



Love Thy Neighbor Ministries

The Good Neighbor Newsletter

April, May, June 2024

Volume XX Issue 2



Ministry News

By Steve Kacprzak, Executive Director

In this newsletter I have a few exciting things about the ministry to report. We also want to refresh your memory about our many and varied outreach activities. *Everything we do is done in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and given without charge.*

Ministry Outreach

We thank God daily for the ministry opportunities He has so graciously entrusted to us and we are doing our best to be faithful ambassadors for Jesus. Virginia and I and our dedicated volunteers minister by bringing His love and precious Gospel to the residents and staff of many of the nursing homes and assisted living facilities in Pima County. We do this through one-on-one visits, small group Bible studies, music performances, special group presentations, and providing hand-made comfort items as well as other items which are needed or helpful to residents.

We are pleased to report that four new volunteers were recently trained and added to our ministry team.



Through the generosity of our Lord God and all of you, our wonderful ministry supporters, we did something special in April. We had the funds to purchase a considerable supply of useful items and give them to the residents of seven nursing homes. The items included adult pull-ups in various sizes. Pull-ups are not provided by the nursing homes, so if a resident prefers those over an adult diaper (humiliating for some), they must buy their own. It is an issue of compassion. In addition, we provided a generous supply of large print Word Find books with sharpened pencils, coloring books with crayons or colored pencils, reading glasses in various powers, and Giant Print Bibles with hand-made covers.



Handcrafted Stitches For Love items were included as well.

The Good Neighbor Get Together™

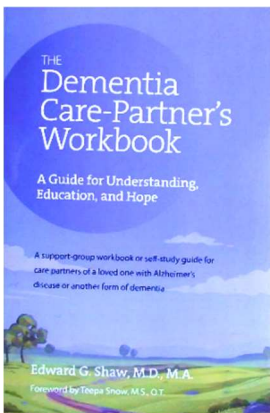
This monthly event was created to help those who are caring for someone who is homebound and their loved one. It provides respite for the caregiver while providing a welcoming, safe, joyful environment for those with early to mid-stage dementia who do not require skilled care. Our trained volunteers lead engaging activities tailored to their needs such as light exercise, music, physical movement, games, socialization, and crafts. Preregistration is required.



This ministry program is a partnership between Love Thy Neighbor Ministries and Vistoso Community Church.

Cognitive Loss Support Group

In February a Cognitive Loss Support Group was added as a partner to our Good Neighbor Get Together ministry. This support group was started by and is offered to caregivers by the Active Brain Health Circle at Sun City, Oro Valley. It is meant to create a comfortable and welcoming space for caregivers to gather for their own personal well-being and in support of others on similar journeys. The group meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month, the same time and in the same location as Good Neighbor Get Together monthly event. The Vistoso Community Church was thoughtful in allowing us to use its facilities for this program as well.



Mary Nowatny, Cognitive Loss Support Group facilitator, has had first-hand experience with caring at home for a loved one living with dementia. Mary is a snowbird and has gone north for the summer. For the next six months the group will be led by LuAnn Detloff, a gentle and kind-hearted Love Thy Neighbor Ministries volunteer, who has Chaplain's credentials and experience in facilitating bereavement support groups. She will be using highly recommended materials developed by Dr. Edward Shaw which offer a combination of educational, practical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual support for those who must make the journey of caring for someone with dementia.

What this all means is that caregivers can bring their loved ones and drop them off at the Good Neighbor Get Together event (preregistration required). There they will be looked after by our volunteers while the caregivers seek support from the Cognitive Loss Support Group.

Other Partnerships



We partner with Southwest Medical Aid to provide free medical supplies and refurbished medical equipment to anyone who cannot afford them.

Poncho Mustang Rescue, a ministry of Betty and Phil Morris, with whom we partner, takes their gentle, trained miniature horses to visit nursing home and assisted living residents.



Almighty God, our loving Heavenly Father, You have been lavish in all Your creation, and we thank You for the great potential power and wholeness within each one of us. Give us the desire and the faith to develop to the full all the good possibilities within us, especially in the realm of spiritual growth and in loving service to You and Your people. Help us to make the most of what You have given to us. Help us to live to the limit of our capabilities and to give all the honor and the glory unto You, the giver of every good and perfect gift.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Memorial gifts received

In Memory of Brenda Kacprzak Friedlander

From

Ray & Carole Rogers
Tom Panneck
Emmie Lou & Bob Brunson
Sandy & Barry Stevenson
Christine Griebel
Steve & Virginia Kacprzak
Nancy & Michael Comerford

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Suzanne & David Marty
John & Pat Rogers
John & Rita Sanderson
Jean Rozenboom
Ron & Jen Lunde
Linda & William Jenkins

In Memory of Steven Shaffer

From

Debbie Shaffer
Steve & Virginia Kacprzak
Suzanne Shaffer