

FRIENDS IN DEED

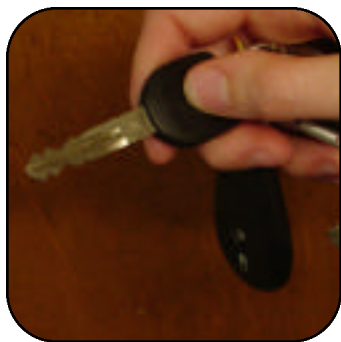
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Summer 2005

“Vantastic” Donation Aids Family

A young single mother and her three daughters (a teen, a tween, and pre-schooler) received their best gift this year from Helena Prince and a



thoughtful FID donor – a 1996 Pontiac Transport minivan in excellent operating condition. As she handed over the keys, Helena got hugs and heartfelt thank-yous from all family members.

The mother has numerous medical problems, including degenerating spinal disks and

osteoporosis. Her daughters also have a range of medical conditions and one needs regular medical appointments. So transportation for medical care is a family necessity.

But getting that wasn't easy.

The family's medical conditions exempt the mom, by Department of Human Services standards, from being required to work. But those same standards prevent DHS from helping her with transportation (because she's not working, she's not eligi-

ble for that help!). So as the former family car became unreliable, Community Support and Treatment Services (CSTS) referred her to FID.

Ordinarily, FID distributes donated vehicles to persons needing transportation for work. But this family's unique situation merited, and obtained, an exception.

FID paid for repairs to keep the old car operating until a replacement, this van, became available. This was one special and costly need met by the FID network and all who contribute to making us able to help.

Transportation/Car Repair Grant Received

Interfaith Council of Congregations recently notified FID of a \$3,000 grant for our Transportation/Car Repair program for the coming year.

This renewed and slightly increased support is very welcome, as we are one of only three county agencies assisting low

income people with transportation or car repair requests. Those requests, and their costs, continue to grow so we are seeking additional funding.

If you have information regarding potential funding resources, please contact Kirstin Jackson at (734) 485-7658.

Visit our Web site to see what others are saying about the Transportation/Car Repair Program.

• 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 •

Annual Dinner raises \$18,000

Nearly 140 friends and supporters attended FID's annual dinner on May 2, 2005 at Ann Arbor First Presbyterian Church.

Using ingredients contributed by several food stores (listed under on the back), Angel Food Catering prepared the tasty meal. Members of the St. Luke Lutheran Tuesday evening Bible Study Class (which meets on Wednesdays!) served the meal and set and cleared tables. Attendees reviewed accomplishments of the past year, recognized outstanding volunteers, and bid on 85 silent auction items with a total value exceeding \$6,000.

Entertainment was provided by the Our Own Thing Chorale, directed by Dr. Willis Patterson. Members of the ensemble are ethnically diverse, vary from minimal to considerable musical training, and range in age from a sweet-voiced high school soprano to senior citizens. Their program of less familiar gospel songs and spirituals was warmly received. (The Chorale takes its musical repertoire on tour to South Africa this summer.)

In brief remarks, Executive Director Helena Prince emphasized FID's growth while many agencies are experiencing shrinkage or barely maintaining a status quo. She observed that volunteers promote such growth by being Friends In Deed to those in need, and introduced and thanked persons present in three volunteer categories:

- o Board volunteers who attend board and committee meetings, participate in FID events and support FID programs.
- o Field volunteers who deliver furniture, provide transportation,

repair housing, autos, and appliances, and perform other services for clients in need.

- o Office volunteers who answer phones, conduct intake verification and assessment of requests, and help with various clerical tasks.

Two dedicated FID volunteers received well deserved special recognition. The Joanne Kooyers Award for distinguished office vol-

unteer service was given to Dee Valvanis for several years of compassionate and caring work on Furniture Program phones one morning per week, helping with the annual rummage sale, promoting FID in her church (Ann Arbor First Presbyterian), and a cheerful willingness to work extra hours at need.



Special recognition was also given to three gentlemen, Howard Schafer of St. Thomas Catholic

Church, Jim Waltz of First United Methodist Church of Ypsilanti, and Nathan Williams of Second Baptist Church of Ypsilanti who work together weekly at the FID warehouse demonstrating real concern for those in need.

Thanks to the generosity of many donors and dinner attendees, FID realized nearly \$18,000 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.

Judy Spike of Knox Presbyterian Church, "an enthusiastic cheerleader for the work of FID," was selected for the Stan Harbison Award, recognizing those who share their love, time, resources, and skills for Washtenaw Country persons in need. Judy mobilizes a cadre of workers from her own and other congregations, schedules volunteers and arranges vehicles to do almost monthly furniture pickup and deliv-

FID Director Helena Prince recognizes volunteer Judy Spike's generous service.

er, and participates in many of those deliveries. She also recruits furniture donations for FID distribution (recently persuading Helena to join her for furniture retrieval from University of Michigan end of semester discards!). Her energy and enthusiasm are an inspiration to all.

OVER

Special Thanks to:**PLATINUM SPONSORS**

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Michigan Firehouse
Museum
Mr. Goofy's Car Wash
Northside Grill
Olive Garden
Profiles Salon
Quinn's Essentials
Red Lobster
Relax Station
Sam's Club
Showcase Cinema
Sidetrack
Sinbad Koney Island
Tap Room Annex
Terry Bakery
TGI Friday's
Tim Horton's (Ypsilanti)
Tios
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Wendy's (Ypsilanti)
Wilkinson Luggage & Gifts
Ypsilanti Big Boy
Zou Zou's Café

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Patti Eaton
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Enchanted Florist
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Quinn's Essentials
Radrick Farms Golf Course
Red Robin
Duane & Katie Renken
Schokolad Chocolate Factory
Selo Shevel Gallery
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The Cherry STOP
The Common Grill
The Golden Apple
Julie Trapp
Dana & Donna Underwood
U of M Golf Course
Malinda & Jim Waltz
Ypsilanti Automotive
Heritage Museum
**Please remember to frequent these generous local businesses.*

VERY SPECIAL THANKS:

James Johnson for covering the balloon costs and Jody Gladden for balloon preparations.

Bruce & Lynn Edwards for their hard work with the silent auction.

St. Luke Lutheran's Tuesday evening Bible Study for serving, setting up and cleaning up.

Washtenaw County Chapter 30017 of Thrivent for Lutheran, for supplemental funds for the dinner.

First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor for the use of their facilities and the warm welcome by Rev. Douglas Brouwer.

Dr. Irvin Green of Memorial Christian Church for beginning the evening with an inter-faith invocation.

Rev. Keith Geiselman of First Presbyterian Church of Ypsilanti for delivering an inspirational benediction.

The Face of Need

What are the needs we address? As varied as the population we serve.

A man moving into a senior citizen high rise and needing furniture for a room (and someone willing to listen to his troubles). A large woman with various medical problems needing a large, hospital-type bed. A man recently released from prison, seeking furniture and financial help to make a new start. Women leaving Safe House after separating from problem spouses and seeking help with housing security deposits and utility hookup costs. A young woman burned out of an apartment. A

working mom whose car, essential for getting to and from work, has just died. A mom seeking beds, or at least mattresses, for her children so they need not sleep on the floor.

Without the dramatic media impact of the south Asian tsunami, but quite as devastating for our neighbors and fellow county residents, needs continue to grow more rapidly than the resources to address them.

Thanks to you, to our participating congregations, and to generous organizations and businesses in our community, FID is able to do something, although not as much as we wish, to meet this tide of need.

*Thanks to our
Business Partners ...*

Helping Hand



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Grant Boosts Program Changes

Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation (AAACF), emphasizing agency capacity building in its 2005 grantmaking, recently awarded Friends In Deed \$13,505 for furniture program expansion.

Most of this grant will help to fund a part-time furniture coordinator, allowing the current coordinator to focus on expanding pickup and delivery services of furni-



ture and appliances. Remaining grant money is targeted for insurance, fuel and maintenance of a delivery truck (still to be purchased, pending another grant).

FID has provided free donated furniture and appliances to low-income Washtenaw County resi-

dents for over 20 years. Into the 1990s, the Michigan Department of Social Services (today's Department of Human Services) operated, then terminated, a similar program. In recent years, Fairy Godparents conducted but has now closed a free furniture program, which delivered 9,000 items of furniture and household goods in 2003 (2004 figures unavailable). AAACF's grant

will assist FID to address this service gap by expanding its furniture program operations. We appreciate and thank AAACF for this generous expression of support.

FRIENDS  IN DEED

Newsletter Contributors

Writer: Jim Waltz
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Job opening at FID

Mark Your Calendar

FID is seeking a part-time furniture program coordinator. That person would be someone:

- Strongly concerned about low-income individuals and families.
- Able to handle multiple tasks.
- Ready to work (after training) with minimal supervision.

Position responsibilities include:

- Facilitate matching of furniture and appliance donations with clients.
- Arrange transportation of items with congregational volunteers and area agencies.
- Oversee distribution of furniture and appliances from warehouse.
- Train and supervise

furniture volunteers.

- Represent FID and the furniture program at congregational & agency meetings.

Hours:

9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Monday-Friday
(20 hours a week).

Salary:

\$10 per hour

FID Annual Meeting.

Tuesday, June 14, 7 p.m.

at St. Luke Lutheran Church, 4205

Washtenaw. All

Congregational Partners are invited to attend.

Agenda: Election of Board Members; Class of 2008, presentation of 2004 Annual Report, and sharing experiences and ideas for FID's future.

“Grillin’ with Friends” Charity Event for Friends In Deed



On July 12th, if you're willin'
You and your pals can be chillin'
And eatin' food that's fillin'
While watchin' our celebs grillin'
At bd's Mongolian Barbecue
In the heart of downtown Ann Arbor
(It's downright thrillin'!)

Date & Time: 6-8pm Tuesday July 12
Place: bd's Mongolian BBQ
200 S. Main St. in Ann Arbor
Cost: \$12.99 per adult for all you can eat
soup, salad and “Create Your Own Stir-fry”!

All tips given at the grill directly support Friends In Deed.

Make reservations by calling the FID office (734) 485-7658.

Come ready to load up at the ...

Great Late Summer Rummage Sale



Noon - 7 p.m. Friday August 5
9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Saturday, August 6

St. Luke Lutheran Church
4205 Washtenaw, Ann Arbor,
just east of U.S. 23

Call the FID office about volunteering and donating
items at (734) 485-7658. Items will be accepted
after July 1.

www.deedinfriends.com

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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