

Faith in Action of McHenry County Receives STAR Award

Award includes \$5,000 for Senior Transportation Services

**For Immediate Release
August 25, 2009**

On August 20, 2009, the Beverly Foundation announced its STAR Awards for Senior Transportation Services. The award program recognizes exceptional service in providing transportation to older adults. One of the Foundation's prestigious STAR Special Recognition Awards was given to Faith in Action of McHenry County in Crystal Lake, IL.

The STAR Award recognizes Faith in Action's use of Vertical Response technology.

Next to health, transportation is the most important challenge for seniors who choose to remain in their homes. With limited public transportation available in McHenry County, Faith in Action's volunteer transportation resource is critical in providing transportation to both life-essential and life-enriching destinations. A continual need is to find low- and no-cost solutions for the scheduling and coordination of transportation volunteers, while increasing the efficiency of office staff. Faith in Action's registration with Vertical Response (VR) takes advantage of free email marketing newsletter campaigns offered to non-profits. Faith in Action now uses the VR technology to regularly communicate requests for service to its volunteers through VR's simplified, targeted email distribution/response system. The Award will help support the development and costs for integrating the VR technology with Faith in Action's system of tracking and managing its transportation services. This automated information sharing will save volunteer and staff time and allow the program to more efficiently meet the transportation needs of seniors.

In making the announcement, the Foundation's president Helen Kerschner said: "Our STAR Awards recognize 'the best of the best' organizations that provide transportation to older adults. This year we received 450 applications for awards. We congratulate Faith in Action of McHenry County for making an enormous contribution to seniors, to their families, to Crystal Lake and McHenry County."

About Faith in Action of McHenry County

Faith in Action is a local not-for-profit organization that provides volunteer services to help support independent living for residents of McHenry County 60 years and over who live in their homes or with loved ones. Services are provided at no charge, and include transportation, shopping, friendly visits, durable medical equipment loans, respite for caretakers, light housekeeping and light yard cleanup.

To inquire about services for yourself or a family member, or volunteer for Faith in Action, please call (815) 455-3120 or visit www.fiamchenrycounty.org.

CORPORATE SUMMARY: Faith in Action of McHenry County is a network of religious congregations, community agencies and individual volunteers, all with traditions of concern for others. Their purpose is to work with the seniors of our community who live at home, and their families, to provide assistance in maintaining their independence, dignity, and quality of life by offering no-cost, volunteer services.

CONTACT:

Rhonda Anderson, Executive Director
Faith in Action of McHenry County
Phone: (815) 455-3120
Rhonda@fiamchenrycounty.org
www.fiamchenrycounty.org

About the Beverly Foundation

The Beverly Foundation, headquartered in Albuquerque, New Mexico, undertakes research, education, and assistance to encourage and facilitate mobility and transportation for older adults. The Foundation makes STAR Awards in conjunction with its STAR Search survey which was first undertaken in 2000. The survey has continued annually since that time, and has gathered data on 1,280 STPs (Supplemental Transportation Programs for seniors) from 50 states plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

For more information about the STAR Search and STAR Awards program and to learn about senior transportation, STPs in America, and volunteer driver programs, please visit www.beverlyfoundation.org or contact:

Helen K. Kerschner, PhD, President, CEO
The Beverly Foundation, (505) 222-0620
hkerschner@beverlyfoundation.org