

FRIENDS IN DEED

Vol 24, Issue 3

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Fall 2007

FID Responds to the Need for Reliable Transportation

As news reports attest, the national economy is flourishing but many persons face financial hardship.

We're seeing that problem in growing numbers of requests for help in getting and maintaining vehicles.

The work requirements of "welfare reform" continue to make getting to and from work essential, but public transportation may not serve areas or hours of need.

Families with multiple workers, or children needing day care, have additional travel complications. Lack of reliable transportation is cited by many in poverty as the foremost barrier to finding or keeping a job.

In 2006, FID processed 87 requests for transportation-related needs. During the first six months of 2007, 63 requests have already been processed. Requests include car repair, fuel, car insurance or payment and car donation.

FID accepts and encourages donations of cars in good condition. We thank St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church and its St. Vincent de Paul Society for partnering with FID to acquire donated cars. We encourage other congregations and individuals to get involved as well — the need is great and is growing. We currently have 15 households waiting for a donated vehicle. We are also grateful to Paul Milske and Walt Hayes from Select Auto Service for working with FID in the assessment



Walt Hayes of Select Auto provides hands-on instruction to car care clinic attendees.

Donated Car Helps Ease Daily Challenges

A father with two young children contacted our Help Line requesting a car.

He was taking the bus to his job at a downtown Ann Arbor restaurant, but since his shift ended at 10 p.m. and there was no bus service this late, he had to walk home. In addition to his job responsibilities, he and his wife had to constantly juggle their schedules to get their kids to daycare.

Accomplishing daily tasks is a challenge for many of us who have a car, but adding the extra burden of being less mobile was becoming exhausting.

Thankfully a local family had recently donated their Nissan Pathfinder to Friends In Deed, and we were happy to be able to ease some of the challenges this young family was experiencing.

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Others 'Junk' Becomes FID's Treasure!

FID held its annual Great Late Summer Rummage and Bake Sale Aug. 10-11 at Ann Arbor's St. Luke Lutheran Church.

Generous donations from many made a wide variety of interesting and useful items available to shoppers. Turnout was excellent, St. Luke staff were enormously helpful, and participation by many volunteers made the event meaningful and rewarding.

Special thanks to Value Self Storage for two donated storage units, the Washtenaw

County Sheriff's Work Program and YMCA's Youth Volunteer Corp for help with transporting and setting up merchandise, Faye Barnes for organizing the bake sale and Domino's Pizza for donations of pizza.

A special benefit concert organized by Donn Scott and several other musicians from St. Luke Lutheran Church was held on Friday evening in conjunction with the rummage sale. This was the second concert this group held for FID. We're grateful for their enthusiastic support of our work!

WE TIP OUR HATS TO YOU

Thank you to Coach's Catastrophe Cleaning and Restoration Services for generously donating five large blowers to dry the warehouse after a surprise June flood.

Their quick response enabled us to carry on service to those in need.

The Edward Redies Foundation, whose 2006 grant helped computerize our furniture program, made a late June unexpected and unrestricted grant of \$4,000 to FID.

This generous support is especially welcome and greatly appreciated.

A satisfied car care clinic attendee with instructors Stani Bohac and Walt Hayes.



Transportation Needs

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of car donations as well as helping with auto repair.

On August 4 we enlarged our scope of service by offering a Car Care Clinic. The goal of the class was to help save money in costly repairs by teaching preventive maintenance and tips on how to spot trouble before it becomes a major problem. Attendees learned car care basics, gained familiarity with their car's engine compartment and dashboard lights, and got tips on monitoring fluids and tires and selecting service persons and facilities.

Thanks to St. Francis for holding the class

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in their parking lot and Walt Hayes and Stani Bohac for providing instruction.

Annual Meeting and Board News

The Annual Meeting of FID was held on June 12, 2007 at St. Luke Lutheran Church. Elected for three-year terms to the Board of Directors were: Michael Blau (*Our Lady of Sorrows in Farmington Hills*), Ronald Carpinella (*St. Joseph Catholic Church in Dexter*), and Margaret (Peggy) Glahn (*St. Luke Lutheran*). Thanks to all three for agreeing to serve in this important capacity. Appreciation was also expressed to outgoing Board members Ann Bogits (*St. Francis Catholic*) and Bruce Edwards (*St. Andrew Catholic*) for their valuable service. At the immediately following Board meeting, the following Board officers were elected: President, Michael Blau; Vice-President, Allen Sherzer; Secretary, Barbara Miller, and Treasurer, Jerry Kruse.

We still have a few openings for new board members. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month from September-June. If you are interested in serving in this capacity, please contact the FID office at 485-7658.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

United Way Campaign Designations (September-November)

As the annual fall United Way Campaign approaches, please consider designating all or part of your UW contribution to FID. We can only receive those contributions specifically designated to FID on the UW contribution card. **Our designation number is 2881.**

Max & Erma's FID Fundraiser (Sept. 27)

This popular Ann Arbor restaurant is committing 20 percent of sales on that Thursday to FID. Please clip the coupon at the bottom of this page. Come, bring your family and friends, have a great meal and good time, and help those in need.

How to Help Seminar (Oct. 30)

Knowing how to help persons and families with pressing needs is important for concerned individuals and congregations. This annual seminar offers valuable training and helpful resources. See the enclosed flyer for more information, and plan to attend.

SERRVIA Greater Gift Small World Shop Sale (Nov. 16-17)

This annual sale, held the weekend before Thanksgiving at First United Methodist Church, Ypsilanti, offers items from around the world, many especially suited for holiday gift giving. The Greater Gift nonprofit program promotes economic and social justice by direct marketing of handcrafts made by people in developing, often poor, nations. Your Small World Shop purchases will help to alleviate poverty here and elsewhere, as 15 percent of Shop sale proceeds on those days will go to FID. Hours are Friday 5-8 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.



Eleventh Annual Holiday Bed Drive (Nov. 15-Dec. 31)

With renewed commitment of generous help from Van Winkle Mattress Company, we hope to provide needed beds for many local, low-income families. Your contributions can help fulfill the hopes and realize the dreams of many now sleeping on floors. Purchase of one or more beds is an ideal project for your organization, office, or company, or your extended family. Make your plans, and watch for details in the November (Winter) newsletter.

Max & Erma's®

PRESENTS

Friends In Deed
Fundraiser

Thursday, September 27th

20% of your sales will benefit
the Friends In Deed
Fundraiser.

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Friends In Deed
Fundraiser

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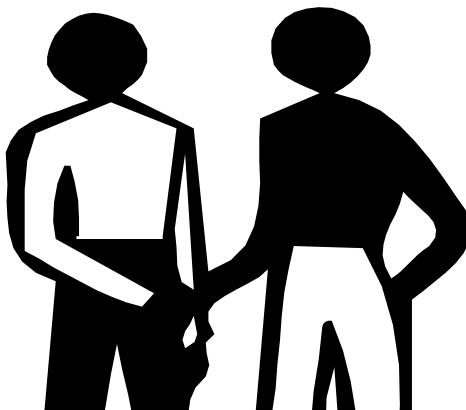
By providing your email address you're entitling Max & Erma's to send email communication to you. Don't worry, we won't spam you.

Even for Obtaining Volunteers, the FID Network Works!

■ We're delighted to welcome **David and Mary VanderYacht** of Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church as co-managers of the FID warehouse. They've been counting, cleaning and organizing since assuming this responsibility in June. The warehouse has never looked better!

■ A welcome new Furniture Line volunteer is **Donna Conaway** of First United Methodist Church, Saline. She learned of FID and our work from her neighbor, volunteer Gayle Stewart, who was "recruited" to FID by long-time volunteer Betty Damren.

■ Also new to our Furniture Line is volunteer **Marian Wooley** of New Hope Baptist Church, a bowling pal of long-time FID worker Sally Carpinella.



*Other volunteer opportunities are available, especially a Thursday morning person for the Furniture Line and alternates for the Help Line. If you or someone you know is interested, please call **Kirstin Jackson at 485-7658** to learn more.*

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FID provides information, referral and screening services to congregations and agencies as well as resources to people in need. 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.

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