

FRIENDS IN DEED

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Washtenaw Area Network of Congregations

Winter 2002

Struggling Mom Shares Success

BY BETTY DAMREN
FID Volunteer

We feel a measure of success as an agency when with donated dollars, we can help a young mother steer a steady course through difficult times, making a home for her two young children and herself, and keeping their lives on an even keel. Responding to the material needs of those who unexpectedly find themselves in the pool of the economically disadvantaged is a major goal of Friends In Deed.

Christine Harmon, out of gratitude for a helping hand, agreed to go public regarding these events in her life. Two years ago her husband of five years, having found romance on the Internet, walked away from the marriage, leaving her with two young children to support, car payments, an unfinished mobile home and an accumulation of debt. The children included a 4-year-old boy and a 3-year-old girl.

For four years, Christine had been a stay-at-home mom, preceded by 10 years working in a bank. When she found herself in this untenable financial difficulty, she turned in the gas-guzzling truck, divesting herself of those payments, and bought a small economical car that would serve her transportation needs.

The mobile home was unfinished and in need of repairs, costly and beyond her ability to do, so she found an inexpensive apartment in Ypsilanti and asked FID for help with the security deposit. She lived there for some months.



MOVING UP: Christine Harmon, with her children, has worked her way out of debt, thanks in part to FID's work.

She went back to banking and secured a position at National City Bank, where she has been promoted to Bank Manager. Through USDA, she was able to buy a house in a rural setting, giving the children a home of their own to be proud of and a yard for playtime. With careful budgeting and the guidance of Consumer Credit Counseling Services, she has been making regular payments to clear the accumulated debts she was left with. By mid-winter they will be paid off.

Through the work of Friend of the Court, Christine began to receive some child support for the first time in the winter of 2002. Day care for the chil-

dren was and is an ongoing struggle. She has now found a Christian day care center near her new home where she pays \$220 a week for the two children. It was in respect to the day care that FID again became involved, along with Temple Beth Israel, Salvation Army, Hope Clinic and Aid in Milan.

It has been our opportunity as a social service agency to be there for this undaunted young woman at a crucial period in her life. Christine also noted her strong faith in God and the support of her church, Saline First Assembly of God, as vital in helping her persevere. A small boost such as FID gave can make a world of difference.

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17 Volunteers help FID during Day of Caring

Again this year, FID participated in United Way's Day of Caring, held on September 12.

Seventeen volunteers from Eastern Michigan University delivered furniture to needy county residents, cleaned carpeting in the FID office and organized items stored at the warehouse for distribution.

Working with energy and enthusiasm, they completed tasks that will improve our efficiency and effectiveness.

Sincere thanks to: Dawn Adams, Tom Cochran, Pat Cygnar, Ken Gillespie, Dondi Goetzel, Esther Gunel, Brian Hoxie, Marcus Jackson, Anne Miller, Sherry Miller, Gregory Peoples, D.C. Rousseau, Jay Tatum, Norma Taylor-Bishop, Lynn Tilton, Lewis Savage, and Angel Williams. Special thanks to U-haul on State Street in Ann Arbor for donating the carpet cleaning machine.



WORKING HARD: Eastern Michigan University volunteers Angel Williams, Dawn Adams and Norma Taylor-Bishop, above, help clean and organize the furniture warehouse during the Day of Caring. To the left, Tom Cochran and Marcus Jackson from the EMU Housing Department help with furniture delivery.

Rummage sale brings donations and thanks

FID's second annual Great Late Summer Rummage Sale, held on August 9 and 10 at St. Luke Lutheran Church, raised more than \$2,400.

Hearty thanks to the many people contributing to this success, including donors of items to sell; shoppers who became buyers; volunteers doing hauling, pricing, setup, cashiering/checkout, and takedown; and helpful St. Luke staff. St. Luke has already graciously agreed to host next year's sale scheduled for August 8 and 9.

Beyond the financial success of the Rummage Sale, FID was pleased with several encounters with former clients that took place at the sale.

One woman came up to the cashier table to pay for her items and then handed the cashier an extra dollar, saying, "Here's an extra donation for FID since you were

there for me when I really needed help. Now I'm back on my feet and want to give back."

Another mother of five children approached our director and said, "Remember me? FID helped me a year ago with security deposit for an apartment. I had been homeless and was trying to get my life back on track. Now I have a job at Visteon and I've been there for two months. My life is going great!"

A middle-aged woman and her friend purchased several items at our rummage sale. She said FID had given her several pieces of furniture, including a new bed, when she moved here from the South. She was happy to be able to give back to FID by shopping at our rummage sale. "Everybody knows about Friends In Deed! You're the people that really help out."

FID WEBSITE

Yes!
At last!



With knowledgeable help from Steve Weiss of Huron Valley Community Network and Meredith Bull, Michigan Comnet Coordinator, the FID web site has been updated.

Check us out at
www.comnet.org/friends

FRIENDS IN DEED

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*The Solution to your Christmas
Giving Dilemmas*



An Alternative Christmas Market & Small World Shop Annual Open House

*Featuring SERRV Products
15% of proceeds go to Friends In Deed*

Friday, Nov. 22, 5 - 8 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 23, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

First United Methodist Church
209 Washtenaw Ave., Ypsilanti
(734) 482-8374 • Fumcypsi@tir.com

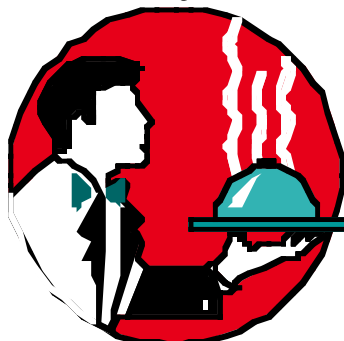
*An opportunity to participate in a holiday gift-giving
program that makes a difference and redirects
our attention to the true meaning of Christmas.*

Music • Crafts for Children • Refreshments

The Herbin' Chef
Personal Chef and Catering Service

Friends In Deed and Kitchen Port Present:

“Beyond Cheese Cubes”



Enjoy a fun evening of
hors d'oeuvre cooking demonstrations
and tasty samples at Kitchen Port in
Kerrytown (Ann Arbor).
7p.m. Tuesday, February 4

Minimum donation: \$25
Call in your reservation
(not required) at (734) 485-7658.
- Limited Seating -

NEWS BRIEFS

WAREHOUSE SPACE NEEDED

Got space? FID needs some by next summer. Hope Clinic has notified us that for planned expansion of their services, they will require the 50' x 50' warehouse area they've generously allowed us to use for our furniture operations. As a result, we are seeking donated use of 2,000-2,500 square feet of warehouse space with a summer 2003 availability.

If the warehouse had connected office space between 1,000-1,200 square feet, we'd be interested in renting the office space, allowing us to consolidate our operations. For more information, or to offer or suggest persons to contact for such space, please call Kirstin at 485-7658.

WELCOME NEW PARTNERS

Helena Prince and Kirstin Jackson have been contacting area congregations to reactivate former partners or engender new involvement with FID. As an outgrowth of this activity, we are delighted to welcome to our network the following congregations: Beth Israel Congregation, Grace Bible Church, Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Second Baptist Church of Ypsilanti and Unity Church of Ann Arbor.

FID CELEBRATES 20 YEARS

Did you know that FID's 20th anniversary is approaching? The office opened for operations in 1983, after nearly a year of planning and preparation. During the coming months, we'll be reflecting on facets of those two decades of service to the residents of Washtenaw County.

ALTERNATIVE MARKET

Seeking gifts to express the true meaning of Christmas and make a difference? Visit the Alternative Christmas Market and Small World Shop open house on Friday, November 22, 5-8 p.m. and Saturday, November 23, 9 a.m.- 2 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 209 Washtenaw Ave., Ypsilanti.

Alternative Christmas Market provides creative opportunities to honor loved

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ones while helping those in need. The Small World Shop offers distinctive self-help hand crafts from artisan cooperatives in many lands. 15% of the proceeds from items sold at The Small World Shop will benefit FID. Music and refreshments, information and craft activities are available for shoppers of all ages.

Participating agencies include: Church World Service, Friends In Deed, Habitat for Humanity, Heifer Project International, Hope Clinic, Interfaith Hospitality Network, Meals on Wheels, Salvation Army, Washtenaw Literacy, Washtenaw Shelter Association, Ypsilanti Hunger Coalition, and Zimbabwe Crafts. For more information call 734-482-8374.

HOW TO HELP SEMINARS

Our annual "How to Help" seminars on September 26 and October 3 attracted a total of 54 attendees. Starting with FID's core emphasis on helping others move toward self-sufficiency, presenters Helena Prince of FID and Jennifer Brown of Salvation Army provided information on community resources and



HOW TO HELP SEMINAR PRESENTERS: Jennifer Brown with the Salvation Army and Helena Prince with FID.

helping agencies and guidance for assessing needs of persons seeking assistance with emergency needs. The group also discussed issues for congregations to consider and dos and don'ts for offering specialized help. Attendees reported the sessions to be realistic, practical, and immensely helpful. A heartfelt thank you to First United Methodist Church of Ann

Arbor and Second Baptist Church of Ypsilanti for hosting the seminars.

THANK YOU

Thank you to Margie Bovee and the Cowan Slavin Foundation for a recent grant of \$8,500 to be used for salary support for our Casework Manager. Friends In Deed is grateful for the wonderful support received throughout the years.

J.F. Ervin Foundation recently awarded Friends In Deed a \$1,500 grant to be used to support our programs which provide for unmet emergency needs. Much thanks to this foundation for their commitment to Friends In Deed and the community.

A huge thank you to our board member, Harry PaDelford for graciously donating his own copy machine to Friends In Deed. He responded to a cry for help after our copy machine quit and was not repairable. Harry and the Ann Arbor Thrift Shop also contributed funds for routine maintenance on our "new" machine.

A special thank you to Ann Arbor Kiwanis for a \$1,000 grant designated for our Holiday Bed Drive.



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