

FRIENDS IN DEED

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Washtenaw Area Network of Congregations

Fall 2002

Hegerich a valued volunteer

When meeting Mary Ruth Hegerich, you first notice twinkling eyes and a welcoming smile, inviting you to share her enjoyment of life. She speaks cheerfully, confidently, and to the point, sharing life experiences readily. Her story of becoming a Friends In Deed volunteer is informative and inspiring.

For 35 years she worked at Ford Motor Company in various positions including telephone operator, accounting and parts analyst. She especially enjoyed telephone work and the challenge of pursuing and resolving issues. An experience with cancer prompted review of her life and generated a desire to somehow "give back" to the community. She opted to accept a special retirement package offered to Ford long-term employees and began seeking an opportunity for volunteer service.

A member of her church (Northside Community) had done volunteer work with FID and spoke highly of it. When notice appeared of a workshop for FID to be held at a local church, Mary Ruth attended and met Barbara Beesley (then FID director) who gave information about FID and Helena Prince (then FID Case Manager) who spoke of the need for phone intake volunteers.

As she contemplated and prayed about her decision, she concluded that "the Lord laid



FRIENDS INDEED! Mary White, left, of St. Francis, and Mary Ruth Hegerich, right, of Northside Community Church, met and developed a close friendship at FID.

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New Warehouse Manager Named

Following several weeks of makeshift management of warehouse operations to serve needy persons, FID is pleased to welcome Robert (Bob) Stevenson of Ann Arbor First Presbyterian Church as our new warehouse manager.

Many will recall Bob as a teacher and administrator, perhaps most as the long-term principal of Jones School in the Ann Arbor school system. His other service includes tours of military duty in the U.S. Air Force flying refueling tankers for the Strategic Air Command, regular help with First Presbyterian's hunger meals, and what's become annual participation in Habitat for Humanity con-



struction in the Philippines. Bob smiles easily, talks readily, and is helpful and caring to those we serve. His willingness to assume this challenging task is greatly appreciated.

NEWS BRIEFS



Grant Received

Interfaith Council of Congregations recently notified FID of a \$5,000 grant award for our Transportation/Car Repair program for the coming year.

This support is appreciated since FID is one of only three agencies in the county that assists with transportation/car repair requests. Funds are used to assist folks that need a car to get to work or regular medical appointments. Thank you IFCC for your continued support!

FID Seeking New Warehouse Space

FID is in need of warehouse space, approximately 2,300 square feet, to store items for our Furniture Program.

In 2001, FID distributed 994 pieces of furniture to those in need in Washtenaw County. Without sufficient space to store these items, our ability to distribute furniture will be reduced. Hope

Clinic has allowed FID to use their warehouse at 11 S. Adams in Ypsilanti for the past six years, but now need to utilize the space for their own programs.

Since FID resources are limited, donated space is preferable, however a low-cost space serving as both our office and warehouse might be an option. If you are able to help, please call the FID office at (734) 485-7658.

FID Collecting Bedding

FID has started collecting bedding to distribute to clients who receive beds through our Furniture Program.

In 2001, FID distributed 239 beds and so far in 2002, we have already distributed 172. Many clients are just making ends meet by covering basic expenses such as rent, utilities and food, and do not have funds left to purchase items such as sheets, comforters and pillow cases. If you have good condition bedding to donate, call our Furniture Line at 484-7607.

Mark YOUR CALENDAR

Great Late Summer Rummage Sale-Benefit

Friday, August 9, noon-7:00 p.m., and Saturday, August 10, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., in the Great Room of St. Luke Lutheran Church, 4205 Washtenaw (just east of US 23 and Carpenter Rd.).

Tell your friends and plan to come. Last year's sale raised over \$2,000.

Borders Benefit Days

October 18-20. Summer may be here now, but fall and football Saturdays will soon arrive

Prepare for this important weekend by clipping and saving the attached Benefit Day's certificate, then use it on those days to buy things you want and need while benefiting Friends In Deed. Many thanks to Borders for again making this opportunity available.

United Way Campaign Designations

As the annual fall United Way Campaign approaches, please consider designating all or part of your United way contribution to FID. Such designations help to provide needed operating funds (nearly \$6,000 was received in designations last year).

We receive only those contributions that are specifically designated in writing to FID on the United Way contribution card, so

please help us in this way this year. Many thanks to those of you who already do so.

Alternative Christmas Fair and SERRV Small World Shop Sale

Friday, November 22 and Saturday, November 23 at First United Methodist Church, Ypsilanti.

SERRV is a nonprofit program to promote social and economic justice by just and direct marketing of handcrafts made by people in developing, often poor, nations. Your purchases from the SERRV Shop can help to alleviate poverty elsewhere and here, as 10% of all Shop sale proceeds on those days will go directly to Friends In Deed.

Seventh Annual Holiday Bed Drive

November and December. With renewed commitment of generous help from Ann Arbor Bedding, we'll again conduct the drive this year.

Requests from low-income families for beds regularly top each year's list of urgent furniture needs. Your contributions can help fulfill the hopes of many persons sleeping on the floor but dreaming of beds. Purchase of one or more beds is an ideal project for your organization, office, or company, or for your extended family. Make your plans, and watch for details in the November newsletter.

Board of Directors Elected

On Monday, June 10, 2002, the Annual Meeting of Friends In Deed convened at Ann Arbor St. Luke Lutheran Church. Those in attendance heard Director Helena Prince present the organization's annual report for 2001. She noted that FID's annual budget is approaching \$150,000 and monies disbursed to aid persons in need are nearing \$40,000, with both facts presenting ongoing fundraising challenges.

In accordance with a policy and bylaw change approved during 2001 to establish staggered three-year terms for Board of Directors' members, the Annual Meeting elected members as follows:

◆ **1-year term:** Robert Burandt, Lou Ann Edwards, James Johnson, Thomas (Tom) Larson

◆ **2-year term:** Richard (Dick) Nowland, Harold (Harry) PaDelford, Paul Peterson

◆ **3-year term:** Josephine Taylor, Dana Underwood, Malinda Waltz

At a Board of Directors' meeting immediately following conclusion of the Annual Meeting, the following Board of officers were re-elected to serve until the 2003 Annual Meeting: President, Malinda Waltz; Vice-President, Paul Peterson; Secretary, Dana Underwood; Treasurer, Tom

Larson. Helena Prince informed the Board FID had produced, in collaboration with the Family Independence Agency and The Salvation Army, a *Guide to Emergency Funding In Washtenaw County* which was distributed to members of the Service Providers Information Network (SPIN). Any congregation interested in receiving a copy may contact the FID office at 485-7658. The Board accepted with regret the resignation of Don Dufek, who has served FID ably for a number of years, particularly as chair of the Personnel Committee. Members joined in expressing appreciation for Don's past service and best wishes for his future.

“HOW TO HELP” Training & Resource Seminars

Our annual fall seminar on how to help persons coming to congregations for emergency needs (rent, utilities, food, diapers, shelter, transportation, etc.).

6:30 p.m. Thursday, September 26 at First United Methodist Church, 120 S. State St., Ann Arbor

7 p.m. Thursday, October 3 at the Second Baptist Church, 301 S. Hamilton, Ypsilanti

Principal presenters will be Helena Prince, FID Director, and Jennifer Brown, Salvation Army Social Services Supervisor.

SEMINAR TOPICS INCLUDE:

- ◆ Helping others move towards self-sufficiency: The FID approach.
- ◆ Acting independently or working through community resources and agencies: Considerations for congregations.
- ◆ Guidelines for assessing needs of requesters: Important questions to ask and help with recognizing “con artists.”
 - ◆ Offering specialized help (e.g. budget or mental health counseling): Dos and don'ts.
 - ◆ Community resources and helping agencies: The most recent information.

All pastors, priests, office staff, congregational contact persons, mission committee members and interested parties are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Please call the FID office at 485-7658 to register.

Hegerich's anxiety melted away/From Cover

this project on my heart." She found FID's statement of purpose appealing and despite anxiety about her adequacy (without a social work background) for the task, she courageously volunteered and began working with FID in January 1991.

Much of her anxiety involved needing to have information about community resources available to help persons and how to talk with those in need. She discovered that Barbara, Helena, and other volunteers

had and gladly shared knowledge on both those topics.

Over time, Mary Ruth developed similar wisdom and insight and became increasingly comfortable working at FID. She now values being able to develop rapport with distraught callers who often have nowhere else to turn for help.

After a dozen years at FID she retains her original enthusiasm and happily reports experiencing no burnout, which she sees as

a "miracle in itself." She now confidently affirms, "What I was led to do made a difference in my life, and [I am delighted that] I can do the same for others."

Thanks Mary Ruth, for all you've done for FID and persons in need during your years of service. Perhaps your story will help persuade others to overcome their own fears to experience the accomplishments and satisfactions of becoming a FID volunteer.

You are invited to participate in a
Benefit Days Weekend

at Borders Downtown and Borders Arborland

15% of your purchases during this designated period will be donated to Friends In Deed.

Amount of sale: \$

Date:

BORDERS

BOOKS - MUSIC - CAFE

Downtown Ann Arbor

Arborland

612 E. Liberty near State

3527 Washtenaw Ave.

(734) 668-7652

(734) 688-6948

FRIENDS  IN DEED

◆ 30 N. Washington St. ◆ Suite 30-B ◆ Ypsilanti, MI 48197-2687 ◆

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