

FRIENDS IN DEED

Volume 20, Issue 2

Washtenaw Area Network of Congregations

Summer 2003

Annual Dinner marks 20 years

More than 160 friends and supporters attended FID's annual dinner on April 29, 2003 at Ann Arbor's First Presbyterian Church. Angel Food Catering prepared the tasty meal, using food items contributed by several stores (listed under Special Thanks elsewhere in this issue). Members of St. Luke Lutheran's Tuesday evening Bible Study Class served the meal and set and cleared dining tables. Attendees gathered to celebrate 20 years of FID's work being a bridge between congregations and people in need and to bid on more than 80 silent auction items with a total value in excess of \$6,400.

The program featured a brief review of FID's development from opening a small all-volunteer office in June, 1983 to its wider activity today. Lucille Porter, a member of the founding board, and Libby Hillemonds and Malinda Waltz, two of those first volunteers, shared recollections of planning and launching the network's operations. Barbara Beesley, unable to attend because of prior commitments, sent a letter highlighting memories from her nine years (1985-94) as program director. Helena Prince, FID's Executive Director, contributed observations on program growth over two decades.

Commentary from varying



Photo by Stani Bohac

20th Anniversary Program Participants. Front left to right: Lucille Porter, Jane Mallory, Malinda Waltz. Back left to right: Jim Waltz, Rev. Jim Cochran, Libby Hillemonds, Sally Carpinella, Helena Prince and Dick Stuber.

volunteer perspectives was provided by the Rev. Jim Cochran, a retired pastor and recent board member; Jane Mallory, our longest-serving office volunteer; Sally Carpinella, our first furniture program coordinator; and Dick Stuber, a field volunteer for appliance repair and many other activities (including, as we delightedly discovered, a flair for standup humor!). Five members of the self-proclaimed "World's Biggest Sax Quartet," headed by long-time auto repair program volunteer

Duane "D" DeButts, offered "golden oldies" musical entertainment and easily induced those present to "sing along" happily with a brief list of bouncy tunes.

Especially moving was testimony from John Smith, participant in an FID "family support project," of how that initiative helped him and his family toward a better life. Lucille Porter and Rev. Jim Cochran, in their remarks, likewise reported how FID provided assistance to them in their work. These few accounts, represen-

tative of so many untold or slightly known stories, confirm that our "bridging" has been, and continues to be, critical and often decisive for persons in need in our community.

Thanks to the generosity of many donors, listed elsewhere in this issue, and of attendees at the dinner, Friends In Deed realized more than \$18,500 – the largest amount ever – from the evening's activities to help fund its services. Next year's dinner, in keeping with a location rotation plan, will be in Ypsilanti at a place and date to be announced.

♦ 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 ♦

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Zou Zou's Café

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Selo Shevel Gallery
Seyfried Jewelers
16 Hands Gallery
Stonebridge Golf Club
Dana & Donna Underwood
U of M Golf Course
Weber's
Ginger Winter
World of Rocks
Arline Zehnder

VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO:

James Johnson for covering the balloon costs and Jody Gladden for providing the balloons.
Andrew Monroe for creative work on the 20th anniversary timeline.
Dan Ackerman, Laura Kaufman, Debbie Adler, Duane "D" DeButts and Narda Wishka of Na-D-La-De-Da, "World's Biggest Sax Quartet," for providing musical entertainment.
St. Luke Lutheran's Tuesday evening Bible Study for serving, setting-up and cleaning up for the dinner.
Jim Waltz for compiling the Friends In Deed 20-year history.
Washtenaw Chapter No. 30017 of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, for supplemental funds for the dinner.
Westminster Presbyterian Church for photocopying the Annual Dinner Program and First United Methodist Church of Ann Arbor for photocopying the Silent Auction Program.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

○ **THURSDAYS, MAY 22-JUNE 26, 6:30-8:30 P.M.** BUC\$ (Building an Understanding of Credit Services) Volunteer Training Program sponsored by Washtenaw County MSU Extension and Friends In Deed. Held at Washtenaw County Learning Library Resource Center (corner of Hogback and Washtenaw). Registration required by May 21. Cost \$25.00. Call Terry Jones at 997-1678 or Kirstin Jackson 485-7658.

○ **TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 7 P.M.** Friends In Deed Annual Meeting. See notice in the newsletter.

○ **FRIDAY & SATURDAY, AUG. 8-9**, Great Late Summer Rummage Sale. See notice on back page.

○ **OCTOBER (DATES AND LOCATIONS TBA)**. How to Help Seminars.

○ **FRIDAY-SUNDAY, OCT. 17-19**, Borders Benefit Days. Mention Friends In Deed and 15% of your purchases at Borders Downtown Ann Arbor or Borders Arborland will be designated to our organization.

FID WEBSITE 
Check it out:
www.comnet.org/friends

FRIENDS IN DEED 
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The Beesley Directorship

Part 2 of a four-part 20-year history of Friends In Deed

For nine years (March, 1985-July, 1994), Barbara Beesley as half-time program director guided FID's activities. A Roman Catholic sister with experience teaching, working with migrants, and working with community organization in Detroit, she regularly volunteered at a homeless shelter to keep "attuned to the look of need." Barbara devoted early years here to promoting education of and interaction among volunteers, improving reporting of activity to the board and congregations, and developing essential policies and procedures. She looked beyond addressing current needs and daily problems toward social transformation, saying that "people of faith ... need to change the system and demand justice." She left FID to pursue that cause.

Rapid growth of yearly requests for assistance (from under 500 in 1984 to nearly 2,200 by 1992) brought expansion of paid staffing to 30 hours per week by 1988, the hiring of Helena Prince as a quarter-time casework manager, and additional staffing



through special programs and grants. As federal policy changes during the 1980s reduced availability of affordable housing, FID experienced rapid growth of requests for help with housing issues. Project initiatives in the 1980s and early 1990s included a network for family support and two service activities which remain FID special niches: appliance repair and furniture recycling (col-

lecting donations and distributing those to needy persons). By 1992, over 600 persons received FID's newsletter.

A yearly pattern of need became apparent, with requests for help with utility or apartment security deposits or bill and rent payments peaking in early spring, late summer, and December, and requests for assistance with transportation, furniture, appliances and other items higher in the remaining months. FID's budget grew together with a larger staff and increasing numbers of requests for help, from \$14,000 income and \$13,000 expenditures when Barbara joined FID to \$50,000 and \$40,000 when she departed. By the 1990s, congregations provided about half of that income, with the other half coming from fundraising efforts linked primarily to the annual dinner and grant seeking. (By 1992, Barbara identified writing of grant proposals as taking most of her FID time.) She had ably led FID from infancy to maturity, featuring both solidly spiritual grounding and relevantly practical caring.

Attention All Congregational Partners

You are invited to attend the FID Annual Meeting



7 p.m. Tuesday, June 10, 2003

St. Luke Lutheran Church, 4205 Washtenaw Ave., just east of US 23 in Ann Arbor

Agenda:

Election of Board Members: Class of 2006

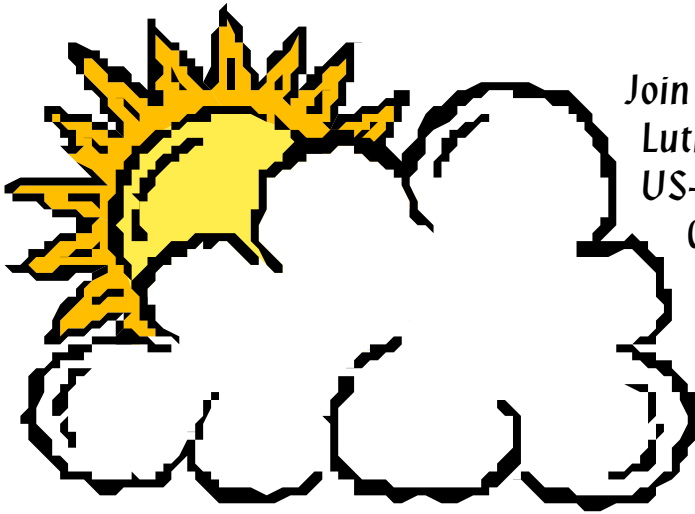
Robert Burandt (St. Luke Lutheran Church), James Johnson (First Unitarian Universalist Church/Family Independence Agency), Robert Stevenson (First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor)

If you wish to make a nomination, call the FID office at 485-7658.

Presentation of 2002 Annual Report

Great Late Summer Rummage Sale

Noon-7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 8 - 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 9



Join us in the Great Room of St. Luke
Lutheran Church, 4205 (just east of
US-23 and Carpenter Rd.).

Call Kirstin Jackson at the FID
office (485-7658) for information
about volunteering, donating and
dropping off items for this event.
Last year's sale raised more
than \$2,000.

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