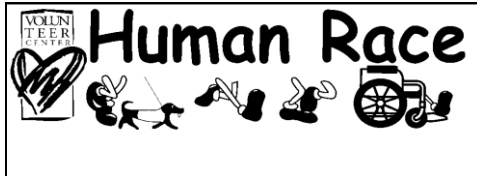


Friends of Friendship Place

Issue 12

Spring 2010

WE'RE OFF TO THE RACES...



What is the Human Race? It is a community fundraiser on May 1, 2010 that provides an opportunity for all non-profit organizations to raise money for their programs. Members collect pledges toward a 5k walk, 5k non-competitive run, or a one-mile walk. Participating agencies receive 75% of the money collected. The Volunteer Center receives the remaining percentage for coordinating the event.

Please consider pledging a member or staff of FP for this wonderful community-wide fundraiser. The proceeds will go toward a Halloween event at Homestead Meadows.

You can make a pledge online at <http://humanrace2010.volunteercenter.net/friendshipplace> or you may send your donation now until April 28th to: 220 N. Commercial St., Neenah, WI 54956. Please make checks payable to: *Volunteer Center Human Race.*

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FP is a proud agency partner of United Way Fox Cities.

GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

By: Denise Walber



Serving lunch at St. Paul's Community Table

About three years ago, thanks to the eagerness of some Friendship Place (FP) clients', the guidance of Executive Director, Lori Hill, and one of the volunteers, Kara Patterson (from *The Post Crescent*), FP's Community Service Group was started. The Community Service Group was started for members to show their appreciation to the surrounding communities that have supported FP over the years. The Community Service Group of FP wanted to show people how much the members want to give back to the community as much as has been given to FP.

Since then, we're happy to say the number of members on the group has increased. Some members of the volunteer group are Julie W, Danielle, Ruth S, Jacqueline N, Melissa W, Tina H, Denise W, Russ S, and some of the FP staff members. The Community Service Group has participated in various projects. Some of those projects included: created cards for children at the Children's Hospital and Vallhaven Care Center, stocked pantry shelves at Neenah-Menasha Red Cross, volunteered at St. Vincent De Paul, cleaned up parks on Doty Island, and helped serve lunch at St. Paul Lutheran church in Neenah and at St. Thomas church in Menasha. We have caroled, played bingo and cards at Vallhaven as well.

If some of you do not know, FP is a non-profit organization. That means any funding FP receives will keep things going and can come from donated goods brought by numerous companies around the area or cash donations. FP members from the group know how important it is to be thankful for all that the community has given FP to keep things going. Hopefully we can give back to you as much as you have already given to us. Thanks again from the Community Service Group members to all whom have supported FP through the years! Need volunteers? Call us!

RECYCLE YOUR OLD CELL PHONES

We will gladly collect your old cell phones and recycle them for you. FP receives a small donation for every cell phone donated and sent in to Shelter Alliance. Phones can be of any size, shape, or age—they do not need to be in working condition nor have a battery.

“EXPECTATIONS”

By: Leah Schwartz

Years ago I was diagnosed with schizophrenia. Like many others with the brain disorder, I lived in a fog of medications and fear. I became too self absorbed, wanted to wake up in the morning, but feared what the day would hold. This cycle went on for several years, but finally I was stable enough to be encouraged to start looking for work.

It was scary, but I was able to get involved as a volunteer in a local mental health support group. The job became a new focal point for me. I was beginning to be more aware of others and their plight. As a peer, I began sharing some insights from my own experiences with my mental illness. I had not realized until then what an importance helping others would have on me. Thanks to the group's director we found a permanent home for our mental health group, The Friendship Place. I was hired as a part-time paid worker.

Though I had and have mental issues to deal with yet, the opportunities over the last twenty years at Friendship Place have changed my life and attitude. It has shown me that after receiving so much, it feels good to give back. It has given me a purpose and a focus away from my mental illness. I appreciate the opportunity to use my attributes. It takes some effort, but what worthwhile goal doesn't.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

We would like to publicly thank the following for their time, talents, and donations in the first quarter of 2010. Without all of you, FP couldn't be the place it is!

Financial Support: United Way of the Fox Cities, Kobal Family, Jerome & Faye Reitzner, Neenah/Menasha Strutters, Manderfield's, Frank & Florence Heckrodt, Marilyn Rice, Joan Klaski, Frances & Joseph Bachman, Chelsea Harris, Bobbie Ford, and Bob & Carol Paynter

Contributions to the Clifford Family Memorial Fund: Ellen Olmstead, Carmen Bartram, P. & K. Dale, Dick & Pat Phillips, Eddie & Louise Branney, Elmer Mikkelson, Helen Rothmeyer, Gregory & Helene Wurzer, Ann Goodoff, Deborah Laughlin, James & Phyllis Gridley, Nancy Johnson, Jane & Wayne Schoepke, Thomas Clifford & Barbara Hermann, Steven & Teresa Lipus, Collette Clifford, Patricia Tangorra, Dennis & Elizabeth Matlock, Robert & Georgia Clifford, Judy Clifford & Joseph Zolkoske, Clare Clifford, Dean & Lynn Livingston, and the Kopplin Family

In-Kind Donations: Pagoni's Pizza, Goodwill Industries, Cranky Pat's, Dairy Queen of Neenah, Menasha Grill, Generations Coffee, Fazoli's, Sammy's Pizza, Fox Cinema, Papa Murphy's, Fox Cities Performing Arts Center & Menasha School District, and Barb Wulf

Time & Talent: Breyan, Ada Hall, Michael Barnes, Community Service Group, FP Board of Directors, Jeff Zdrale, FP staff members, Kara Patterson, FVTC Nursing Program students, NAMI-FV New Hope facilitators, John Phillips, Parish Nurse Association, and UW-Ext. Kris Soper

Our sincere apologies if we inadvertently left your name out.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL 23
CHILI DOG SALE
11AM TO 12:30PM
\$1.50 per plate for chili dog, chips, pickle, cookie, and soda

MAY 1
HUMAN RACE
8am-1pm at Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
*See Julie, Candy, and Breyan for details.

MAY 3
GETTING IN TOUCH MEETING
1PM
Monthly all agency meeting to discuss current month's calendar, next month's proposed activities, issues discussion, staff concerns, etc.

MAY 5
VOLUNTEER PROJECT
12:30PM
Neenah's Riverside Park clean up. Snacks provided.

MAY 13 & 27
WATERCOLOR PAINTING
12:30PM
All levels of experience welcome. Led by artist, Jeff Zdrale.

MAY 18
VOLUNTEER PROJECT
1 TO 2:30PM
Help out at St. Vincent de Paul's in Neenah.

JULY 26
NAMI/ORC/FP PIERCE PARK PICNIC
5pm

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Kara Patterson, *The Post-Crescent*
Jon Phillip, Winnebago County
Diane Turke, Roberts, Ritschke & Tyczkowski, Ltd.
David Syrone, Legacy Private Trust Company

STAFF MEMBERS

Executive Director: Lori L. Hill
Outreach Specialists: Julie Grondahl & Candy Luedtke
Outreach Assistants: Dan Carroll, Dan Paynter, & Leah Schwartz
MSW Intern: Breyan D.

WHAT ARE THEY UP TO AT FRIENDSHIP PLACE?

Here are some of our memorable moments and delicious meals by staff members Julie & Candy...

PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION PROJECT @ FP

JJ Keller Foundation generously donated \$5,000 to FP to explore the opportunity of creating a "group room" at Friendship Place. Currently, the one side of the building is shared by a group space, pool table, art room, and the women's bathroom.

FP sought the expertise of Gries Architectural Group, Inc. of Neenah to create plans to better accommodate the variety of programming provided at FP. Gries Architectural Group presented plans that would include several major areas of development: 1) construct a physical wall with double doors for a formal group room; 2) relocate the men's bathroom near the women's bathroom; 3) create a barrier free entrance for members and guests at the back of the building (where everyone parks); 4) redevelop office space to better accommodate staff and staff work spaces; and 5) create a better flow between the 2 sides of the building with the use of double doors in the middle of the long wall that separates the two existing sides of the building.

We would be happy to provide you a copy of our proposed plans. We are seeking help with electrical, plumbing, construction, etc.

So, what's the plan? Thanks to the great designs from Gries Architectural Group and the generosity of the Clifford Family and friends, FP is seeking estimates from area businesses for materials and labor costs.

Interested in helping out with this project, either with a financial donation or your time and talent... please call the Executive Director, Lori Hill, @ 729-9975.



Staff, members and FVTC nursing students decorate cookies for St. Paul's and St. Thomas Churches' Community Table



St. Valentine's Luncheon



St. Patrick's Day Luncheon



Spring Brunch w/Julie & Candy



Japanese writing lessons in preparation of the Shidara drum performance at the Fox Cities PAC on March 5, 2010



Snowflake Candlelight Dinner Jan. 2010