

FRIENDS IN DEED

Volume 19, Issue 1

Washtenaw Area Network of Congregations

Spring 2002

Another successful bed drive

*133 bed sets bought
for people in need*

Thanks to generous giving, FID's 6th annual Holiday Bed Drive enjoyed satisfying success, raising \$13,291 to buy 133 bed sets for persons in need.

As in prior years, Ann Arbor Bedding provided extensive and much appreciated assistance with this campaign, particularly by offering remarkable prices for each bed size.

Those purchases will enable us to satisfy all outstanding requests for beds received through December 2001. Although a comfortable night's rest is important to good performance at school or on the job, many on that list had no beds for their sleep.

Distribution of beds to clients will occur on Feb. 14 and 21.

Hearty thanks to all who contributed to this Drive and helped others get the beds, and the rest, they need.

As usual, publicity about the Drive prompted others to donate used beds during December. These are being distributed to address previous or newly arriving requests for beds and other items. If you have used mattresses and box springs in good condition, or other serviceable furniture or appliances to contribute, please call our furniture line, 484-7607, to make a donation.



You made it happen!

More than 100 donors including congregations, businesses and individuals participated financially in our bed drive. Although we are not able to list all donors due to limited space, below are a few examples of the variety of ways money was raised:

◆ Huron Christian Church collected \$543 from their parishioners.

◆ A couple gave each other double beds as a Christmas gift.

◆ Liz Cobbs, reporter from the Ann Arbor News, covered our bed drive in an article focusing on local nonprofit organizations.

◆ A family from St. Francis has a tradition of selecting an agency to make a donation to for the holidays — this year they chose FID.

◆ Greater Michigan Plumbing and Mechanical



Contractors donated money for a queen-sized bed.

◆ A mom and dad gave money to purchase four twin beds in honor of their four children as Christmas gifts.

◆ A Board member's family from across the country gave gifts

in his honor.

◆ St. Luke Lutheran Church graciously printed our bed drive flyers.

Recognizing Heroes

Our thinking about heroes has changed considerably since Sept. 11. Instead of naming famous athletes or music and movie stars, many of us recognize the everyday heroism of public servants such as police, firefighters and even politicians (e.g., New York City's former Mayor Giuliani) or relatives who preserved freedom in conflicts here and abroad or worked long hours for many years to make their world and our lives better.

To persons in need, FID volunteers are often heroes. Generous giving of time and faithful service by a congregational coordinator, an office aide, or a furniture deliverer can make a heroic difference to someone despairing and losing hope. In 2001, FID volunteers donated more than 1,000 office and countless other hours of service. Our sincere thanks to all of you, for being Friends In Deed!

Paul Arrington, Alan Beatty, June Bixler, Ann Bogits, Stani Bohac, Bob & Nancy Burandt, Sally Carpinella, Betty Damren, Ann Davis, Roy Davis, Don Dufek, Patti Eaton, Bruce Edwards, Lou Ann Edwards, EMU Athletic Department, EMU Physical Plant, Jean Ferguson, Peter Fletcher, Bob Fryman, Joan Hall, Mary Ruth Hegerich, James Johnson, Dave & Rita Kieras, Bob Krzewinski, Tom & Claudia Larson, Betty Lennig, Brett &, Jennifer Majeske, Jane Mallory, Glenn Meske, Mary Miller, Russell Monahan, Paula Mourning, Dick Nowland,

Harry PaDelford, Paul & Mona Peterson, Marcy and Katie Potter, Gwen Rust, Bob & Christine Smith, Matt & Peri Stone-Palmquist, Dick Stuber, George Taylor, Josephine Taylor, Dick Ulrich, Mary White, Joann Wilson, Jim, Malinda & John Waltz.

If you'd like to sign on for a chance to be a hero in this way, FID has the following volunteer opportunities:

• **BOARD MEMBER.** Serve as a FID Board of Director. FID is specifically seeking persons with human resources, or legal expertise.

• **FURNITURE WAREHOUSE MANAGER.** Meet clients at the warehouse for furniture pickup for about two hours one day a week.

• **HELPLINE WORKER.** Answer ever-ringing phones in the FID office to help callers resolve questions, access services, and obtain needed assistance. Phone volunteers generally work one day a week during FID's office hours, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Training and instruction provided.

• **SPECIAL EVENTS WORKERS.** FID regularly seeks volunteers to help for special events by serving on committees for arrangements and publicity, or for work at the event. Our current priority need is for persons to solicit items for the silent auction and to work at that auction at our annual dinner, April 29, 2002.

To volunteer for any of these opportunities, or to learn more, contact Helena Prince at 485-7658.

On Being God-Bearers

*God breaks into our lives,
choosing us in the midst of
our imperfection, our ordinariness,
and our brokenness
to be God-bearers;
offering us what we need,
calling each of us:
to welcome the outsider and
make the stranger a guest
to reflect God's love, peace
and justice to a broken world
and perhaps to stand with
the pregnant teen or the victim of
child abuse or other injustice
to care for the child we did
not plan—our own or
someone else's
to travel to a far land,
literally or figuratively, to
protect a child or change a system
to stand with others facing
profiling and persecution
[and in countless other
ways to be a friend in deed].
To be God-bearers is no sentimental
party
but a life-changing, lifelong
challenge.*

(adapted from a sermon delivered Dec. 23 at First United Methodist Church, Ypsilanti, by Pastor Judy Mayo)

BRIEFS

Recognizing Congregational Partners

From its beginnings, Friends In Deed has been a network of congregations collaborating to address human need in Washtenaw County.

Though our operations have grown and diversified over 20 years, financial support from congregations has remained essential. We gratefully acknowledge the generous financial and volunteer support received during 2001 from all our congregational partners. Our upcoming annual report will include a list of all our congregational partners. Special thanks for a totally unexpected year-end donation of \$3,000 from Transfiguration Catholic Church.

With heartfelt appreciation

Special thanks for a generous donation of \$772 from the staff of Medical Information Services at the University of Michigan Hospitals and Health Centers.

For the fourth consecutive year, this group has adopted FID as a holiday service project. Lynne Perice, Manager of Organizational Development said, "FID is one that touches the hearts of our staff, about half of whom are entry level staff. So many of us can relate to the hardships that are experienced by your clients. Collectively, we are grateful that your organization is there to provide assistance to those neighbors who find themselves in need."



The Herbin' Chef

Personal Chef and Catering Service

And Friends In Deed Present:

"Dining to Make a Difference"

Enjoy a fun evening of cooking demonstrations and tasty samples at Kitchen Port in Kerrytown on Tuesday, March 5, from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

The menu includes:
Chicken Breasts Stuffed
with Prosciutto and Brie
Garlic and Cheese Sweet Potato Mashers
Lemon-Butter Asparagus
- and -
Chocolate Lava Cake
with Creme Fraiche and Fresh Raspberries

Minimum donation: \$25
For more information or reservations,
please call (734) 485-7658.
- Limited Seating -

FRIENDS IN DEED

is pleased to invite you to the

FID Annual Fundraising Dinner



Monday, April 29, 2002

First United Methodist Church

209 Washtenaw Avenue, Ypsilanti

6 p.m. Social/Punchbowl and Silent Auction

6:30 p.m. Dinner

7:45-8:15 Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic, directed by Bob Phillips

Donation: \$30 per person

Patron Sponsorships: \$100 and up. (Sponsorships include two tickets.)

-
- I would like reservations for the dinner at \$30 each.
 - I would like to be listed in the dinner program as a Silver Patron (\$100-\$249)
 - I would like to be listed in the dinner program as a Gold Patron (\$250-\$499)
 - I would like to be listed in the dinner program as a Platinum Patron (\$500 and up)
 - I will not be able to attend but wish to contribute to the work of FID.

Contribution amount _____

All patron sponsorships include two tickets to the dinner. If you attend, donations over \$10 are tax deductible. If you do not attend, your complete donation is tax deductible.

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
Congregational Affiliation _____

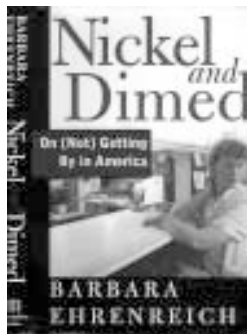
Call in your reservation to Friends In Deed at (734) 485-7658 or
mail to 30 N. Washington St., Suite 30-B, Ypsilanti, MI 48197.

Book shows need for agencies like FID

Review by Betty Damren

Barbara Ehrenreich's book, *Nickel and Dimed*, published in 2001 by Metropolitan Books, is a reminder to all why organizations like Friends In Deed are necessary. The author, a well-respected social critic, set out to discover through personal experience if it is possible to "match income with expenses" working low-paying jobs at \$6-\$10 an hour.

She pursued this experiment with advantages our clients often lack, including a car, an education and successful work experience. She was white, English-speaking, in good health, had no children and allowed herself \$1,300 to start with, paying for a security deposit and/or first month's rent. Besides, she always knew she could walk away, back to her regular life as a successful journalist.



She worked many months in Key West, Minneapolis and Portland, Maine, at a variety of jobs: waitressing, cleaning, nursing-home aide, and sales clerk, living only off her earnings. Although she did just about everything she could, she was unable to make ends meet. And there was no margin for car trouble, a new pair of shoes, the loss of free meals she got at work, or any unexpected expense.

According to New York Times columnist Bob Herbert, "[t]he only honest conclusion you can reach after reading Ehrenreich's book is that you can't make it in America on \$6 or \$7 an hour. ... And if you have children, you can't even come close to making it."

She also found many special costs affect the poor, for example: "If you can't put up the two months' rent you need to secure an apartment, you end up paying

through the nose for a room by the week. If you have only a room, with a hot plate at best, you can't save by cooking up huge stews that can be frozen for the week ahead. [Instead] you eat [less nutritious] fast food or the hot dogs and styrofoam cups of soup that can be microwaved at a convenience store."

She was frequently forced to find a second job and work seven days a week to pay the bills. Looking for a better paying job required mobility, time and starting all over with new bosses and demands. With rising unemployment these problems multiply.

Repressive management and intrusive rules require flexibility and humility and offer little dignity on the job. The "Working Poor," she concludes, are the major philanthropists in our society.

We highly recommend this book to all of our friends. It confirms the extreme need for the work of FID. This is not a dry marshalling of facts. The author "walked the walk" and wrote about it with both humor and insight.

Friends in Deed is a faith-based organization that provides for needs not met by other agencies and provides screening, information and referral services to local congregations and people in need. FID is staffed primarily by volunteers and works in cooperation with local human service agencies.

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