

FRIENDS IN DEED

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Washtenaw Area Network of Congregations

Spring 2005

Assistance targets many needs

Providing direct assistance to those in need is a principal FID activity. For persons with marginal income and multiple needs, life's usual problems (a sick child, a non-starting car, an untimely bill, etc.) easily become financial emergencies. Others seek aid to pay past due rent to avoid eviction or to settle unpaid bills to avert utility service shutoffs. Low-income families need help with deposits for renting apartments or starting utility services. Prescriptions and medical matters or employment-related needs including transportation, clothing and childcare prompt other requests. Every morning, staff and volunteers are constantly on the phone regarding such life issues.

Numerous requests require special assistance. As a respected clearinghouse and network, FID collaborates with various agencies and congregations to address a wide range of often costly special situations. For example, FID collaborated to help a disabled mom with an autistic child keep her home and purchase a new water heater while working on financial management problems to maintain housing in the future. But special needs assistance isn't always financial. When the financially



Seniors at the Ypsilanti Senior Center are glad to have a working TV.

strapped Ypsilanti Senior Center called for help to fix a television which was needed for their exercise program, FID was able to find a local TV repair service, K's Electronics, to provide assistance free of charge. Seniors responded with an appreciative card. One wrote, "Thank you very much for coming to our rescue."

Currently, FID distributes about \$46,000 each year in direct assistance and

responds to more than 2,000 requests for assistance. Those funds come from congregations and grant agencies that channel their help to others through FID. Workers in our office carefully verify needs, explore with requesters other possible sources of help (family, friends, other agencies, their congregation and their own resources), and often achieve solutions with several components.

In Their Own Words

For those who work with people in emergency situations, our days are made brighter when we hear our help made a difference. Following are several expressions of appreciation from those we helped. For those who support Friends In Deed, these words of appreciation are extended to you as well.

"Thank you for all your assistance. Without your help, I could not pay my rent or have my car repaired. It is not easy to ask for help, but organization like yours fulfill a true need."

"You sure made my life a lot easier. It can be so stressful when you don't have a car and no bus route to use."

"In my time of need your group came through for me and saved me from eviction. In times of great hardship, it is gratifying to know that there are organizations like yours that are willing to help. I cannot thank you enough for your assistance."

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

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

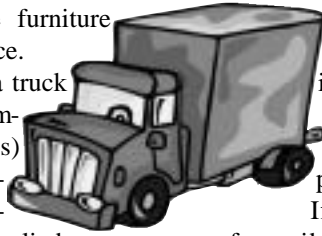
• Administration (734) 485-7658 • Help Line (734) 484-4357 • Furniture Line (734) 484-7607 •

FID explores Furniture Program expansion

Fairy Godparents, a helpful provider of furniture and household goods to needy Washtenaw County residents for several years, recently ceased operations. Greater numbers of requests for, and donations of, furniture are coming to FID as a result. To address that increased volume, we are applying for funds to expand the furniture program staffing and exploring ways to

provide more furniture delivery service.

Lacking a truck (because of limited resources) to make pickups and deliveries, FID has relied on congregations, volunteers, and donors to transport furniture and appliances. We encourage clients, whenever possible, to use their own resources for such trans-



port. However in response to the increased volume, we are also exploring the possibility of purchasing a truck.

If you have or know of possible resources (truck or volunteers) to help our furniture program help those in need, call Kirstin Jackson at 484-7607 with such information.

Thanks to our volunteers!

Activities of volunteers, both in our office and in the "field," are essential for helping those in need in Washtenaw County. Generous giving of time and faithful service by someone answering the phone in the office, delivering furniture or providing other direct services can make a vital difference to someone feeling hopeless and despairing. In 2004, the FID volunteers listed below, true Friends In Deed, donated time and talents in over 2,000 hours of service. Our sincere thanks to all of you!

Names:

Mike Anderson, Steve Arick, Faye & Clyde Barnes, Allan Beatty, Mark Bessner, June & Jim Bixler, Michael Blau, Ann Bogits, Pastor James Brooks, Arno Buhner, Bob & Nancy Burandt, Sally Carpinella, Peter

Collins, Betty Damren, Carmen DeFranco, The Dishman Family, Alice Drayton, Patti Eaton, Bruce, Lynn & Monica Edwards, Felisha & Ryan Forrey, Bob Fryman, David Galbraith, Peggy Glahn, Cleo Guster, Joan Hall, Walt Hayes, Mary Ruth Hegerich, John Hillegonds, Dave & Toulia Jacobsen, James Johnson, Clifford Jordan, Sharon Khoury, Dave & Rita Kieras, John, Jane & John Alba Kinzinger, Alex Klooster, Knox Presbyterian Singles for Service Group, Knox Presbyterian Twenties & Thirties Group, Bob Krzewinski, Kay Lands, Claudia & Tom Larson, Sally Ann Lunn, Jean McDonough, Mary Jane Mallory, Doug Mark, Paul Marschke, Steve Martin, Joan Mathison, Barb & Herb Miller, Matt & Sharon Mischakoff, Vi Mitchell, Dick

& Rita Nowland, Paul & Mona Peterson, Ken Pingel, Sarah Prince, Tom Prince, Bob Rhein, Vinnette Riveria, Al & Jan Rudisill, St. Luke's Tuesday Evening Bible Study Group, Howard Schafer, Peg Shannon, Allen Sherzer, Katie Sims, Judy Spike, Marlene Staggs, Bob Stevenson, Peri & Matt Stone-Palmquist, Dick Stuber, Josephine Taylor, Mark Thompson-Kolar, Ken Timmer, Dana & Donna Underwood, Dee Valvanis, John VanDerWiele, Rick Visel, Jim & Malinda Waltz, Jon Waltz, Bob & Chris Warren, Mary & Patrick White, Brian Williams, Nathan Williams, Molly Wiltse, Mary Ziegler.

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

FID Seeks Volunteers

Our need for volunteers, of course, is ongoing. Persons to answer our Help Line (9:30-12:00 one morning a week) are always in demand. Helpers are also wanted for special events to serve on committees for arrangements and publicity, or to work at the event. A current priority need is for persons to solicit items for, and to help with the silent auction at our annual dinner, Monday, May 2, 2005, First Presbyterian Church, Ann Arbor. To volunteer, call Helena Prince at 485-7658.

Meijer Community Rewards

DO YOU SPEND MORE THAN \$100 A MONTH AT MEIJER? SOME OF THAT MONEY CAN GO TO FID!

FID can earn \$3 for each new Meijer Community Rewards Member in March

FID participates in Meijer's Community Rewards program. That means that for every dollar you spend over \$100, Meijer will give FID a percentage (varying from 1-4%). The more you spend, the greater the percentage.

If you use a Meijer credit card, they will give FID a greater percentage as well as offer you periodic extra discounts on groceries and general merchandise.

All you need to do to sign up is fill out an application available online (www.meijer.com), at Meijer, or from the FID office.

You can also get more information on the program from any of these sources.

Our organization number is 658198.

Thank you!

Newsletter Contributors

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More than 70 given a 'good night's sleep'

FID's ninth annual Holiday Bed Drive in November and December received \$7,889 in donations to purchase "a good night's sleep" for 77 people.

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 to go further in meeting needs and we are enormously grateful and appreciative.

Distribution of beds to clients occurred at the warehouse on February 18th and 25th. Hearty thanks to all who contributed to this Drive and helped others get the beds, and the rest, they need.

Special Bed Drive Thanks

Ann Arbor Kiwanis provided a generous \$1,568 grant to fund FID's Holiday Bed Drive administration. This reaffirmation of their valuation of our work is much appreciated. Bedding collected by the



The FID Warehouse Volunteer Trio: Nathan Williams, Howard Schafer and Jim Waltz.

Children's Religious Education Program of St. Joseph Catholic Church, Dexter, to accompany the new beds is gratefully

acknowledged and will be welcomed by recipients.

Thank you also to the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Work Program

and our dedicated warehouse trio, Jim Waltz, Nathan Williams and Howard Schafer for help with distribution.

Briefly ...

FID Launches Business Partnership Initiative

To broaden our outreach and our funding base, FID is pursuing a "Partner Program" with area businesses. Board members have invited specific firms in selected categories (e.g., autos, banks, home appliances) to partner with FID at donation levels ranging from \$250 to \$5,000. Benefits to business partners, varying by support level chosen, range from notice of their sponsorship among our

partner congregations, donors, and families to advertising in our newsletter and recognition at our large activities (spring annual dinner and fall rummage sale). If you work for or know a business that might become a FID partner, call Kirstin Jackson at 485-7658.

Congregational Partners Appreciated & Welcomed

As a network of congregations collaborating to address human need in

Washtenaw County, Friends In Deed relies on financial support from member congregations as an essential element of our funding. Generous financial and volunteer support received during 2004 from all our congregational partners, to be listed in our upcoming annual report, is much appreciated.

We are particularly excited to welcome these "new" congregational partners joining us in 2004: Dexter Gospel

Church, Ward Presbyterian Church of Northville, and "Old" St. Patrick Catholic Church of Whitmore Lake.

Friends In Deed in the News

Judy Spike, who's done so much as a delivery coordinator for our furniture program, garnered much publicity for herself and FID in the January 15, 2005 Ann Arbor News Community Life section.



4th Annual Cooking Class Fundraiser

Join Paul Cousins, former owner of Cousins Heritage Inn in Dexter, for an evening of tasty samples, delightful food demonstrations and a new twist on healthy eating.

When:
Tuesday, March 15
7-9 p.m.

Where:
Kitchen Port
283 S. Zeeb Road
Ann Arbor

Cost: \$35.00

Space is limited to 20 people,
so make your reservation today!

RSVP to the FID office (734) 485-7658.

Friends In Deed is an inter-faith volunteer organization that provides for needs of Washtenaw County residents that are not being met by other human service agencies. FID provides information, referral and screening services to congregations and agencies as well as resources to people in need.

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