

FRIENDS IN DEED

A quarterly publication of Washtenaw Area Network of Congregations

A Quarterly Newsletter

Vol 28 Issue 2 Summer 2011

Transportation/Car Repair Program



FID's Transportation/Car Repair Program, in operation for over a decade, is the only local county agency with resources to address requests for assistance with transportation, auto repair, and dependable autos. The program is open to low-income persons and families in Washtenaw County who need transportation to get to and from work or to essential medical appointments and treatments but have already exhausted other community resources for financial support and transport.

For many low-income persons, reliable transportation is a principal anxiety or necessity for getting or keeping a job. The program therefore annually receives numerous (90-100) requests, both for repairs and for other car-related needs. We have sometimes provided assistance with payments for cars or auto insurance or registered and repaired cars donated by members of the community and given those to

persons in need. Select Auto Service of Ann Arbor, particularly Paul Milske and Walt Hayes, have partnered with us in this program, providing quality analysis of auto problems and reasonably priced repairs.

People confront many and varied transportation problems. One family may need a reliable car for a daughter to maintain the employment which helps to support her disabled mother and meet their household expenses. Another may need a car repair to enable both parents to get to work and get their child to school. Sometimes the request is basic, like learning how to operate a manual, rather than automatic shift, in a donated car.

Our files contain many more requests than we can satisfy. We thus encourage you to continue supporting this program. Moreover, we urge you to consider donating, and to encourage others to donate, autos in good working order to enable us to provide more families with the vehicles they need and to achieve more "happy endings." Thanks in advance for your anticipated assistance.



What's New at FID

Fundraising News

We gratefully acknowledge and deeply appreciate these recent grants in support of FID's work:

- Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor for \$800 to support administration of the Holiday Bed Drive. The Club has contributed to this annual event for many years.
 - Apex Foundation for \$5,000 to be used for our Furniture Program. FID Board member and former employee Peggy Glahn works at Apex Company, and its Foundation consistently gives to us.
 - Helen Kay Charitable Trust for \$1,000 to be used for Direct Assistance. This trust also generously donated to our capital campaign during 2009.
 - Pfizer Corporation for \$3,850 in gifts continuing to help our community by matching contributions of present and former employees.
 - Consumers Energy Foundation for \$225 in unrestricted funds to support operations. FID Board President Mark Weber retired from Consumers Energy Corporation.
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Leadership Transition

During the winter months, the Board received applications for the position of Executive Director being vacated by Helena's retirement. After review of those applications and subsequent interviews, the position was offered to and accepted by Sarah Thornburg. During April she "shadowed" and learned from Helena and was introduced at the May Annual Dinner.

After early years living in various locations as an "army brat," Sarah grew up in Huntsville, Alabama, graduating from high school and earning a bachelor's degree from the U. of Alabama branch in that city. She worked for a decade at the Marshall Space Flight Center as historian, archive manager, and publications specialist and met and married husband Ross, a Michigander. Changes in his employer's company led the family north, first to Dayton, Ohio and then to southeast Michigan. Following at-home mothering of three daughters, Sarah resumed extra-home work as Director of Caring Ministries at the Salvation Army in Farmington Hills, where she variously performed, managed, administered, and directed the range of activities FID conducts. She is "excited about the new challenges" the position affords her and also excited about the coming August wedding of her oldest daughter. Welcome Sarah—the FID network and family look forward to working with you.



SARAH THORNBURG

Electronic Alerts

Please be reminded that FID newsletters and information about FID events are available by e-mail. Signing up for this service is better for our environment, reduces mailing costs, and improves communication between you and our office. We look forward to interacting with you in this way. To add yourself or your organization to our list, please send our office office@friendsindeed.info a message including your e-mail address.

In a further electronic advance, FID's 2010 Annual Report will be available on our website www.friendsindeed.info in mid-June, making this handy collection of information readily available.

Moreover, we are on Facebook and you can access us there from our website. We are still working to simplify and improve the access procedure.

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Volunteer Matters

"New" people helping. During the winter months a new volunteer joined our team on the Help Line. James Johnson, who will work one day a week for us, is well known to many from years as the Volunteer Coordinator at the Michigan Department of Human Services Office (a post from which he is newly retired) and for bringing valuable experience, wisdom, and insight to the FID Board of Directors. James attends the First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor. Welcome, James!

"Designing" volunteers wanted. To maintain and enhance our communications, we have two design needs. One is for a person to do desktop publishing layout and design for our quarterly newsletter. The other is for design and maintenance of our website using familiarity with IT codes (beyond "basic" website knowledge). If you or someone you know can provide either or both of these services, please contact Stormy by e-mail at office@friendsindeed.info or phone at 485-7658.



VOLUNTEER JAMES JOHNSON

Mark Your Calendar!



Big House Big Heart October 9, 2011 The annual Big House Big Heart race is held at the University of Michigan's "Big House." As you prepare to sign up to walk or run this 1 mile, 5k or 10k event, please consider choosing Friends In Deed as your organization of choice to support. In addition, we are gearing up to form our team and could use walkers/runners! Please contact Stormy at 734-485-7658 if you are interested in being a part of team FID.

Whole Foods Day September 22, 2011 Join us at Whole Foods and Friends In Deed will receive a portion of that day's sales! (see back page for more info)

Annual Great Late Summer Rummage And Bake Sale

Friday, August 12, noon-7 p.m. and Saturday, August 13, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. (see back page for more info)

FRIENDS IN DEED GOLF OUTING MONDAY JULY 25

Join us for a fun day of golf at Reddeman Farms

555 South Dancer Road, Chelsea, MI 734-475-3020

8:00 am Registration and Team Photo 9:00 am Shotgun Start

2:00 pm Tally Scores and Lunch 2:30 pm Winners Announced

REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Day phone: _____

GOLF OUTING FEES:

Single Golfer (s) at \$95

Fivesomes at \$450

Fivesome and Hole Sponsor \$525

Hole Sponsorship only at \$100

Cart Sponsorship only at \$50

I am unable to attend but my contribution is enclosed

Enclosed is a check payable to Friends In Deed

Visa Mastercard Discover

Acct. # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature: _____

SCRAMBLE TEAM MEMBERS (if applicable)

1. _____ 2. _____

3. _____ 4. _____

5. _____

Return this registration form to

Friends In Deed 1196 Ecorse Rd. Ypsilanti, MI 48198

If you have questions, contact David Siglin at davesiglin@gmail.com

Annual Meeting

**When: Tuesday, June 14, 2011
7 p.m.**

**Where: St. Luke Lutheran
Church
4205 Washtenaw Ave.
Ann Arbor**

All Congregational Partners are invited to attend. Agenda: Election of Board Members for Class of 2014, presentation of 2010 Annual Report, and sharing experiences and ideas for FID's future.

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Group



Annual Great Late Summer Rummage and Bake Sale

Where: St. Luke Lutheran Church,
4205 Washtenaw, Ann Arbor

When: Friday, August 12, noon-7 p.m. and
Saturday, August 13, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

- Donations of sale items will be accepted starting July 5 at American Value Storage 5295 W. Michigan Ave. (just east of Carpenter Rd.), with drop-off hours T & Th 4-6 p.m. and Sat. 10 a.m.-noon. To learn more or to arrange drop-offs at other hours, please call Stormy at 734-485-7658



Whole Foods Day!

Where: Whole Foods
3135 Washtenaw Ave.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

When: September 22, 2011

Time: 8:00 a.m.-10 p.m.

- Join us at Whole Foods and Friends In Deed will receive a portion of that day's sales!



Friends In Deed is an inter-faith volunteer organization that provides for the needs of Washtenaw County residents that are not being met by other human service agencies. FID provides information, referral and screening services to congregations and agencies as well as resources to people in need.

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FRIENDS  **IN DEED**

2011 Annual Dinner

Our annual fundraising dinner, held May 3 at First Presbyterian Church, Ann Arbor, attracted over 175 attendees and raised over \$22,800 to support FID's services. Two program highlights were: 1) an outpouring of appreciation for Helena Prince's years of service upon her retirement from FID and 2) a joyous ceremonial retirement (complete with burning) of the mortgage used to purchase our building.



Burning the mortgage!

Additionally, our three service awards were distributed to deserving recipients. All are excellent examples of being "Friends In Deed" to those in need.

The Robert H. Burandt Service Award honors Bob's memory by recognizing those who, like him, exemplify service to the community and passion for FID's work. **First Presbyterian Church—Ann Arbor, a FID founding congregation, received this award** for consistently sustaining support of FID by various means, including hosting the FID annual dinner in odd-numbered years, reliable encouragement from a series of pastors, gifts of earnest prayer and generous financial assistance, and generation of an impressive roster of volunteers and staffers (notably, the retiring Helena).



The Joanne Kooyers Award for "field service" volunteers went to **Rita Nowland of Ann Arbor St. Mary's Student Chapel**. Rita has been a Furniture Program phone line volunteer for five years and regularly volunteers to help with special events. In addition, her husband Dick has been a Board member with FID. A former elementary school teacher, Rita's compassion and concern for client callers is evident in every interaction, and her patient helpfulness is invaluable in linking those in need with necessary items.



Helena Prince received the **Stan Harbison Award** to recognize her 26 years of compassionate, outstanding leadership of FID. For much of that time she has been FID's "face" and a respected, tireless advocate for those in need in our community. Her long casework experience and "hands-on" managerial style, coupled with broad vision and courageous (if sometimes reluctant) willingness to pursue bold initiatives, have kept FID relevant and helpful amid changing and challenging times while exemplifying the adage that often "faith is daring to do something." Like Stan, she has molded and shaped FID in constructive and decisive ways while enabling and inspiring all of us to do our best.



It is with our deepest appreciation that we wish to acknowledge and thank our generous sponsors

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