

Patricia A. Bruce, M.T.S., CSW
414-534-5554
Pbruce99@hotmail.com

Personal Profile

I have worked with older adults and their families for over 40 years in addition to having grown up in a home that also included my grandfather. Fortunately, I have worked with and served a wide range of individuals from a number of ethnic, racial, cultural, economic, educational, sexual, workplace, spiritual and social backgrounds. I have been dedicated to the dignity of the person and seek quality in the services available to meet their needs. When those are not available or inadequate I have, for years, made every effort to close the gaps.

I have always welcomed the opportunity to work with Milwaukee County's Departments on Aging and Adult Services. Prior to retirement in January 2016, I was the former (and initial) Program Director for the Family Caregiver Support Network (FCSN). This included the Alzheimer's Family Caregiver Support Program, both at Interfaith Older Adult Programs, Inc. As two contracted programs for Milwaukee County Department on Aging, we interfaced regularly with the Aging Resource Center as well as the Disability Resource Center. FCSN also staffed the state wide toll free phone number and e-mail address for family caregivers. That provided an opportunity to interface with ADRCs around the state.

Skills Profile

- Develop and support community collaborations
- Worked (works) cooperatively with agencies across the lifespan, United Way, State and national organizations
- Plan and execute community outreach, newsletter, website, events (including past annual caregiver conferences), business and community awareness
- Provide accurate information, support, advocacy, follow-up for those needing services
- Oversee staff and volunteers as well as program budget and contract compliance
- Maintain program records and prepare reports as required
- Develop presentations, provide workshops, public speaking
- Reliable, organized, ethical, team member, leader, state licensed social worker

Current Involvement

- Advisory Council, Social Development Commission's Senior Companion program
- Alzheimer's Association Board of Director's Program Committee
- Alzheimer's Action Network - Milwaukee County
- Respite Care Association of Wisconsin (RCAW) Board of Directors
- DHS Mind and Memory Matters Advisory Committee (for grant outreach materials)
- Interfaith Older Adult Programs – Neighborhood Outreach Program – volunteer driver
- Wisconsin Humane Society – Volunteer dog walker (17 years)
- Salvation Army Toys for Tots 2016 - Toy Shop registration - volunteer for intake
- St. Pius X Parish – Health Ministry Committee - facilitator

Work History

1975 - 2016 Interfaith Older Adult Programs, Inc.

- 2000 - 2016 Interfaith Older Adult programs, Program Director: Family Caregiver Support Network
- 1999 - 2000 Interfaith Older Adult Programs, program Director: Living Options
- 1975 - 1999 Interfaith Older Adult Programs, Neighborhood Outreach Program, Director of Crossroads Interfaith (60th St. to Green Bay Ave., Capitol Drive to Mill Rd.)

Education and Training

- Milwaukee Aging Consortium (member) attend for education and networking
- Continuing Education necessary to maintain Wisconsin State Social Work license (Primary field – aging and related areas, i.e. Alzheimer's, Elder Abuse, family caregiving)
- St. Francis Seminary School of Pastoral Ministry – Masters and Continuing education relevant to masters (Initial team/member in the research and development of the masters degree for lay students. First lay student and woman to receive the degree.)
- Volunteer Management - specialty when an Interfaith Neighborhood Outreach Director
- Marquette University BA
- Canton High School – Canton, Massachusetts

Awards and Recognition

- 2016 Proclamation – Recognition upon retirement from Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele
- 2015 40 Years of Service - Interfaith Older Adult Programs, Inc.
- 2010 Annecy Award – St Francis Seminary Alumni Association: Exceptional Pastoral Work
- 1991 Shirley Chase Wile Distinguished Service Award in Volunteer Management
- 1969 Boston Globe's Ollie Noonan Award (High school newspaper - photography)