

## Anthony Grillo: Volunteer at Interfaith Re- source Center, Delaware Blood Bank, Etc.

by Paula Hartzel, Director,  
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Anthony Grillo, Eucharistic minister and choir member at Immanuel Church Highlands, visited the Interfaith Resource Center (IRC) for the first time in July of 2007. His car was fully loaded with books that needed a better home. As we talked, it was clear that Anthony was a great lover of books, someone who according to his own words “always enjoyed being around books.” He lingered for about an hour, and I found him to be very knowledgeable and a delightful person. When he showed up again in less than a month, I suggested that he might consider volunteering at the center. Within a week, he had called me back to let me know that he could give me Wednesday mornings. I was delighted!

What Anthony offers is a precious gift. He brings many years of professional library experience, at Lycoming College and the DuPont Company, from which he retired after 25 years. Within weeks he knew the library database and was tackling the challenging job of

improving the resource entries so that our online catalog would provide better information (remember: this resource is available to anyone 24/7 at [www.InterfaithResourceCenter.com](http://www.InterfaithResourceCenter.com)). Very soon, I was turning to him for good advice about how the collection should be managed most effectively.

Ever since I took the job of director, I had contemplated the possible conversion of the IRC to a more standard library system such as Dewey. With Anthony’s encouragement, we made that decision. About half of the collection has been converted to Dewey in the past six months. The results are a stunning improvement in the accessibility of the collection. Anthony agrees. “I think that it’s neat. When visitors come, they will find it [the center] a friendly place to browse,” he says.

While libraries are a primary professional passion, Anthony can also be engaged in lively conversations about his many trips to Italy and Sicily or the special importance of faithfully-practiced liturgy—especially high-

church liturgy. He rarely misses his Wednesday commitment except when he travels to visit his daughter or son and their families. Volunteering is a way of life for Anthony, who also volunteers at the Blood Bank of Delaware and Children and Families First (a non-profit social service agency that provides quality social, educational and mental health services statewide in Delaware; visit [www.CFFDE.org](http://www.CFFDE.org)). For him, “returning back to the community and helping good organizations” makes the volunteer experience enriching and rewarding. The IRC is greatly indebted to its many volunteers, (including also Don Hobson of Immanuel Highlands and Dorothy Cutting of St. Albans).

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