

february 1  
**1995**

- VINE officially opens for business in office space donated by SS. Peter and Paul's Catholic Church, with a \$25,000 start-up grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

**1996**

- Funded by Region 9 Area Agency on Aging, VINE extends its outreach to older adults living in rural Blue Earth County.

**1999**

- VINE's commitment to family caregivers leads to participation in Project ROSE, a multi-county collaboration sponsored by the Region 9 Area Agency on Aging.
- The VINE board approaches the community to help VINE find a permanent home.

**2000**

- A "down payment" capital campaign is launched to purchase a 3,600 square foot steel building on Third Avenue for program headquarters.
- VINE formally contracts with Blue Earth County Human Services to provide volunteer transportation to older adults, medical assistance recipients, and others in the county who have a social service plan in place.

**2003**

- At the request of the St. Peter Ministerial Association, VINE develops a Faith in Action program for Nicollet County, with offices at Trinity Lutheran Church.

**2004**

- VINE's family caregiver support program expands to include nursing home and hospital transition services.

**2002**

- A chore coordinator and van, funded by a state grant and donations from businesses and individuals, helps VINE significantly expand its home chore services. Volunteers build a two-story garage on the Third Avenue property to house chore equipment and supplies and, upstairs, the durable medical equipment (from canes to hospital beds) VINE lends to those in need.

**2005**

- VINE takes a leadership role in developing TRUE Transit, a multi-county volunteer driver program. Seniors and other low-income individuals in rural south central and south west Minnesota gain an affordable transportation option to access health care by coordinating trips with multiple passengers.
- VINE receives the Beverly Foundation's prestigious Star Award as one of the top five volunteer transportation programs in the nation.

**VINE MILESTONES**

**1995-2010**

## 2006

- VINE's mortgage debt on the Third Avenue property is retired as the organization celebrates its first decade of service.
- At the request of the Greater Mankato United Way, VINE implements the People to Jobs Program. Where public transportation is not a viable option, VINE drivers provide employment transportation to single parents, people with disabilities, new Americans, and other low-income workers—and make daycare stops for participants' children.
- The Mankato Area Senior Citizens Center board of directors decides to cease operation of the Summit Center; VINE agrees to manage the 50-year-old senior center, initially for the remainder of the Summit Center lease.

## 2007

- VINE Faith in Action and Mankato Area Senior Citizens Center Inc. formally merge. As a result, VINE shares ownership of Summit Heritage Center with the Blue Earth County Historical Society. Under VINE's management, a wide array of wellness programs and volunteer opportunities produces exponential growth in Summit Center participation.

## 2008

- VINE is notified in May that a long-time state grant (24% of the operational budget), would no longer be funded. The local community steps forward with transitional funding, both small donations and larger grants, providing a "year of grace" and an opportunity for VINE to re-vision a future without significant on-going state support.
- After consideration of numerous "cottage industry" possibilities, discussion focuses on developing a thrift store to provide a consistent stream of earned income to help support VINE's programs and services.

## 2009

- Market research, including personal conversations with other local thrift stores and an electronic survey, leads to a business plan, written by a team of board members, staff, and volunteers. The Board of Directors votes to proceed.
- A suitable location is identified and purchased on a long-term contract for deed, at a lower monthly cost than market-rate rental of retail space.
- In August 2009, the VINE Home Thrift Store opens for business in the former Slumberland Clearance Center at 77 Star Street in Mankato.

february 1

## 2010

- VINE Faith in Action celebrates 15 years of service to the people of Blue Earth and Nicollet Counties. With kindness and compassion, staff and volunteers have assisted thousands of care receivers and their family members to face the challenges of growing older or living with a disability or difficult life circumstance.

august

## 2010

- VINE's Board of Directors votes to pursue ownership of the Nichols Building in downtown Mankato.

# VINE MILESTONES

1995–2010