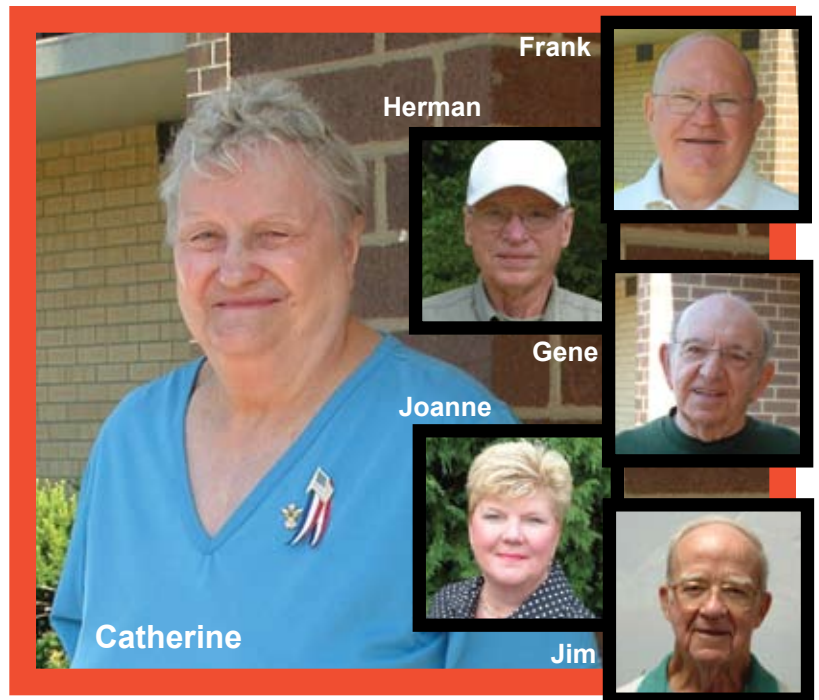
Every day, the stressful drive to Allegheny General Hospital takes about an hour from Lower Burrell for Catherine as she is in a desperate battle to save a badly infected leg. Imagine trying to accomplish this as a single senior with no family in the area. Thanks to five dedicated volunteers, Catherine is able to make the trip to the hyperbaric chamber at the hospital for her two-hour treatment. For her, this trip would be impossible without the help of Frank Baker, Herman Hittner, Gene Montanari, Joanne Retter and Jim Shields.

In late July of last year, Catherine's leg was hurt in a simple accident, but worsened over the ensuing weeks as an infection began to rage through the damaged area. Her doctors saw the potential for the loss of her leg without a special program of daily visits to a hyperbaric chamber. With her nearest sibling in Florida, Catherine was faced with the challenge of traveling to Pittsburgh. She called Alle-Kiski Faith in Action.

Four men and one woman heeded the call and each dedicated a day to serve as drivers for this senior in need. Catherine is now showing signs of recovery from the infection, and doctors are very hopeful that she will keep her leg. Frank Baker, one volunteer, says that "It is hard to find folks that will drive into Pittsburgh, but we saw a tremendous need and made sure we had a team ready to make this work."

Usually, Faith in Action® volunteers transport seniors on a periodic basis to the grocery store, doctors' appointments or other locations. Such simple acts, make a huge difference for our seniors here and elsewhere throughout the county. Families can save tens of thousands of dollars as their elderly parents and relatives can extend their life at home significantly through this program.

Catherine says, "Faith in Action is MY family." United Way of Westmoreland County is working with local leaders and steering committee members of the four new Faith in Action sites so that more seniors throughout our area have access to these services. (see article on page three)



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## THANK YOU!

Thanks to United Way of Westmoreland County and our Women's Leadership Council, over 150 more frail elderly neighbors are receiving supportive services that help them to remain living in their homes and communities. Recognition and thanks go to members of the WLC and the 100+ volunteers providing these supportive services. The elderly are serving and being served with over 60% of our volunteers are 65 or older.

## THE MEMBER CORNER

Please read the Member Profiles below. They represent three of our 100+ members who "Live United" – women who give, advocate and volunteer on behalf of the Women's Leadership Council, United Way and our community.

*Jody Adams, M.A.*



**J**ody is the owner of In Its Place, providing solutions to organizing challenges in offices and any room in homes. Joining the Women's Leadership Council in its first year (2006), Jody is also a Leadership Westmoreland Alumna and current treasurer of the National Association of Professional Organizers (NAPO) Pittsburgh Chapter.

Jody has provided her expertise as a professional organizer and hands-on assistance to Faith in Action clients that require help in downsizing as they transition to a new residence or just want

to eliminate clutter from a lifetime of accumulation. Jody has volunteered her time to offer workshops for volunteers at two of our Faith in Action sites. Her efforts address a common problem for seniors as they leave the comfort and size of their family home to a smaller residence. Her commitment to helping our seniors makes the transition to a new place and lifestyle just one important service that enriches our programs across the county.

*Margaret V. Hildebrand*



**M**aggie started Input Service in 1988 as an independent contractor to track profit and loss for small local companies and to provide bookkeeping services, such as balancing checkbooks or organizing financial information. Maggie is the current President of the Ligonier Valley Business and Professional Women's Club and Treasurer of District #3 (covering Westmoreland and Allegheny Counties). She was also named BPW Woman of the Year for 2006.

A member of the Women's Leadership Council (WLC) since 2006, Maggie has

generously hosted several prospecting events for friends, business associates and WLC members at her lovely home in Ligonier. In addition to her support in growing WLC membership, Maggie volunteered this past spring as a member of United Way's Building Strong Neighborhoods & Communities Grant Review Team. As a member of this eight-person team, Maggie volunteered over 50 hours, reviewing 23 proposals from March through April to invest over \$300,000 of the IMPACT fund targeted toward services that address critical needs and advance the common good.

*Margaret Zylka-House, Esq.*



**O**wner of Margaret Zylka House Attorney at Law, Margaret is committed to helping clients find working solutions to legal matters that arise in life, with concentrations in business law, estate, trust and tax planning and family law.

A Women's Leadership Council member since 2006, Margaret is a mother of two sons (Max and Isaac), and also works as a financial planner for her husband's firm, House Financial Services. She serves as a board member for Laurel Highlands Regional Family YMCA and Twin Trees,

Inc. (a network of MH/MR group homes) she is also a pastoral and finance council member of St. John the Baptist Church in Scottdale. Margaret is also a member of Allegheny, Fayette and Westmoreland County Bar Associations, Ned J. Nakles American Inn of Court, Westmoreland County, Mount Pleasant Rotary Club and Connellsville BPW. Margaret has also completed the Faith in Action Volunteer Training and serves as a volunteer for the Jacob's Creek Area Faith in Action.



Jane Pauley is the keynote speaker at the "Women of Influence" Breakfast at the Four Points by Sheraton in Greensburg, PA. Eden Hall Foundation is the Premier Sponsor of this Women's Leadership Council event.

## JANE PAULEY KEYNOTE WOMEN OF INFLUENCE BREAKFAST OCTOBER 30, 2008

This year, the Women's Leadership Council is fortunate to have its third annual Women of Influence Breakfast with Jane Pauley as the keynote speaker.

Jane Pauley has been one of the most respected figures in American broadcast journalism for more than thirty years with a television career that spanned morning, daytime and primetime.

In 1972, Pauley began her journalism career in her hometown of Indianapolis. In 1975, she became the first woman to anchor a weekday newscast in Chicago; and, at the age of 25, began a 13-year tenure as cohost of NBC's TODAY. For more than a decade, Pauley anchored the primetime news magazine, DATELINE NBC, appearing as many as four nights a week on the NBC primetime schedule. Following DATELINE, she was host of a daytime program, The Jane Pauley Show.

A member of the Broadcast and Cable Hall of Fame, Pauley has won multiple Emmy Awards, as well as an Edward R. Murrow Award for Outstanding Achievement in Electronic Journalism. Since the publication of her memoir, the New York Times bestseller, *Skywriting: A Life Out of the Blue*, she has been recognized as a powerful advocate in the field of mental health.

Pauley has been married for 28 years to Doonesbury cartoonist, Garry Trudeau. They have three children and reside in New York City.

## FAITH IN ACTION CONTINUES EXPANSION

### *Forbes Trail Faith in Action Starts First Training Brush Creek Area launches in Irwin*

Thanks to the support of the Women's Leadership Council, Forbes Trail has launched under site director, Phyllis L. Morgan, and Brush Creek Area Faith in Action began development of its community support under its site director, Theresa (Teri) Whalen.

Client base and services have expanded significantly since inception as four new sites have been established in the last three years. Collectively, the sites are supporting over 150 clients with the assistance of nearly 100 volunteers.



**Faith in Action sites continue to grow throughout the western and southern portions of our service area.**



Mara Bradford  
Lives United

## WLC MEMBERS ENSURE YOUR INVESTMENTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

“Working on the Grant Review Team was a great opportunity for me to realize more fully the important work that United Way does in our community...it was a joy to work with people who cared so much.” **M. Hildebrand**

“As a UWWC board member, I serve on the IMPACT CABINET which relies heavily on the diverse knowledge and experience of its volunteers on our Grant Review Teams bring to the investment process. We all take our roles very seriously in investing the IMPACT Fund. It is good to know the resources we have secured from our generous community donors are invested with care and expectations of producing measurable improvements.” **R. Walters**

“I never realized the depth and breadth of the programs supported by the IMPACT Fund. The experience of serving on a Grant Review Team has heightened my confidence in United Way and the IMPACT they have in the community.” **M. Daniels**

Mara is just one of seven WLC members that volunteered in this year's Grant Review. 25% of the Grant Review teams were comprised of WLC membership.

“This is the second time that I participated in the Grant Review Process, and I am consistently impressed with the level of accountability the funded programs and organizations have to the United Way and their donors.” **M. Bradford**

### United Way Women's Leadership Council



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United Way of Westmoreland County  
Serving Westmoreland and portions  
of Armstrong and Fayette Counties

**Mission: To improve lives by mobilizing the caring power of communities.**

