

APRIL 2013

TRANSFORMING LIVES

Dear Friends, sorry we're late, but we hope this finds you well and enjoying Spring. Here is an update on some of our programs and projects.

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Another Successful Tax Season

Thanks to Agnes DeVasure and 12 dedicated volunteers we set a new record. This year we filed 592 tax returns. This represents some \$435,000 in state and federal refunds. Since 2004 we have offered free tax return preparation for low-moderate income people. Our goals are to help avoid the high interest instant refund schemes and help people who may not be able to pay for their tax preparation. [top](#)



Angels Among Us

About 70 women from the community attended the 3rd annual ladies



lunch recently. The event held at Mount St. Mary's Convent was created to inform people about the programs and services of Dear Neighbor Ministries and StepStone. Sr. Janet Fleischhcker, Director of CSJ Ministries, was the keynote speaker. Her remarks traced the early beginnings of the Congregation and how the sponsored ministries of the Sisters were truly "ministries from the

heart".

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Diane Dolechek

Staff Accountant

We Are All Accountable

by Diane Dolechek

Bean Counter, Money Bags, Number Cruncher – just a few names that I have been called as the accountant. Some names fit better than others but I'm waiting for just the right one as I balance the books for these two nonprofits. I am fortunate to work in an environment supported by the Sisters of St. Joseph as

I was taught by several of them in my little home town of Odin, KS. Working for a real cause in helping others in need provides purpose and meaning to my job.

But back to the bean counting. In reality, I just make sure everyone else is counting their beans correctly and counting the right beans. Grants and restricted funds for nonprofits require accuracy in not only the amount spent on each activity but spending it on allowable expenses and in a timely manner. Connecting the varied revenue with the services we provide requires detailed documentation kept on each and every bean. I coordinate with the entire staff who shares accountability for all financial activity. Mostly, it lets the accountant get out of here on time to spend time with husband, six kids plus spouses, three grandkids, the dog, the cat, and maybe a little creative sewing. [top](#)

Matching Gift Update

Several days ago we sent out a special appeal regarding the very generous offer of a 2 for 1 match by Joan and Bob



McGrath. Funds received from this appeal will be used to update our website, brochures, video and other communications tools. We are happy to report that the match has been achieved! Thanks to all who have contributed and made this happen in just a few days. We are especially thankful for the generosity of the McGrath's. [top](#)

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