



# The Voice

Voice of Care — In Christ among People with Disabilities

**August 2014**

## **Mission Statement**

**To equip the Church to nurture people with disabilities and their caregivers in their walk with Christ.**



## **Deaconess Kris Blackwell — Executive Director**

It is so exciting to be part of Voice of Care right now! Thanks to a generous grant from the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, we are ahead of schedule with our new model of ministry. In order to better equip individuals and congregations to reach the 1 million people with disabilities in northern Illinois, we decided to hire part-time Regional Directors to oversee each of four regions of northern Illinois. We now have two of them in place!

We are starting to build new relationships with congregations who are exploring ways to do intentional ministry among people with disabilities who live in their communities.

Through the brand new US Consortium on Special Needs, we were able to be part of an expo in St. Charles where many families with special needs came to hear the latest in technology and support. The consortium feels strongly that they address the needs of the whole person which includes spiritual care. They have chosen Voice of Care to provide that resource. We are building on that relationship through videos and articles they will use on their website.

What is YOUR congregation doing to welcome people with disabilities in YOUR community? Let me know or ask me how!

## **2014 "Mile for Mileage" Pledge Walk**

On a very wet Saturday, July 12th, 40 people gathered to have fellowship with a walk and a picnic. Laurie Schaefer was our winner, gathering more than \$500 in pledges from her friends and family! She, along with Brad VanWinkle and Pastor Don Kretzschmar, led the group in singing songs between the walking and the picnicking!

Thanks to our corporate sponsors which included both the South and North DuPage Chapters of Thrivent Financial, Voice of Care raised over \$7,500! This will provide mileage reimbursements to our staff as they provide training throughout northern Illinois.



## **Save the Date!**

**"Voice of Celebration!"**

**Voice of Care's Annual Brunch**

**October 25, 2014**

**10AM to Noon**

**Northern Illinois District Office**

**2301 South Wolf Road, Hillside IL 60162**

**Join us to recognize our partner churches and our volunteers.**

**Hear the latest news about Voice of Care!**

**Reserve your seat by calling  
630-231-3862**

## News from our Regional Directors



### Rev. Paul Klopke North Region Director

Greetings in the name of our Risen Lord Savior I am delighted to serve as North Regional Director for Voice of Care. I am looking forward to lift up, encourage and be an advocate for those people with disabilities in the Northern Illinois District. I am currently an associate pastor at St. Peter Lutheran Church and School, Arlington Heights, IL, where I serve in the area of Senior Care and Special Needs ministries.

On September 7, 2014 St. Peter will have a Special Needs event called "Celebrating Abilities" Sunday. They will be inviting different disability facilities and organizations in the community to come to St. Peter, along with Lutheran ministries like Voice of Care, Bethesda and Walcamp to display their work and service. The congregations' special needs members will be participating by reading, singing and ushering for the 9AM worship service. After the service around 10:30, guest speaker Joan Evans, a Christian parent, will be speaking about her struggle with raising four children with disabilities.



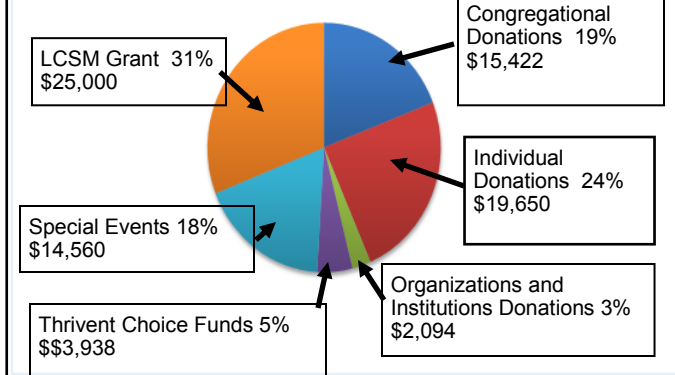
### Rev. Dr. Dean Pittelko East Region Director

Being passionate about ministries of compassion, I am excited to be serving as East Region Director for Voice of Care. My vision for the region includes a viable and visible ministry and mission program in place in each regional cluster of congregations [2-4 congregations]. My desire is to provide for real life needs of persons with disabilities through congregations, which will also serve as an outreach tool to their neighborhoods. Known as Pastor Dean, I also serve Grace English Lutheran Church and School on the northwest side of Chicago and am a clinical pastoral counselor in private practice.

### Connie celebrates 25 years of attending Special Needs Camp at Walcamp!

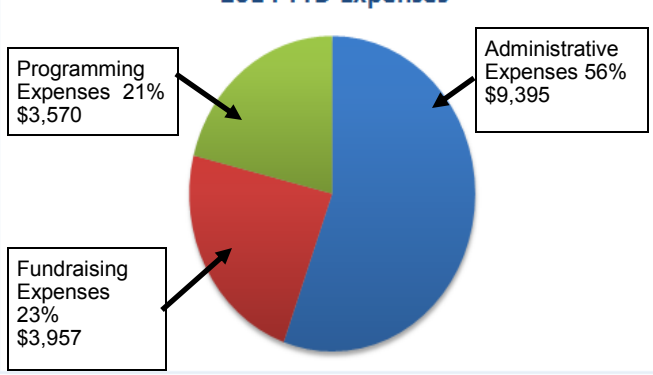
Walcamp and Voice of Care celebrate a long history of providing special needs camping to people of all abilities and ages. This summer Deaconess Kris had the privilege of serving as Spiritual Leader of the Week at the same time that one camper was celebrating her 25<sup>th</sup> year of attending camp! Connie is a special woman who has cerebral palsy but does not let that slow her down in the least bit! While she uses a wheelchair, she participated in all the activities, even canoeing. She readily shared her faith in Jesus during worship and Bible study. She constantly encouraged Kris because this was her first time staying at Walcamp! Voice of Care provides all the staff training and helps to recruit volunteers for Walcamp's Special Needs camping programs. At the end of last summer, Voice of Care finished disbursing the special needs camping scholarship funds from our donors. Now Walcamp oversees this important aspect of the camping ministry. Most of the special needs campers could not attend without scholarships. Please consider supporting this fund by sending your donation to Walcamp Outdoor Ministry and Retreat Center ([www.walcamp.org](http://www.walcamp.org))

**2014 YTD Income**



Special Designated Fund LWML Grant \$50,600  
 Total Used so far \$20,860 balance \$29,740

**2014 YTD Expenses**



Reserve Fund as of July 31, 2014 \$45,000

Deaconess Kris Blackwell Executive Director 630-234-1491



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