

**FRIENDS** Changing lives with love  
of the   
**CARPENTER** 1600 W 20th Street  
Vancouver, WA 98660

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February P.O. Box 65358  
**Contact Us!** Vancouver, WA 98665

Phone 360-750-4752  
Tom Iberle, Executive Director  
Cell 360-903-3626  
Michelle Rouse, Administrative Manager  
Cell 360-558-2246  
Craig Cluff, Facilities Manager  
Cell 360-558-2245  
Jerry Swan, Financial Secretary  
Bernie Gerhardt, Volunteer &  
Community Outreach Manager  
CJ Haney, Activity Coordinator  
Andre Provost, Community Service Coordinator  
Samuel Abron, Shop Assistant  
[contact@friendsofthecarpenter.org](mailto:contact@friendsofthecarpenter.org)  
[www.friendsofthecarpenter.org](http://www.friendsofthecarpenter.org)  
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*Dear Friends, Let us love one another because love comes from God. Whoever loves is a child of God and knows God. 1 John 4:7*

## 2nd Chance Thrift Store



3414 NE 52nd St., Vancouver, WA 98661

360-750-3867

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday

[www.2ndchancethriftstore.org](http://www.2ndchancethriftstore.org)

### 2014 Highlights

- \* John and Bonnie, who single-handedly kept the store staffed on Saturdays, retired. The Saturday store hours eventually were reduced to being open 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.
- \* The Humane Society's ReTails Thrift Store (Paws & Claws) moved. That affected our customer flow, as shoppers often visited both stores with one stop.
- \* Carla Lehto, one of our founders, retired.
- \* We acquired some great new volunteers.
- \* Quality donations kept coming: a hand-carved olive wood nativity scene from Bethlehem, beautiful glass-ware, and a large seven-piece bedroom set, to name a few.
- \* Quality clothing continues to come through the store. Usually it goes out as fast as it comes in.
- \* To accommodate our increased book donations, the book area as been reorganized and expanded.
- \* We have completed four years of successful operation. With your continued support, we can continue supporting the ministry of Friends of the Carpenter.
- \* We are all working for the same Mission!

FRIENDS  
of the  
CARPENTER 

Changing Lives with Love

# The Carpenter's Tool Box

VOLUME 17, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2015

## Quo Vadis?

By Tom Iberle

This February marks one full year since Duane Sich, our founder and first Executive Director, retired and I started as the Ministry's second Director. Last month, we looked back at some highlights from 2014. This month seems like an excellent time to look forward to where Friends of the Carpenter is headed.

past year we have been averaging 190 per month. We welcome with Christian hospitality each and every one that comes through the front door of our Friendship Center. We see that as a crucial part of our Mission. The fact that so many are coming to spend time with us is a strong indication that we are providing a much needed service to the community.

we are serious about becoming a recognized leading resource. We are now starting to reach out to the community to find willing partners who will help us get there. I know with God's Providence that we will be successful.

We have some significant capital needs as well. As anyone who has visited the Friendship Center in the winter months knows, we have a very leaky roof. God Bless CJ and Craig, because every time a new leak develops, they scramble to add yet more buckets to catch the drips and prevent more puddles. We're now getting bids on what we will need for a new roof. We'll share more about our roof project in the coming months.

We have new neighbors at the warehouse next door. Lies Brothers Construction purchased the property last year and they have spent a lot of time and energy sprucing the place up and getting it ready for their first tenant on February 1<sup>st</sup>.

Our Vision plan states that in five years, FOC will be a recognized leading resource in supporting people living in poverty, those with special needs, and those doing community service, which includes the development of both job and life skills. That's certainly a tall order, especially when you realize that the numbers of those we are serving has increased dramatically over the past couple of years. Our participant numbers alone have almost doubled since 2010. Over a six year period from 2005 - 10 we greeted a pretty consistent average of 110 individuals per month. Over the

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Product of the Month Insert	

*Quo Vadis? Continued*

They have approached us about the condition of the access road through their property, which is also the only way to get to our Friendship Center. Again, as anyone who has visited us lately knows, the potholes are continually growing, both in number and size. There is a possibility of paving that road. As good neighbors and regular users of the road, it would be reasonable for us to share in the cost. We will keep you informed of progress in that area as well.

Lastly, we continue to make slow but sure progress on our Shower and Laundry project for the Friendship Center. A local architect has drawn up

some preliminary plans and is ready to start on the permitting process. We already have some money set aside for that capital project, although probably not enough to complete it. We will keep everyone updated as things develop on that front.

All of those projects point to the crucial need for a second major organizational area that demands our attention – Fund Development. For our Ministry to grow and move forward toward a firmer financial footing, we definitely need a solid Development Plan. We will be looking for the expertise we need to help us come up with the tools to put that

plan together and carry it out. The Board and I have that on our 2015 list of Action items as well.

In case you are wondering about the meaning and significance of the title for this month's missive, by tradition it's the question St. Peter poses to our Lord as Peter is fleeing Roman persecution. It means 'Where are you going?' and Christ's reply to Peter – 'I am going to Rome to be crucified again' – gives Peter the courage to return to the city to continue serving God. We continue to pray for the courage and the hope and the faith that we will need to carry out our Mission every day at Friends of the Carpenter.

**February Volunteer Spotlight**

Jennifer Klein came to Friends of the Carpenter (FOC) as a "Partners in Careers" (PIC) Employee in November 2013. Although Jennifer was assigned 24 hours a week doing administrative duties, Jennifer has volunteered her time as well, working at the Volunteer Recognition Event in April 2013, selling FOC products at Sausage Fest, and "First Fridays" at Divine Consign. Jennifer related that she "Absolutely loves being at FOC." She said she learns something new every day. Jennifer's

love for FOC was very evident in the video at the FOC auction. Jennifer really enjoys spending time with her family, 7 year old Keira and her husband, Deric. Jennifer also spends her free time on hobbies such as gardening, drawing and photography. In 2012, Jennifer submitted a group of pictures to be illustrated in a book of photography. Three of Jennifer's pictures were selected to be in the "Best of Photography 2012." Jennifer is now an intern with FOC and will soon join the FOC

staff part time as an office assistant on March 1, 2015.

Thank you, Jennifer, for all the hours you have given to FOC.



Jennifer Klein

new scroll saw trainees and many newcomers, I am just waiting for their idea to blossom. So hang on for the ride. Stop by and join in any

CORRECTION TO JANUARY 2015 CARPENTER'S TOOL BOX: Person who helped Sally Aalbue was Judy Champie

**DONATIONS NEEDED**

Cup of Noodles, Oatmeal, Peanut Butter, Bulk Unpopped Popcorn, and Hot Chocolate

**Activity Corner**

Activities  
Monday—Friday  
9—4 pm  
Wednesday Event  
Activities  
1:00 — 3:00 pm

Hello Everyone; As ever, we seem to be rushing to get to the next chapter of FOC. But looking back, a bit we had a very successful HUGS party on Jan 7<sup>th</sup> with 80 coming over for lunch, haircuts and gifts galore. A very large Thanks to all the volunteers who helped the day run so smoothly. Also, we had a wonderful holiday sales season of existing offerings. Many hours of fun-filled conversations have echoed around the building. Our average turnout is about 40 people who visit per day with a spike to 75 gathering on Wednesday afternoon. We are expecting this trend to only grow and will plan accordingly. With 4

February 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	9:30 am Devotions	9:30 am Devotions	9:30 am Devotions	9:30 am Devotions	9:30 am Devotions	2/25 9:30 am Show & Tell
	1:00 pm Staff Mtg	1 pm Point Man Ministries (Veterans)	1 pm Afternoon Activity	7 pm Pipe Band Rehearsal	2/6 5—8pm First Friday at Divine Consign	2/25 24 Hour Famine
		2/17 Cash Back at Beaches	2/28 7 pm Woodturners	2/19 One (1) Day of Prayer for Clark County. WA and FOC		
			1 pm Newsletter Activity 3/2-3/5	www.kingdomleague.org /wa-st-prayer-targets.html		

[www.friendsofthecarpenter.org](http://www.friendsofthecarpenter.org)

**Church Beyond Walls** By Andre Provost

Each Sunday, I bring participants from the Friendship Center to church with me. During one particular Sunday, after the pastor made an invitation for communion, Brian, a confessed agnostic, was making his way forward. I quickly approached him with my Bible open, "Hey, do you know what's going on?"

"I am going up to get my treat!" He thought that the pastor was offering snacks to the congregation.

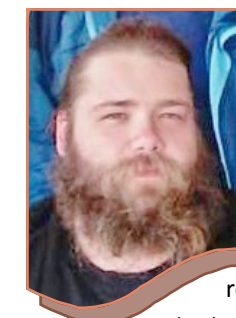
Seeing this as an opportunity to share the gospel, I gave him a short explanation of communion, enhancing it with "if you believe and turn away from your sinful life to follow Jesus, you can participate." Surprisingly, he stated that he was ready. After the service, at my house, he confirmed his decision through baptism.

Two months have passed. Brian has not only changed, but he even boldly shares his faith with others. I had to find out what moved him from being an agnostic to becoming a believer; I took him to McDonalds and held this interview with him.

Andre': "Brian, when I first met you a few months ago, you told me you were an Agnostic. What made you change?"

BRIAN: "It all started at the Friendship Center. The environment was so awesome. There was such a good feeling. They took time to get to know everyone. They made people feel welcomed. It was a place that you wanted to go. You did not feel forced to believe the way they believed. I could see a difference. In the center, I was allowed to find out in my own time."

Andre': "Brian, you remember when you told me that you liked reading and I gave you the Gospel of John? Did that have any influence towards your decision?"



Brian: "I liked reading it. I found it interesting and very informative. The more I read it, the more I wanted to pick it up and read it more and more."

It had a profound impact on me. It opened me up for everything."

Andre': What was the clincher that made you decide to turn your life over to Christ and get baptized on that particular Sunday?

Brian: Since I have been coming to the Center, everything I saw was good. Maybe that is my sign of Him working. I better open up."

Andre': "Now that you made that decision, what is happening with your life?"

Brian: "I feel like I am just going with the flow, the flow of the Spirit. Jeremiah 29:11. 'I know the plans I have for you ... plans to prosper you.' God has a plan for all of us and will lead us to prosperity. He has given me a roof over my head, food and a mission in life. The Spirit is breaking down walls within me."

God is blessing Brian's life. A few weeks ago, Brian was granted a part time "resident in training" position at the Share House homeless shelter where he resides. He now takes care of the winter overflow (residents who sleep on the dining room floor) twice a week. On his days off, he continues volunteering at the Center.

2015 is off to a great start and 2014 was an exciting year. For 2014, I can report eight baptisms, a number of rededications, one wedding and the beginnings of a group who are being trained up to disciple others.