

FRIENDS IN DEED

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Washtenaw Area Network of Congregations

Spring 2004

Scout earns rank with FID project

By SallyAnn Carpinella

Friends In Deed is the fortunate recipient of the efforts of Matt Wikaryasz, a junior at Dexter High School and a member of Boy Scout Troop 448, as he worked to earn his Eagle Scout Rank. Matt was encouraged to do this particular project by the youth minister at his church, Mr. Don Dalgleish.

In addition to his Eagle rank, Matt is the first scout in his troop to ever receive this rank with three palms, an indication that he has worked very hard for a large number of merit badges.

The organizational and leadership skills which he has learned during his eight years in the scouting program have served him and Friends In Deed well.

With the aid of 20 volunteers, whom he recruited to build and deliver the bunk beds to the F.I.D. warehouse, as well as donations from Carpenter Lumber, Hackney Hardware and Carter Lumber for materials, Matt and his crew made five bunk bed sets for the Friends In Deed furniture program. His hard-working volunteers were fed with donations from the Dexter Bakery and Classic Pizza.

In addition to making the beds for his Eagle project, Matt and his dad, Joe Wikaryasz, petitioned the tithing com-



Matt Wikaryasz stands by two of the bunk beds he constructed with 20 volunteers as part of a project to earn his Eagle Scout Rank. The beds were donated to FID.

mittee at their church, St. Joseph Catholic Church in Dexter, for the monies to purchase the mattresses and bunk boards to complete the beds. Ann Arbor Bedding generously pur-

chased the mattresses for Friends In Deed at a discounted price.

Matt's hard work will be most appreciated by the families who will receive the beds.

Bed drive generates generous response

We are happy to report that FID's eighth annual Holiday Bed Drive in November and December of 2003 received \$8,843 in donations to purchase 90 bed units (mattresses and springs) for distribution to many on

our waiting list for beds.

By continuing to make these items available at low cost and occasionally donating others during the year, Ann Arbor Bedding is again helping these gifts go further in meeting needs, and we are



enormously grateful and appreciative.

Distribution of beds to clients will occur on Feb. 26 and March 4. Hearty thanks to all who contributed to this Drive and helped others get the beds, and the rest, they need.

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

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

Children from St. Joseph help those in need

In the movie version of J.R.R. Tolkien's classic trilogy "Lord of the Rings," it is said that, "Even the smallest person can change the course of the future." The children in the Religious Education Program at St. Joseph Catho-

lic Church in Dexter are living examples of this statement.

Following the commandment of Jesus "to love your neighbor as yourself," these children collected blankets and pillows, which will be distributed during the Bed

Drive, for those in need in our community.

According to their Blanket and Pillow Drive flyer, "To love others as Jesus told us is to help in ways that are needed. In response to the cold weather and our knowledge

that not everyone will go to bed warm tonight or with a soft pillow to lay their heads, we are committing to this activity of loving others."

Thanks to these children for this generous display of kindness!

Junior League of AA approves grant

The Junior League of Ann Arbor has generously awarded a \$1,000 grant to FID to assist five low-income families with car repairs. This grant will provide funds to low-income families for car repairs so they can maintain employment or attend regular medical appointments.

Thanks to Junior League of Ann Arbor for supporting this

important program which enables families in need to remain self-sufficient!

Kiwanis offers continued support

Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor recently awarded FID a \$750 grant to administer the Holiday Bed Drive.

Hours are spent completing client intakes, assessing needs,

scheduling pick-up times and coordinating volunteers to assist with bed distribution. Thank you Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor for helping to ensure that the Holiday Bed Drive is a success!

FID receives grant

The Speckhard-Knight Foundation, a local family foundation that focuses on supporting non-profit organizations offer-

ing environmental, education, and human services, awarded FID a \$3,000 grant to use in our Direct Assistance Program.

A director from the foundation visited our office to see us in action and was particularly pleased with our careful investigation of requests for assistance to determine actual need(s). We are gratified to receive both the funding for our work and the appreciation for our methods.

Success stories fuel car donations

While newspaper headlines warned readers to be leery of car donation programs, FID's car donation program reported a season of success.

Unlike many other such programs that sell these cars and use the proceeds to support their services, FID's car donation program takes a different route. We accept vehicles in good condition and give them directly to people needing transportation for employment.

Recently, FID received five donated cars. We can always find deserving recipients among our clients, for we live in a mobile society where a car may be necessary for employment while the cost of purchasing it is beyond their reach.

The stories of these grateful recipients follow.



One client needed reliable transportation so he could continue his job as a caretaker for two elderly gentlemen. Thus we helped him keep his employment and preserve his care of others in need.


A young mother of three forced to take the bus to get to work, to attend weekly medical appointments for a serious blood disorder of her own, and to deliver her children to child care was overjoyed when a station wagon was offered to her family.

A Michigan Rehabilitation Services client with a learning disability was provided a car that enabled him to continue to work and support his two children.

A survivor of cancer, who had recently been released to go back to work, found herself in a bind when her car's transmission quit. At a loss for what to do, she contacted her church, who in turn contacted FID. Thanks to a donor's generosity, we just happened to have the answer to her problem!

A wheelchair accessible van has been matched with a client who is blind and in a wheelchair. His caretaker can now transport him to work and school.

FID WEBSITE 
www.comnet.org/friends
Site Designed by Gloria Murillo

FRIENDS IN DEED 
Newsletter Contributors
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Volunteers: The Heart of FID

From its beginnings, FID has been and remains a largely volunteer organization. The activities of volunteers, both in our office and in the congregations, are essential for helping those in need in Washtenaw County.

Generous giving of time and faithful service by a congregational coordinator, an office aide, or a furniture deliverer can make a vital difference to someone feeling hopeless.

In 2003, the FID volunteers listed below donated time and talents in more than 1,000 office and countless other hours of service. Our sincere thanks to all of you—our true Friends In Deed!

Names: Mike Anderson, Karyn Baker, Ted Barber, Faye Barnes, Allan Beatty, Mark Bessner, June Bixler, Ann Bogits, Pastor James Brooks, John & Molly Brueger, Arno Buhrer, Bob & Nancy Burandt, Sue Burt, Sally Carpinella, Betty Damren, Carmen DeFranco, The Dishman Family, Alice Drayton, Patti Eaton, Bruce & Lynn Edwards, Lou Ann Edwards, EMU Gospel Choir, Felisha & Ryan Forrey, Bob Fryman, David Galbraith, Peggy Glahn, Joan Hall, Walt Hayes, Mary Ruth Hegerich, John Hillemonds, Dave & Toulia Jacobsen, Pastor Mike Jernigan, James Johnson, Sharon Khoury, Dave & Rita Kieras, Jane & John Kinzinger, Robert Klinger, Alex Klooster, Knox Presbyterian Singles for Service Group, Knox Presbyterian Twenties & Thirties Group, Bob Krzewinski, Kay Lands, Claudia & Tom Larson, Sally Ann Lunn, Mary Jane Mallory, Paul Marschke, Barb Miller, Gloria Murillo, Dick & Rita Nowland, Mona & Paul Peterson, Ken Pingel, Sarah Prince, Tom Prince, Wendy Rampson-Gage, Bob Rhein, Al Rudisill, Tom Ryan,



St. Luke's Tuesday Evening Bible Study Group, Second Baptist Brotherhood of Ypsilanti, Howard Schafer, Betsy Sidell, Katie Sims, DeAndrea Smith, Judy Spike, Bob Stevenson, Josh Stevenson, Peri Stone-Palmquist, Dick Stuber, Josephine Taylor, Mark Thompson-Kolar, Ken Timmer, Dana & Donna Underwood, Dee Valvanis, Rick Visel, Jim & Malinda Waltz, Bob & Chris Warren, Mary & Patrick White, Mary Ziegler.

** Please contact the FID office if we mistakenly omitted the name of a volunteer. We try to keep good records, but can make mistakes. **

Welcome to our new volunteers

For our office operations, three new volunteers have especially brightened our holidays. Dee Valvanis of Ann Arbor First Presbyterian Church, following retirement from the state Family Independence Agency, is working on our furniture phone line. Peggy Glahn of St. Luke Lutheran, an EMU M.B.A. student, is doing likewise and has also helped with mailings. Mary Zeigler, who previously worked at the University of Michigan, responded to our request for volunteers in The Ann Arbor News and is assisting on the Help Line; on her very first call she was able to ad-

dress all the requester's needs, including vacation care for a cat! Moreover, Judy Spike of Knox Presbyterian Church has now mobilized two very productive Saturday "furniture blitzes" to deliver furniture where needed.

Thanks to Congregational Partners

For more than 20 years, Friends In Deed has been a network of congregations collaborating to address human needs in Washtenaw County, and their financial support has remained an essential element of our funding. We gratefully acknowledge the generous financial and volunteer support received during 2003 from all our congregational partners, who will be listed in our upcoming annual report. Special thanks to our new partner, Knox Presbyterian Church — your donation came at a time of special need!

FID welcomes board member

We are pleased to announce the recent addition of Barbara "Barb" Miller to the FID Board.

Barb is a long-time active member of Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Ypsilanti, where she has served in various capacities including editor of the church newsletter, chair of the Kitchen Renovation Committee and member of Emmanuel Lutheran Church Women.

Barb has also been active at the local and state level with Church Women United, as well as ACTION for Lutheran Social Services of Michigan. She has served as executive board secretary at the state level for both CWU and ACTION. We're delighted that Barb has chosen to invest her time and wealth of talents with FID.

How You Can Help

- **FID REGULARLY SEEKS VOLUNTEERS** to help with special events by serving on committees for arrangements and publicity, or to work at the event. Our current priority need is for people to solicit items and work at the silent auction at our annual dinner, Tuesday, May

4, 2004, at First United Methodist Church in Ypsilanti. To volunteer, call Kirstin Jackson at 485-7658.

- **FID COULD ALSO USE FURNITURE DONATIONS.** Dressers and dinette sets are items in heavy demand but short supply for persons requesting help.

If you can provide them, or know others who can, please call the Furniture Line, 484-7607.

- **PLEASE NOTE THAT STARTING MARCH 1** the furniture line will be staffed Monday-Friday from 9:30 a.m.-Noon (no longer Noon-2 p.m.).



When:
6:30-8:30 p.m.
Friday, March 5

New Location:
The original Bethel
A.M.E. Church in
historic Kerrytown
632 N. Fourth Ave.,
Ann Arbor

3rd Annual Cooking Class Fundraiser

“Early Spring in the Seasonal Kitchen”

with pastry chef
Joan Mathison

Cooking in season is a treat for your taste buds, good for a healthy body and the community, and easy on your budget. Join us for a very special cooking class and learn what foods are in season year-round and delicious ways to serve them to your friends and family.

Support the important work of Friends In Deed while you enjoy tasting early spring recipes made with fresh foods donated by local specialty food merchants.

A curious chef, Joan enjoys teaching people how good food can improve the quality of their lives. She has taught classes for Kitchen Port, Washtenaw Community College, The Produce Station, Zingerman’s Bakehouse, and is now developing new opportunities to learn about food and wine.

Cost: \$25 per person (45 person maximum) • RSVP: Kirstin Jackson at (734) 485-7658.

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