

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

Refused

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please check the box and return it to your mail carrier. We pay the postage.

Return Service Requested

NONPROFIT
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT 702
VANCOUVER, WA

January P.O. Box 65358
Vancouver, WA 98665

Contact Us!
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
www.friendsofthecarpenter.org
www.facebook.com/friendsofthecarpenter
Donate Online Tax ID# 91-1932953

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

THANK YOU to those who donated items to our thrift store last year! Your generosity once again allows the Thrift Store to be a major contributor to the mission of Friends of the Carpenter.

THANK YOU for donating quality merchandise. Quality donations allow us to maximize our profit and keeps our customers happy and returning for wonderful merchandise at a great price.

THANK YOU to all our volunteers who staff the store 6 days a week! Your commitment to the thrift store is outstanding.

THANK YOU to the truck drivers who pick up furniture and merchandise to be sold at the Thrift Store! It is a behind the scenes operation that is so crucial to running a profitable store.

THANK YOU to our customers who keep coming back again and again! You brighten our days and we look forward to seeing our friends each and every week.

We are all looking forward to a wonderful and profitable 2015. YOU can help make it happen.

Stop in and visit us soon!



Changing Lives with Love

The Carpenter's Tool Box

VOLUME 17, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2015

Friends of the Carpenter Top Ten List for 2014 By Tom Iberle

I realize you may have already had enough of 'Top Ten' stories lists for the year just ended, but please allow me to look back over 2014 and highlight some things in this critical transition year for the Ministry of Friends of the Carpenter. A crucial time for any non-profit is the change in leadership from the Founder to whomever comes next.

We have just navigated that very change in a successful way. I would like to share some of our observations.

This list is certainly not comprehensive, but I hope it gives a broad overview of the progress we have made this year. Next month, I will lay out some more information about where we plan on heading and how the work on our Mission and Vision will continue. The list is also not necessarily in increasing order of importance, although the last few are more significant than the first few.

So here goes:

10. **Food Talks series** – We have long wanted to have enrichment classes and other opportunities available for all those coming to the Center. I am very pleased that we got that started with some sessions on healthy eating and other nutritional information presented by Volunteer Alicia Crowley. Thanks, Alicia!!

8. **Organizational success of "Building Futures full of Hope and Dreams"**, our 2014 Auction and Dinner at the Hilton Vancouver. We used a year long process of evaluating and improving most everything that went into putting on our biggest fundraiser of the year. We exceeded our expectations with how smoothly it all proceeded.



Auction 2014

7. **New Kitchen and Bathrooms remodel** – The flood from four broken pipes in December 2013 resulted in major damage to that part of our building. We

successfully completed a major repair of our facilities. In the process we made some upgrades, including a much needed ADA accessible bathroom.

6. **New partnership with Hands of Favor** – This is a local Ministry that provides free haircuts around the area, including to our Friendship Center crowd. One of those days, CJ and Anna provided much

9. **Concordia University Nursing Students practicum** – Through our connection with Sue Neal from NW Parish Nurses, Prof. Laura Sherburne led two of her Community Nursing students through a 10 week process that brought some much needed medical information to the Center. We hope to continue and increase that kind of effort in the future.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Friends of the Carpenter Top Ten List for 2014	1
Activity Corner	2
January Volunteer Spotlight	2
Church Beyond Walls	3
Calendar	3
Contact Info	4
2nd Chance Thrift Store	4

continued

needed donations to Locks of Love.

5. **Church Sponsor program continues to grow** – We added several new Congregations to our list, which now stands at 24. In addition, we entered into a new partnership with Calvary Mennonite Church, a congregation in Alabama that supports one of our staff members (see #2).

4. **2nd Chance Thrift Store celebrates four years of business** – We continue to be extremely grateful and appreciative of all those who donate and shop at our Store on St. Johns Road here in Vancouver. We are especially indebted to our Volunteers who manage and keep the doors of

that operation open.

3. **July tragedy at our duplex on Simpson** – We continue to mourn and miss our beloved Mr. Bill Jennings, who ‘went on ahead of us’ as the result of an accidental fire in his apartment this summer. The transformation that continues to occur is a challenge and opportunity for all of us.

2. **André Provost, new Community Service Coordinator hired** – This was one of the changes that followed from the void that came from the loss of Bill. Bringing on Calvary Mennonite as a Ministry partner is a grace-filled side benefit.

1. **New Mission Statement and first-ever Vision State-**

ment for FOC – The Board of Directors worked with a local consultant to evaluate and revise our Mission into a more concise and powerful way of communicating what we are all about. We also have a new plan for what we want Friends of the Carpenter to look like five years from now.

There you have it. Next month we’ll report on the significant growth in the number of people served by our Ministry and the challenges presented by that growth. I continue to look forward to see where God is leading us in his providential way to serve Him and each other. Thank you so much for your ongoing committed support of Friends of the Carpenter.

January Volunteer Spotlight

Sally Aalbue has been volunteering for Friends of the Carpenter (FOC) since 2010. Sally first learned about the ministry from ladies at the “Family of Christ Church” who also volunteered at FOC. Sally and her friend, Judy Wood, put on the “Volunteer Appreciation Events” for 2 years. Sally continues her volunteer role by actively seeking Sponsoring Churches for FOC. At one time, Sally visited up to 7 churches a day. Sally is still the “spark plug” for the Church Sponsor

Committee. After, Sally retired from 32 years of teaching school from the Shoreline District in Seattle and the Evergreen School District here in Clark County, she keeps busy with her many activities, including “China Connect,” entertaining, baking and gardening. Sally related that she eagerly continues her volunteer work with FOC, because she “believes in the Ministry.” Thanks, Sally for the many hours you have given to the FOC Ministry.



Sally Aalbue

to evolving into what God intends for us. Come along! Looking forward, we hope to offer classes on a variety of subjects, becoming kit builders and assemblers on a higher level. Only God knows where we are going and I for one don’t want to miss it. See you there. CJ

DONATIONS NEEDED

Hand Garden Tools, and shovel

Activity Corner

Wednesday
Event Activities
1:00 — 3:00 pm

Happy New Year !! Well, about 2014, the most important, lasting memory will be all the HUGS (pun intended) **THANK YOU.** I have to acknowledge everyone who comes into the Friendship Center, to everyone who donates and contributes the ideas, their time and selflessness. It has been my privilege to see it every day. You all helped us build a stronger, wiser and a much more engaging place. If I did New Year’s resolutions, my list would start with spending more time in prayer. It really does work miracles. Our ministry is filled with energy and awe. We look forward

January 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	1/24 9:30 am Show & Tell
	1:00 pm Staff Mtg	1 pm Point Man Ministries (Veterans)	1 pm Afternoon Activity 1 pm Newsletter Activity 2/2– 2/6 1/28 7 pm Woodturners	7 pm Pipe Band Rehearsal 1/22 One (1) Day of Prayer for Clark County and FOC	1/2 5—8pm First Friday at Divine Con-sign	



www.friendsofthecarpenter.org

Church Beyond Walls By Andre Provost

“How can I pray for you?” Sitting kitty corner from me, among the sixty plus attendees, sat Arnold a homeless Haitian immigrant. It was a Wednesday afternoon at one of our weekly Friends of the Carpenter activities where Arnold, like the other participants, came to receive a \$5 dollar gift card.

“I need a job.” Almost every one of the homeless echoes this same request. Pulling out his expired green card, speaking with limited English, Arnold revealed to me his dilemma. It came down to this: without a legitimate resident card, he could not gain employment; without employment, he could not obtain the funds to extend his resident card. Thus, night after night, he slept in the cold, across the street from the local shelter in order to use their bathroom, while waiting for an opening. Since most of my adult life, I have lived in foreign countries; my heart went out to him.

Arnold, unlike many homeless, does not drink, smoke or take drugs; but here he was as destitute as the others. His inability to read and write prevented him from doing the paperwork he needed to apply for financial assistance and his extension.

“Pray! Yes, Arnold, I would be glad to pray for a job for you. There are other things we can do to help, too.” After informing the Friendship Center administrative director of his predicament, I was granted permission to “sign up” Arnold into our “pay it forward” program. We would pay for his application and he could “pay it forward” by volunteering hours at the center. Arnold was enthused with the idea. That afternoon I started the resident card renewal process with him.

While Arnold volunteered, I shared with him evangelistic Bible stories and invited him to attend church with me. “You were able to get

Arnold into a church! That’s unbelievable!” His ex-host family exclaimed as we stopped by to pick up some needed documents.

Arnold responded well to the studies. On the first Sunday of November, after a worship service, Arnold, Joy, Manuel, Danny, Ray, Bob and I loaded into two vehicles and headed over to Bob’s property. Behind Bob’s abandoned house, under the evergreen trees lining his backyard, Arnold sat, surrounded by the rest of us, on a folding chair. Ray prepared a bottle of warm water. Pouring the water over his head, I spoke “In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, I now baptize you Arnold St Hilaire.” We then laid hands on him to receive the Holy Spirit. The joy radiating from his face convinced us that he was forgiven and filled with the Holy Spirit.



Movie Outing “Left Behind” 11/2014