

FRIENDS IN DEED

Volume 21, Issue 3

Washtenaw Area Network of Congregations

Fall 2004

FID serves as clearinghouse

Guidance helpful for area congregations

FID began as a coordinated effort to mobilize the resources of Washtenaw County agencies and congregations to assist persons in need. Borrowing from successful programs elsewhere (notably Love, Inc. in Holland, Michigan), volunteers compiled lists of skills and services available in participating congregations, and tried to match persons requesting assistance with a congregation able to provide that aid.

The intent was to overcome charitable giving's detachment by enabling volunteers in congregations to work directly with clients. Love, Inc.'s founder, Virgil Gulker, believed that "people want to minister and they will respond if the needs are specific and manageable."

Today's clearinghouse activities have moved beyond that early vision. Some congregations, overwhelmed with requests for assistance, choose to channel funds and to refer requesters to FID. Others want FID to do preliminary screening of requests. All welcome FID's careful



analysis of the nature, extent and legitimacy of needs presented. (With 21 years' worth of bulging files and hard-earned wisdom, FID has a wealth of informed guidance to offer and share.)

FID maintains and shares information about resources and services available both from congregations and social service agencies, and makes appropriate referrals to clients for services and to congregations seeking help with requests. Congregations are encouraged to attach (where appropriate)

FID volunteer, Patti Eaton, provides a listening ear.

self-help conditions to assistance they provide, to help recipients become more self-sufficient. Approximately 50 county congregations actively participate with and provide support for FID programming.

If your congregation would like to get involved, check our Web site, www.comnet.org/friends, or call the office at 485-7658.

A congregation's good works

A Viewpoint By Our Friends at AACRC

Since 1982, when Friends In Deed began, Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church has been given many opportunities to reach out to those in need in Washtenaw County through Friends In Deed. FID provides programs

and services that benefit people on both ends and has proven to be a 'friend to those in need.' Within the past few months, AACRC has known some very specific instances of how FID helped and we



mention a few.

With FID as a **clearinghouse**, AACRC has been able to serve people with whom our congregation has been involved, in directing them to the agency that can

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

◆ Friends-In-Deed@att.net ◆ www.comnet.org/friends ◆

◆ Administration (734) 485-7658 ◆ Help Line (734) 484-4357 ◆ Furniture Line (734) 484-7607 ◆

Sale a Smashing Success

FID held its annual Great Late Summer Rummage and Bake Sale August 6-7 at St. Luke Lutheran Church in Ann Arbor.

Thanks to generous donations from many, discriminating shoppers found a wide variety of interesting and useful items. Turn-out was excellent, St. Luke staff were enormously helpful, and participation by many volunteers made the event meaningful and satisfying.

A special thank you to the Kinzinger family for helping make the event run smoothly by sharing their rummage sale expertise, including numerous hours of labor at the event. Appreciation also goes to Tommark Inc. for the use of their truck, Dominos Pizza for a generous donation to feed our hungry volunteers, and Starbucks and Tim Horton's for their donations to our bake sale.

A total of more than \$4,000 was raised during the weekend for FID's work!



Above, a happy family finds many treasures at the rummage sale. Below right, Monica and Lynn Edwards organize the book section.



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most directly meet their specific need, be it counseling, housing or work related. The **furniture program** has been a way for people in our church to be able to give items they no longer need or use, to a family less fortunate. Most recently this has been the case with someone downsizing as they moved to a retirement home. We have also been able to assist with the deliveries of furniture. The **car program** has provided transportation to a mother to get to medical appointments and hopefully soon to employment.

As a congregation, we are thankful that FID has educated us 'how to better serve' and for the opportunity to be able to reach out to others, touch lives and make a difference in our community and in our world. We know that it is in giving that you truly receive and we are thankful that Friends In Deed is there to show the way.

FID News in Brief ...

BBQ Event a Grillin' Success

Staff and volunteers were "really cookin'" for FID Tuesday evening, July 27 at BD's Mongolian Barbecue in Ann Arbor. Thanks to Bryan, Andy, Greg and other BD's staff and a



splendid turnout of supporters, we raised \$630 in just two hours while having a "flaming" good time! Special thanks to Bruce Edwards, Ryan and Felicia Forrey, Walt

Hayes, Sarah Prince and Molly Wiltse for taking turns at the grill during the evening.

Bed, Tables in Demand

All the mattresses and box springs acquired in last year's Bed Drive have been distributed, and as of mid-August, 65 people are on our waiting list for beds. Dinette tables are also in frequent demand but not "in stock." If you can contribute those items, or know others who

can, please contact the furniture line, 484-7607. Thanks!

Volunteers needed in office

Another pressing need is for office volunteers to answer phones at least one day a week for either the Help Line or the Furniture Line (9:30-noon). Training is provided, and the rewards are priceless. Call the FID Administration line (485-7658) to volunteer.



As the annual fall United Way Campaign approaches, please consider designating all or part of your United Way contribution to FID. We can receive only those contributions specifically designated in writing to FID on the United Way contribution card.

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Newsletter Contributors

Writer: Jim Waltz
 Designer: Peri Stone-Palmquist
 Copied by: Knox Presbyterian Church
 Zion Lutheran Church
 Mailing: Claudia Larson,
 EMU volunteers

Board of Directors Elected

On Tuesday, June 15, 2004, the Annual Meeting of Friends In Deed convened at St. Luke Lutheran Church. Those in attendance heard Director Helena Prince present the organization's annual report for 2003. She noted that FID's annual expenditures now exceed \$165,000 and monies disbursed to aid persons in need are around \$40,000.

The following directors were elected to the Board for 3-year terms: Michael Blau, Peter Collins, Bruce Edwards, and Dick Nowland. Information about each follows.

- Michael Blau is Program Wide Managing Attorney for Legal Services of South Central Michigan and knew of FID's work and reputation before joining the Board. He has an out-county congregational affiliation.
- Peter John Collins is a well-known and respected counselor at law in Washtenaw County. He is in private practice specializ-

ing in personal injury law and insurance matters. His congregational affiliation is with the Ann Arbor Society of Friends.

- Bruce Edwards is an entrepreneur and owner of a technology consultancy. He is an active member of St. Andrew's Catholic Church of Saline and has participated in several summer furniture gathering and distribution activities for the FID warehouse.

- Dick Nowland is a retired school administrator who has already served a three-year board term. His congregational affiliation is St. Mary's Student Parish.

At a Board of Directors' meeting held immediately after the annual meeting, the following board officers were elected for 2004-2005: president, Dana Underwood; vice-president, Malinda Waltz; secretary, Barbara Miller; treasurer, Al Rudisill. Thanks to all for their willingness to serve in these positions.

FID receives generous donations



Largely through the energetic efforts of Judy Spike of Knox Presbyterian Church, FID acquired numerous discarded bed frames, chairs and dressers from our county's major universities. Many who needed such items obtained them either on busy warehouse Fridays or through furniture deliveries made possible by congregational volunteers. Special thanks to Judy, the furniture de-

livery volunteers, property management personnel at U of M and EMU, Washtenaw County Sheriff's Work Program, and Ypsilanti U-Haul for making these acquisitions and distributions possible.

If you know of anyone who needs twin bed frames that include springs but no mattress or dressers, please call our Furniture Line at 484-7607.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

BUC\$ Training Program

6:30-9 p.m. Mondays, Sept. 13-Oct. 18
Washtenaw County Learning Library Resource Center in the County Service Center at Washtenaw & Hogback.

FID and Washtenaw County Michigan State University Extension are sponsoring the Building an Understanding of Credit Services (BUC\$) program again. Developed by Cornell University Cooperative Extension and presented by Washtenaw County Extension Educator Terry Jones, BUC\$ prepares leaders to help others identify financial goals, manage their finances, understand and wisely use credit, locate helpful community resources, and develop money management skills. Cost is \$35. Registration required. Call Terry at 997-1878 or FID at 485-7658.

Borders Benefit Days

October 15-17

Please clip and save the attached Benefit Days' certificate (back page), then present it on those days to buy things you want and need, while benefiting FID. Many thanks to Borders for again making this opportunity available.

SERRV Small World Shop Sale

Nov. 19-20

First United Methodist Church, Ypsilanti

This annual sale offers distinctive gifts from SERRV, a nonprofit promoting economic and social justice by direct marketing of handcrafts made by people in developing, often poor, nations. Ten percent of sale proceeds go to FID.

Eighth Annual Holiday Bed Drive

November and December

With a 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, company, or extended family. Make your plans and watch for details in the November newsletter.

FRIENDS IN DEED



303 North Washington Street • Suite 30-B • Ypsilanti, MI 48198 • 976-2682

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