

A faith based Day Shelter that provides safety and a sense of purpose to members of our community.

Annual Report 2015

Friends of the Carpenter

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

Friends of the Carpenter

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Introduction

The story laid out for you in the pages that follow will help you understand more of what God's Grace continues to accomplish through the faithfulness and discipleship of our many volunteers, agency partners, Board and staff – the many hands and feet of Christ in our midst. Please continue to pray that God's Providence will provide for and God's Holy Spirit will guide us toward and keep us mindful of our Mission:

Friends of the Carpenter is a Faith-based Day Shelter that provides Safety and a Sense of Purpose to members of our community.

Friends of the Carpenter was incorporated in Vancouver, WA on October 26, 1998 and received 501(c)3, non-profit status in March of 1999. Friends of the Carpenter began as a vision of a practical outreach of simple welcome and personal interaction between volunteers from the church community and the poor. The initial workspace began in Duane and Julie Sich's home, using a spare bedroom as the FOC office and the 3rd bay of the garage and Duane's tools as the original woodwork shop. Over the years, the ministry moved on. Like many whom Friends of the Carpenter has always served, initially the ministry itself was homeless – using borrowed space, moving from place to place as invitation and opportunity presented itself and PRAYING that God would provide the resources and people, and a permanent place for the ministry to call, "Home." In 2004, Jack and Jane Artz made a major donation allowing the purchase and initial operation of our current facility. Though never intended to become a church, Friends of the Carpenter has become a ministry for building positive relationships and the Friendship Center has become a sanctuary of a different sort. There are no pews or a pipe organ but instead a humble and worn warehouse, providing genuine welcome, caring hospitality, safety for all and productive activities which allow friendships to be formed and *"Lives To Be Changed With God's Love."*

Vision

FRIENDS OF THE CARPENTER'S FIVE YEAR VISION IS TO BE A RECOGNIZED LEADING RESOURCE IN SUPPORTING:

- PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS, AND/OR LIVING IN POVERTY
- COMMUNITY SERVICE, INCLUDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF JOB/LIFE SKILLS

Much like the lowly place where our Savior was born, so the Friendship Center still attracts Wise Men and shepherds – those who come from comfort and those from the field they slept in – and all see Christ present and join together to worship God. From the onset and ever since, the Mission has always been about simply loving each other as we would want to be loved; to treat each other with respect and as if each person was Christ himself. Jesus said, “As you did it for one of the least of these, you did it for me.” In our serving one another, Christ has revealed Himself in our very midst. We are all blessed to see Christ every day at the Friendship Center.



Executive Director Letter To Our Stakeholders

Dear Friends,

May the Grace and Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ bless each and every one reading this Report!

The year of our Lord 2015 was certainly eventful for our Ministry and our community.

Early in the year, our new next door neighbors, the Lies Brothers, approached us about the deteriorating condition of the access driveway through their property, for which we have an easement. The potholes were a continuing problem that tried the patience and the suspensions of all the drivers coming into the Friendship Center. A short but successful 'capital campaign' generated the funds to cover our half of the expense and towards the end of summer, the driveway was paved with blacktop. Sighs of relief were heard all over Clark County.

We experienced a wonderful increase in youth participation at our Friendship Center this past year. Over the summer, we had more youth mission groups visit than ever before, infusing the Ministry with lots of youthful vitality. In addition, we hosted two cohorts of YouthBuild Vancouver, a new program for at-risk youth that is a cooperative effort of many community partners. We provided a tool safety class as part of their two-week 'boot camp'. A third YouthBuild group will be in our building in early 2016.

In September, we participated once again in the second GiveMore24!, the online donation effort sponsored by the Community Foundation of Southwest Washington. We far surpassed what we raised in 2014, thanks to new and returning donors, along with a matching grant from the Ed and Dollie Lynch family. This past fall also saw the successful completion of our 13th Annual Auction and Dinner – *Dixieland by the Columbia River* – which came off quite smoothly and once again raised a lot of dollars for our program. December marked the 5th Anniversary of our 2nd Chance Thrift Store. 2nd Chance continues to support the Ministry in a significant way, nearing \$500,000 in net proceeds since it opened.

The number of homeless and low-income participants in our program continues to grow. There are many days of the month where we welcome over 100 individuals to our Friendship Center. Last Fall, an impromptu 'tent city' sprang up in the blocks around Share House, eventually growing to over 150 people. The City of Vancouver, Clark County and local advocates and

service providers have been trying to address the situation. The problems are complicated and not amenable to easy solutions.

In the course of the ongoing discussions around this issue, the critical need for additional day services became especially apparent. Friends of the Carpenter offered to provide space in our building to house that new Day Center program. After months of planning and preparation, on December 15th, local service provider Share started operating their Outreach program in a portion of our building that we remodeled to accommodate their needs. There are many community partners involved to keep the operation going and to avoid any duplication of services: Share operates the program and provides the staffing, with funds supplied by the City of Vancouver and Clark County; the Vancouver Housing Authority is funding the rent and utility payments to Friends of the Carpenter. And we're not done. We know how crucial hygiene services are for those on the street, so planning is underway to add a shower and laundry facility to the northwest corner of our building early in 2016. That capital improvement to our building will be funded by a Community Development Block Grant, for which we received assistance from the City with the application and approval process.

We've made a lot of progress, and the Day Center program is connecting with folks in need of the services that are offered. Today, the Day Center is open seven days a week, from 7 am to 5 pm and provides case management, referrals to other providers, mail delivery, cell phone charging and a warm, dry place to rest up from the difficulties of living on the street. Our Friendship Center is open Monday thru Friday from 9 am to 4 pm and we continue to provide safety, welcome, hospitality and a sense of purpose for those wanting to turn their lives around. The two programs complement each other very well and our participants often move between them during the week when we are both open.

We still have much yet to accomplish to provide the full range of necessary services. Please keep this pilot program and all of the planning and construction in your prayers.

God's Providence continues to provide Friends of the Carpenter with grace upon grace of abundant blessings. We still see miracles both great and small every day at our Friendship Center. Thanks to all those who support us with your time, talent and treasure – both the many contributors who have been with us through the years and those who are brand new to our Ministry. Every single one helps us Change Lives with God's Love. And I firmly believe that the best is yet to come!

Tom Iberle, Executive Director

Financial Summary

Friends of the Carpenter generated record high revenues and profits in fiscal year 2015. Total income of \$519,000 was \$84,000 (or 19%) higher than the prior year. Leading the way was a 67% increase in campaign income, which primarily was the result of a generous bequest from the estate of a long time supporter. Also, contributions benefited from publicity and awareness about our plans to add the Day Center for the homeless on our property. Fundraising activities were also positive. Auction results, net of expenses, were up 19 % over last year. Our 2nd Chance Thrift Store income was down slightly from last year but still contributed significantly to FOC results.

Total expenses were 4% lower than last year, despite the higher revenue. There were small decreases in payroll, fundraising and facility costs. An area of increased spending was for Love Gifts, due to the significant increase in the number of participants being served at the Friendship Center.

In summary, significantly higher revenues along with modest expense reductions produced very strong operating income in 2015 compared to an operating loss in the prior year. All of that bodes well for continued momentum into 2016.

Financial Report

		2013	2014	2015	% Change from 2014- 2015
Ordinary Income					
	Thrift Store Income	\$ 166,072	\$ 157,654	\$ 144,878	-9%
	Campaign Income	\$ 146,384	\$ 123,542	\$ 206,483	40%
	Product Income	\$ 18,961	\$ 16,776	\$ 22,025	24%
	Manufacturing Income	\$ 28,028	\$ 16,020	\$ 19,269	17%
	Fundraising	\$ 111,158	\$ 83,525	\$ 88,033	5%
	Special Appeals	\$ 11,505	\$ 18,116	\$ 18,130	0%
	Rental Income	\$ 14,736	\$ 14,769	\$ 18,075	18%
	Other Income	\$ 5,646	\$ 5,152	\$ 2,402	-115%
Total Income		\$ 502,488	\$ 435,555	\$ 519,293	16%
Ordinary Expense					
	Thrift Store Expense	\$ 54,989	\$ 54,529	\$ 58,046	6%
	Duplex	\$ 12,880	\$ 11,241	\$ 11,751	4%
	Payroll Expenses	\$ 222,132	\$ 217,770	\$ 207,985	-5%
	Benevolence	\$ 22,512	\$ 20,027	\$ 25,241	21%
	Administrative	\$ 29,865	\$ 44,245	\$ 42,834	-3%
	Facility	\$ 49,776	\$ 60,979	\$ 51,495	-18%
	Manufacturing Expense	\$ 15,320	\$ 13,210	\$ 13,448	2%
	Program Expense	\$ 7,094	\$ 9,647	\$ 8,218	-17%
	Appeal Expense	\$ 25	\$ 610	\$ 373	-63%
	Fundraising Expense	\$ 43,592	\$ 34,640	\$ 30,901	-12%
Total Expense		\$ 458,185	\$ 466,899	\$ 450,293	-4%
Net Ordinary Income		\$ 44,304	\$ (31,344)	\$ 69,001	145%
Other Income Community Foundation Inc/Loss		\$ 3,008	\$ 1,241	\$ 1,213	-2%
Other Expense Community Foundation Fee's		\$ 302	\$ 325	\$ 2,198	85%
	Net Other Income	\$ 2,706	\$ 915	\$ (984)	193%
Net Income		\$ 47,009	\$ (30,429)	\$ 68,016	145%

Contributions by Churches

Church	Donations 15
Beautiful Savior Lutheran	\$500.00
Bethel Lutheran	\$600.00
Cascades Presbyterian	\$198.00
East Woods Presbyterian	\$800.00
Family of Christ Lutheran	\$300.00
First Congregational Church	\$485.00
First Presbyterian	\$1,500.00
Highland Lutheran Church	\$1,460.00
Mill Plain United Methodist	\$2,053.00
Orchards United Methodist	\$1,300.00
Our Lady of Lourdes Church	\$500.00
Salmon Creek United Methodist	\$6,000.00
St. Andrew Lutheran	\$1,040.00
St. John the Evangelist Catholic	\$1,489.00
St. John's Presbyterian	\$600.00
St. Joseph Roman Catholic	\$4,000.00
St. Paul Lutheran	\$1,000.00
Trinity Lutheran	\$ 830.00

Many Thanks Church Sponsors

Beautiful Savior Lutheran	St. Andrew Lutheran	Good Shepherd Lutheran
Bethel Lutheran	Grace Lutheran	Life Journey Lutheran
Calvary Mennonite, Alabama	Highland Lutheran	Grace and Truth Community
Cascades Presbyterian Church	St. John's Presbyterian	Mill Plain United Methodist
East Woods Presbyterian	St. Joseph Catholic	Orchards United Methodist
Faith Foursquare	St. Paul Lutheran	St. John the Evangelist Catholic
Family of Christ Lutheran	Trinity Lutheran	Salmon Creek United Methodist
First Presbyterian	Zion Lutheran, Camas	

Woodworking Products and Special Projects

On any typical day at the 18,000 square foot Friendship Center, there are dozens of people working and visiting together. All the volunteers and homeless people are all just friends for the day. That is really the point of the place. "Woodworking is just the by product," Duane Sich, said of the small and large wood products – crucifixes and fish symbols, picture frames and furniture – the place turns out to help sustain itself. "It's not about the wood and it's not about the working."

Show and Tell

These monthly gatherings of woodworkers are held every fourth Saturday. New members are always welcome.

Product

Product Sales: Major Product Sales with approximate revenue of \$20,000. (In house and Outside sales leads included several Church Sponsor's held outside display and sales events at their facilities, school bazaars, First Friday coop events, consignment opportunities and online exposure.

There was a major move to our new product room and inventory area and reorganization to fit the space. The Product Room is in full use and has product display boards to promote the Friendship Center sale of scroll saw products supplied by our 6 PIC (Partner's In Careers Program) employees.

Special Projects: In addition to our many catalog items, Friends of the Carpenter takes orders for special projects, including:

- Bunk beds
- Music Stands
- Urn carrier
- Planter boxes
- Devotional furniture: crosses, pedestals, altars, bible stands, etc.
- Tables
- Chairs

A suggested donation amount is available based on the project.

There were 74 Special projects with \$16,434.68 in Special Projects income for 2015.

All of our projects to be completed here at FOC come with a story. The seven cedar chests recently presented to Dave and Jessica Kelly illustrate that statement so vividly.



from left to right Doug Corso, Jessica Kelly, Dave Kelly

Two years ago an elder in the Kelly family passed away and one of his final requests was to have chests built from the wood felled of the cedar grove that his grandchildren played in located on "Gramps" property when they were young.



FOC accepted the job and stickered the beautiful cedar for almost two years to bring down the moisture levels so that the wood could be cut and shaped by Doug, our volunteer carpenter and master craftsman. The dedication plaques on the inside were wood burned by a skilled participant. The large "K" representing the family name came from the scroll saw unit and the finish was applied by Ken, our volunteer sprayer. Craig and Wade monitored the project all the way through and Mike, one of our special needs volunteers, was ever present by Doug's side as his "apprentice." It was a grace filled moment at the presentation. As a side note, while building the chests, Doug discovered he had known the family all along. Miracles do happen here every day.

Fine Woodworking Projects



Cremation Urn Vaults

Auction Items



SW Washington Wood Turners

Meet fourth Wednesday in the Friendship Center Warehouse. A special note of appreciation should be given here to the SW WA Wood Turners for their contribution of beautiful items donated that increased the appeal of the mystery boxes and other items sold at the auction.



2nd Chance Thrift Store

Report to the Community

This past December 8th marked the Five Year Anniversary of our 2nd Chance Thrift Store operation. What an amazing and grace-filled 5 years it has been! The store, located on St. Johns Boulevard between 52nd and 53rd Streets, has become an integral and greatly appreciated part of Friends of the Carpenter's Ministry. Four Thrift Store Angels – Arlas Nemnich, Kristen Carr, Wendy Loyd and Carla Lehto – were inspired to bring the proposal for the store to the FOC Board of Directors in the middle of 2010. Completely staffed by volunteers, 2nd Chance has been a practical and financial success. Fully 1/3 of our income is now generated by the store. In fact, those 2nd Chance volunteers are very close to reaching an important and wonderful milestone – sometime in the next few months, the total net proceeds since its start will reach the \$500,000 mark. What a tremendous accomplishment!!

We are so deeply grateful to a sizable and growing group of supporters – to John Nemnich, for coming up with the idea for the store, and all of his work in support of 2nd Chance over the years; to the dozens of volunteer staff who have provided tens of thousands of hours of devoted service to keep the doors of the store open; to the donors who have generously provided the attractively displayed merchandise that we are able to offer the public at reasonable prices; to the shoppers who patronize our store and have grown to become part of the Friends of the Carpenter family; and also to our landlords and friends at Concerto Square Properties who have worked with us over the past five years to provide the retail space in a fair and responsible way.

Everyone from Friends of the Carpenter – Board, Staff, Volunteers and all those with whom we serve – are deeply grateful and appreciative of the gifts of time, talent and treasure that our 2nd Chance Thrift Store Angels provide to us. They are critical in helping us accomplish our Mission of Changing Lives with Love. We would have a tremendously difficult time keeping our program going without the Store – if we were able to do it at all. We continue to give Thanks to God for each and every Volunteer, Donor and Shopper at 2nd Chance. *We Thank all of you from the bottom of our hearts.*

Store Report

The Mission of 2nd Chance Thrift Store is to sell gently used items that will appeal to those on a tight budget, those who are naturally frugal and enjoy hunting for bargains, and those who enjoy the unusual items that thrift stores offer. All proceeds go to the Ministry of Friends of the Carpenter.

In March 2015, after four and a half years, volunteer John Nemnich retired from furniture pick-ups. He did the scheduling, screening, pick up and delivery of furniture for the Store twice a week. Since then, the furniture selection at the store has declined. This is an area that needs improvement in the future.

Two of our founders retired this year, Wendy Loyd in September and Kristen Carr in October. We give Thanks for the time and talent they provided to the Store. However, they left a huge hole in the clothing process, which was their specialty! Between the two of them, they spent close to 32 hours a week sorting, pricing, and putting out clothing. This was in addition to their other duties.

Furniture and clothing have historically been our two biggest revenue sources. Both have declined significantly, resulting in decreased income over the past year.

Recent donations of unique bookshelves and other furniture have provided us with new display space. We continue to keep store expenses down and operate in a frugal manner, so that we can provide the maximum amount possible to Friends of the Carpenter's ministry. It is also important for us to be good stewards of all donations that we are given.

Our volunteers remain a great asset. Some have been with us since our opening day of December 8, 2010. They have committed to a four-hour shift on the same day, week in and week out, over the past five years. This has greatly contributed to the success of the store.

Hi School Pharmacy and Hardware has returned to the neighborhood, which greatly increased traffic in the area. We have noticed a substantial increase in customers at the store.

We prefer donations at the store on Monday, Wednesday and Friday because we have a larger staff on those days. However, we do not refuse donations on other days. Donations need to be clean, in working condition, and meet safety standards.

Founder Arlas Nemnich has decided to cut back on her responsibilities after five years of dedicated service to the Store. Towards the end of 2015, the Board and Staff of Friends of the Carpenter devised a transition process with Arlas for the next stage of development for 2nd Chance Thrift Store. The result of that is the hiring of a part-time Store Manager, Jim Guitierrez, who starts in that position on February 1, 2016.

We remain confident that the Store will continue to operate efficiently and be a crucial revenue source for Friends of the Carpenter. All are invited to come by and visit us soon.

2nd Chance Thrift Store
3414 NE 52nd Street
Vancouver, WA 98661
Tel 360-750-3762

www.2ndchancethriftstore.org

www.facebook.com/friendsofthecarpenter2ndchancethriftstore

Hours: 10 am – 5 pm Monday – Friday
10 am – 2 pm Saturday



Logo:

Promotions and Fundraising

Give More 24

Friends of the Carpenter was one of 110 non-profits that participated in the second ever Give More 24! day of online giving created by the Community Foundation of Southwest Washington that was held on 9/24/2015. Give More 24! was a 24-hour, online giving challenge that urged everyone who cares about southwest Washington to take action by giving what they could, wherever they were, at the same time. The Community Foundation for Southwest Washington launched the event with hopes of growing philanthropy across the region.

Their goal was to inspire the entire community to come together around exciting and accessible giving. Together, by contributing as many charitable dollars as possible, we create an enormous impact that supports hundreds of local nonprofits.

We received a total of 30 gifts that day and once the \$5,000 matching funds Ed Lynch came in, we raised \$12,485.01 in the effort. We look forward to participating once again in 2016. Note: FOC's participation in GM24 in 2015 saw the total number of gifts double, plus the total amount raised was an increase of 86%, in part due to a match donation of \$5,000

13th Annual Auction and Dinner

As FOC continues to work with so many in our community who struggle with needs that are both material and spiritual, the 2015 theme was 'Dixieland by the Columbia River.' A total of 275 guests attended this year's Auction & Dinner at the Hilton Vancouver.

The evening opened with complimentary champagne, sparkling cider, and hors d'oeuvres. Master of Ceremonies for the evening was Tim Gordon of News Channel 8. Brad Caldwell, from Stokes Auction Group, was the



Friends of the Carpenter Annual Auction & Dinner
Saturday, October 17, 2015
"But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness
like a never-failing stream!" Amos 5:24

Featuring Vancouver Volcanic Dixieland Band!
Saturday, October 17 • 5:30 to 10:00 p.m. at Hilton Vancouver
Auction features dinner, plus silent and live auctions!
\$75 per person • Table of 10 for \$650
Buy on-line: friendsofthecarpenter.org or call 360-750-4752

auctioneer. In addition to both silent and live auctions, guests had a chance to participate in playing a card game for a chance to win a topaz ring from Ben Bridge jewelers. The Vancouver Volcanic Dixieland Band played in the ballroom. In the process, we did raise over \$65,000 to support our Mission as well. Special thanks to our 2015 major sponsors: Trinity Lutheran Foundation, Gary Ervin, an

Anonymous donor, JoMarie & Steve Hansen of Basel Cellars, and the Friends of the Carpenter Board of Directors.

We are well under way in planning for this year's 14th Annual Auction & Dinner on Saturday, October 22nd, 2016.

Special Appeals

This year we sent out one special appeal to our donors at Holiday time in December. However, the Holiday Appeal had a great response, exceeding expectations by bringing in over \$5,000. We plan on continuing that positive trend into 2016.

Beaches Cashback Day

Beaches Cashback Day for FOC on February 17, 2015: \$1,183 raised
FOC was a recipient of a Beaches Cashback Day on February 17; guests who alerted their server that they were there to support FOC ensured that 50% of their bill was donated to FOC.

Communications, Online Donation and Social Media

Advertising

The Columbian: Giving Guide Ad, 2.5x2.5" full color, Christian News Northwest: 2 x 4" black & white

News Releases

FOC continues to distribute news releases via FlashNews, an on-line news wire service which distributes news releases to newsrooms in the greater Vancouver/Portland area (including newspapers, television and radio); the annual cost of the service is donated by Craig Walker, owner of FlashNews.

9 News releases distributed via FlashNews:

- Friends of the Carpenter to Host Annual Meeting on Feb. 9
- Beaches Restaurant to Host Cashback Day for Friends of the Carpenter on Feb. 17
- Friends of the Carpenter's Tool & Product Sale On May 1 & 2
- Friends of the Carpenter to Host a 'Together We Prepare' Class on May 21
- 'Dixieland on the Columbia River' at the Friends of the Carpenter Annual Auction on Oct. 17
- Tickets Still Available for 'Dixieland on the Columbia River' at the Friends of the Carpenter Annual Auction on Oct. 17
- Dec. 4 and 5 Art Exhibition and 'Towels & Toys' Gift Roundup to Benefit Friends of the Carpenter and Open House Ministries
- Friends of the Carpenter to Participate in Mural Painting at Open House Ministries on Sept. 24, Part of Give More 24!
- Friends of the Carpenter to Host Open House for New Day Center & Product Sale on Dec. 11

Local Media Coverage

14 news article in the local media (note: this is a 28% increase versus 2014):

The Columbian:

- Friends of the Carpenter to meet (Feb. 6)
- Homeless people break camp as city enforces ordinance; Tent city dissipates as city, volunteers attempt to help most vulnerable (Nov. 2)
- Groups rally for day center for the homeless; Friends of the Carpenter teams with area governments, neighborhood groups, businesses (Nov. 25)
- Save the Date: Friends of the Carpenter's annual dinner and auction Oct. 17 (Jul.. 27)
- Homeless day center sets open house (Dec. 7)
- Vancouver's homeless population shifts; Camp near Share House disbanded; many find shelter, but hundreds still in need (Dec. 9)
- Day center opens to homeless in Fruit Valley (Dec. 15)

Daily Insider:

- Beaches hosts Cash Back Day for Friends of the Carpenter Feb. 17 (Feb. 9)
- Save the Date: Friends of the Carpenter's annual dinner and auction Oct. 17 (Sept. 18)
- "Christmas with Jim Fischer & Friends" annual concert Dec. 5 (Dec. 1)
- Art exhibition and "Towels & Toys" gift round up for Friends of the Carpenter Dec. 4 and 5 (Dec. 2)
- Friends of the Carpenter hosts open house and product sale Dec. 11 (Dec. 9)

KPTV Channel 12

- New day center for the homeless opens in Vancouver (Dec. 11)

Vancouver Business Journal:

- Tenants concerned about homeless activity (Nov. 6)

Major Publications/Printing Projects

12 issues of 'The Carpenter's Toolbox'

- **2015 Annual Auction:** 'Dixieland by the Columbia River' logo created Save the Date postcard created, printed and mailed
- **2015 Holiday Appeal Letter:** Assisted Tom with letter text Created letterhead with FOC logo, photo and holiday-inspired quote
- **2014 Annual Report/One Page:** Created a one-page annual report with income/expense graphs, as well as a recap of programs
- **CCHD (Catholic Campaign for Human Development Collection.** The Community Awareness Reaching Empowerment (CARE) Community is a recipient of a grant from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) in the Archdiocese of Seattle. CCHD addresses the root causes of poverty in the US

through promotion and support of community controlled self-help organizations and through transformative education in parishes and schools. Kaley Huber's (a member of CARE) story was featured on the September 13, 2015 newsletter. Kaley related how her life has changed over the last couple of years and mentions the role of Friends of the Carpenter in those positive changes. The newsletter was distributed to 183 churches from Orcas Island, Packwood to Stevenson.

Web Site

www.friendsofthecarpenter.org, the FOC website is up-to-date, can be updated without special tools or training, displays on mobile phones, and presents a professional appearance to potential donors. -Home page slider graphic created for the FOC web site

Site maintenance and updates will continue to be completed by Michelle Rouse, Administrative Manager, and Jessica Lightheart (contract employee providing services related to Marketing and Advertising) and in-line with FOC's Style Guide.

www.2ndchancethriftstore.org, the 2nd Chance Thrift Store web Site

Newsletter

Our Carpenter's Toolbox, Friends of the Carpenter's newsletter, is mailed monthly to over 3700 people. The online version of the Carpenter's Toolbox is emailed to approximately 1,400 additional supporters every month.

Product of the Month

Products of the Month

Believe it or not, Christmas is just around the corner. Pre-order from our **new collection of 2015 Christmas Ornaments** – perfect stocking stuffers, teachers gifts and more! Visit the Friendship Center to view the entire collection.



2015 Christmas Ornaments
Prices range from \$5 to \$25
Must be pre-ordered; delivery by December 1

Pre-order on-line today:
friendsofthecarpenter.org
Or visit our store at: 1600 W. 20th Street
Handmade in Vancouver, Wash.

Product of the Month is an ad featuring different products every month in the Carpenter's Toolbox.

Online Donations and Purchases

Online donations increasing in 2015, an average of \$2025.41 per month. Secured site through MinistryLinq/DonateQ.

Social Media

Friends of the Carpenter Facebook and Twitter followers are increasing. We are getting as many as 32 Facebook views per day. We have 560 Facebook fans (as of 01-31-16); this is a 21% increase in fans in the past year Largest Demographic: Females, 66%; 19% of those females are ages 45-54. -'Info snap' graphics created and posted on Facebook throughout the year.

Amazon Smile

Amazon.com provides shoppers the opportunity to donate to their favorite charity by clicking on Amazon Smile and selecting Friends of the Carpenter.

Fred Meyer Rewards

Friends of the Carpenter supporters can contact Fred Meyer Rewards and have their rewards benefit FOC.

Christian Chamber of Commerce Northwest

Friends of the Carpenter has a Web page on www.ChristianChamberNorthWest.com. This organization connects and engages Christians in business to steward and prosper their organizations.

Facility and Operations

Maintenance

Warehouse and Grounds

In addition to the access driveway paving project, the entry into our parking lot was paved as well.

With assistance from the City of Vancouver, our roof was patched in several places to address the leaks that developed over the years.

Remodel

- To make the space available for the new Day Center program, a new Product Room and Inventory Room were both constructed in 2015.
- Additional improvements to the Day Center area included upgrading the heating, plumbing, wiring and internet services in that part of the building. Port-a-potties are temporarily in place for the clients of the Day Center as of 12/14/2015. Plans are in place to add Bathroom, Shower and Laundry facilities early in 2016.
- New Room @ Share Day Center has been turned over and is being used as of 12/15/2015



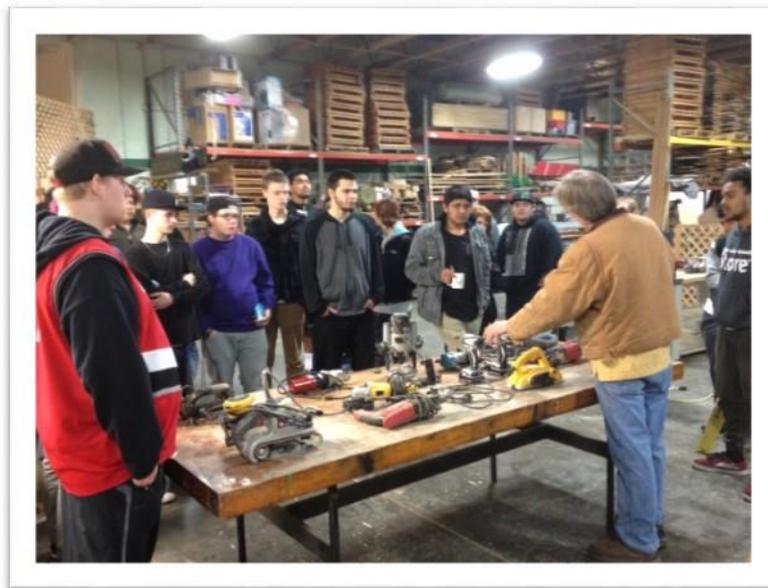
Interagency Relationships

Partners in Careers

The Partners In Careers program provided us with 21 Employees in 2014. We had an average of 5 PIC employees per month. They worked in the Center as Office Assistants, Hospitality Hosts, Kitchen Assistants, Activity Center Assistants, Inventory Development, Photographers, Scroll Saw Workers, Lathe Workers, and Warehouse Assistants. They worked a total of 4,510 hours.

Youth Build Program

Monday, February 9th was another special day at the Friendship Center. There is an innovative new program in Vancouver called YouthBuild that is a consortium of many local organizations that includes Habitat for Humanity, Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council, Vancouver Housing Authority, and WorkSource along with our longtime collaborator Partners in Careers as the lead. YouthBuild is a national program whose goal is to make it possible for youth aged 16 to 24 to complete their GED and learn construction skills that will lead to employment in a building trade at the end of their two years. We were very blessed to host two groups of young men and women and their counselors at our shop during the year for a Tool Safety Orientation, put on by our Facilities Manager Craig Cluff and our Activity Coordinator CJ Haney. That class was one small part of their two weeks of 'boot camp' training. They are now invited back to use our Shop as their practice lab so that they can get more proficient on the various tools they will be using on their worksite, where they will be building a house in partnership with Habitat for Humanity. We wish them all many blessings and much success over the next two years!!



Craig Cluff, Warehouse Manager teaching on tools at "boot camp".

Employment Assistance and Special Needs Agencies

Several Employment Assistance agencies have used the activities at the center to evaluate job skills and assist their clients in learning new life and job skills. We have more volunteers with special needs and their caregivers coming to the center on a regular basis. The Agencies visiting the center are: Goldman & Associates, Keys to Advancement, SL Start, Innovative Services, Val Ogden Center, and Employers Overload.

GATE Program

The Gateway to Adult Transition Education (GATE) program in Vancouver School District, has unlocked doors for those 18- to 21-year-olds with developmental disabilities. GATE teaches skills for everyday living and skills to be productive in the work place. GATE students can have the opportunity to experience on-the-job training at many local organizations and businesses. GATE staff often will accompany students to job sites to assist with job related training.

LINKS

This wonderfully community-minded partner regularly brings donations of mostly food from their stops at various vendors around Vancouver. Three times a week they stop by with delicious additions to the hospitality we offer at the Friendship Center. Many Thanks to George Golden and his crew of volunteers!

FISH

Longtime partner and collaborator of Friends of the Carpenter, Friends In Service to Humanity (FISH – the Westside Food Pantry of Vancouver) experienced some major transition in their organization in 2015 as well. For many years, FISH utilized space at the Center and in the containers on the yard for storage, since their pantry operation at St. Paul Lutheran was not big enough for both distribution and storage. They would transport food between the two locations in vans that they shared in ownership with Friends of the Carpenter. Blessedly, in 2014 they obtained funding to purchase their own well-located building on Harney St. They relocated in the middle part of 2015. We wish them well in their new home!

Vancouver Community Concert Band

The Vancouver Community Concert Band continues to practice at the Center every Tuesday night.

Fort Vancouver Pipe Band

The Vancouver Pipe Band practices every Thursday night at the Friendship Center.

Ministry Relationships

One (I) Day

Friends of the Carpenter is partnering with the community by strategically praying for Clark County 24/7. We are taking the third Thursday of the month and scheduling people to pray each hour from midnight to midnight. Suggested prayers are provided every month.

Point Man Ministries

This is a Veterans' Support group that meets every Tuesday at 1:00 pm for a prayer meeting and Bible Study.

The Veterans Victory Chapel met at the Friendship Center on Sunday afternoons from January through June.

WAPI

A Water Pasteurization Indicator (WAPI) is a simple inexpensive water temperature indicator and disease prevention device. The most advanced manufacturing protocol is being use by the WAPI assembly team here every Monday and Wednesday at the Friends of the Carpenter warehouse. Impoverished families (earning from \$1-\$2 per day) world-wide cannot afford medical help. With a Water Pasteurization Indicator, or WAPI, they can prevent water-borne diseases. Fewer children will die. You can help people stay healthy with this very simple measuring device. They have been sent all over the world – Nairobi, Kenya, Africa, India, Himalayas, Peru, Philippines, Haiti, Myanmar, Mexica, Indonesia, Ethiopia and Sudan.

Back Yard Ministries

Youth Mission came to serve in July. The Missionaries helped with the Hugs party and throughout the Activity Center.

LAST – Learning and Serving Together (Methodist Youth Ministry)

Many groups of youth from the Methodist Youth Ministry, LAST came to serve in the Activity Center during the summer.

Ignite the World Ministries

Our pocket crosses are distributed all over the world through this ministry ran by Mike Maksimowicz.

Hands of Favor

We have been greatly Blessed by our Ministry partner, Hands of Favor. Their Mission is 'to provide free hair salon services on location throughout the area of Clark County, Washington and Multnomah and Washington Counties, Oregon, serving those in need who have fallen on hard times.' They joined us on a monthly basis in 2015. It's a truly miraculous addition to our program. Thank you to Derek and Regina Thompson and all of their volunteers for partnering with us and expanding upon God's Grace in such a meaningful way.

Participants

Care Committee

The C.A.R.E. (Community Awareness Reaching Empowerment) consists of Participants and Volunteers, along with a few Board and Staff members. The Committees decisions are solely made by the participants and volunteers on the committee. The staff members are only there to answer questions and provide insight to policies. You could say of the people, by the people, for the people. Each year, the Committee applies for and receives a grant from the Archdiocese of Seattle's Catholic Campaign for Human Development which helps provide the \$15 Love Gifts at the Wednesday afternoon activity and the outside Field Trips we take every other month.

2015 was an eventful and exciting year for the Committee and the participants of Friends of the Carpenter. We ventured out on several field trips to places such as the Oregon Zoo, Bonneville Dam, and movies such as "War Room". On June 16th, 13 people went on a road trip to Seaside, OR for the sandcastle competition. It was an opportunity for all of us to forge friendships in faith.

In recent months, we have teamed up with CJ in the activity center to provide some fun and entertaining inside adventures. Then participants enjoyed our first ever Harvest Party in October, complete with piñatas. In June, about 600 balloons were filled for a water Balloon Battle with the winner not only receiving a gift card, but the opportunity to pour a storage bucket full of water over FOC Director Tom's head. He happily volunteered. In July CARE sponsored an End of Summer Car Wash that raised \$81.00. CARE is planning some exciting events for our friends in 2016.

Community Service

A total of 51 people came to Friends of the Carpenter to work on their court ordered community service hours. By the end of the year, 30 of those individuals had successfully completed their hours.

Ministry

FOC has devotions every morning at 9:30 am and a weekly discipleship training class. In addition, we have other ongoing ministry opportunities throughout the day. In 2015, we had 17 faith commitments, three marriages and many rededications. Andre' Provost taught the 55 lessons of "The Purple Book" Biblical foundation course. Even with faith commitments, rededications, and daily Bible studies; many are still struggling. For them, following Christ means finding ways to stay clean while surrounded by alcoholics and meth users. Relapsing and then, returning to sobriety over and over again is common. Please pray that in 2016 there will be a stronger demonstration of the Holy Spirit's power in their lives. Pray for a spiritual awakening among the body of Christ in Vancouver Washington.

Daniel Plan

This six week course regarding 40 Days to a Healthier Life was offered at the Friendship Center in April. The Daniel Plan is centered on five essentials that transform your success: Faith, food, fitness, focus, and friends.

Disaster Preparedness

The presentation, Together We Prepare, was approximately an hour in length and presented by the Red Cross in May. The class covered ways to increase are preparedness and safety level, as well as the levels of our family, our workplace, and our community.

Memorial Service for the Homeless

On Wednesday, May 27th a memorial Service for those who are homeless and died in the past year was held at St. Paul Lutheran Church and coordinated by Friends of the Carpenter.

Love Gifts and Benevolence

For many years, we have held regular Wednesday afternoon events where "Love Gifts" are offered to anyone participating in that week's activities. A Love Gift is a grocery store gift card, a bus pass or a voucher for gasoline, all valued at about \$5. In 2015, those Love Gifts totaled over \$15,168.50, an average of more than 58 per week. Also 50 Love Coupons for the Thrift Store were gifted in 2015 and valued at \$260.

In addition, special benevolence assistance can be provided as the need arises, such as emergency lodging, rent and utility assistance, car repair or help with employment needs. In 2015, 72 people were assisted through this program.

Utility	13
Rent	5
Bus or Train tickets	12
Fees & Classes	5
Medicine	1
Storage fees	3
Motel rooms	13
ID Fees	4
Vehicle Repairs & Fees	9
Misc	7

These Love Gifts and Benevolences make up a small portion of our annual budget, but the difference they can make in someone's life often goes far beyond the dollar value. The primary Mission of our Ministry continues to be Changing Lives with Love by building friendships and making connections that can last a lifetime.

HUGS

On January 15th and July 15th we had H.U.G.S. parties with over 250 participants attending. At our HUGS parties we give **H**ats, **U**nderwear, **G**loves, and **S**ocks and personal hygiene items to those in need.

"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." CJ Haney

Church Beyond Walls

"My name is Kaley Huber. I was born and raised in Vancouver, WA and went to the same high school as my dad, Hudson's Bay. At 16 years old, while a junior in high school, I fell in love and became pregnant. Together, my boyfriend and I decided to have this child and become emancipated. So, that summer, I gave birth to a baby boy! With my son in the school day care, in September I went back to school to finish my senior year, but failed after three months. Four years later, we had a second child, a baby girl and got married the following year.



Nine years into our marriage, I realized that, even though I loved my husband, our lives had grown apart. I asked him for a divorce, which was finalized in 2007. Believing that it was important to keep my kids in school, I worked very hard to make it happen.

While working as an auto parts warehouse driver for a major parts store in Vancouver in 2011, I became injured on the job. My ankle did not respond to therapy and I had to undergo surgery. This led to a permanent lay off from my job! With the loss of income, came a loss of my home. While my children had now grown to 15 and 18 years of age, we became homeless. My son moved to California to live with his dad. My emotions took off like a roller coaster! Where I should have remained strong for my teen daughter and myself, I did not. I turned to drugs and became a couch surfer.

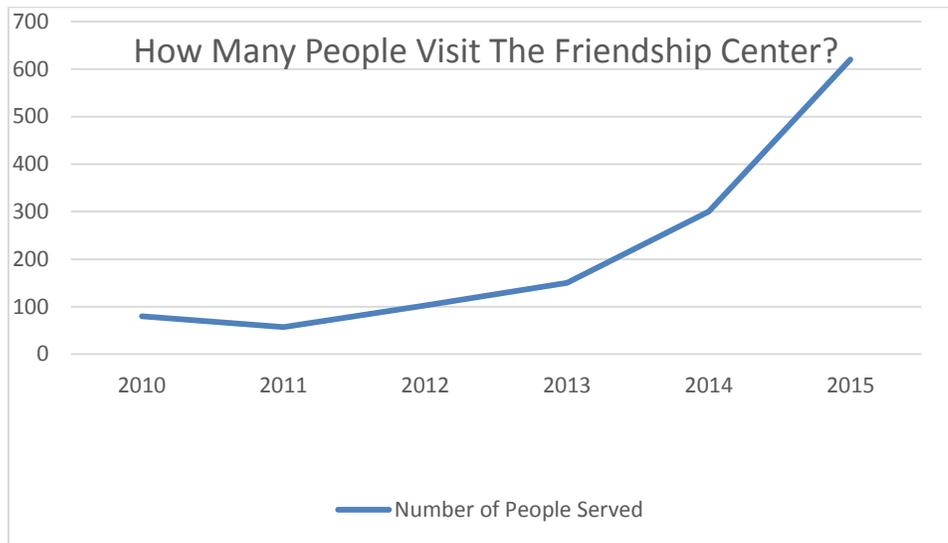
Soon, I was addicted to meth! Every relationship I attempted to get into failed miserably. Finally in January of 2014, my daughter left to join her brother with my ex in California. She was everything to me, but my choice to do drugs has taken away my ability to care for her and provide her with a safe home. My addiction led me to jail for the first time ever in September. Twenty one days in jail for drugs and I knew I'd hit bottom. My life had to change. I had to get clean, get my family's love and respect back. I had to get Kaley back.

On my release, being clear minded and ready to change, I heard of a day shelter called "Friends of the Carpenter. (FOC)" Since I was still homeless, I chose to go and check it out. It was what I had hoped for, a place to go through the day that would keep me out of the streets and off drugs. It also allowed me to work on my community service hours to work off my court fines. In December, with the help of my new sober group of friends, I decided to get baptized at FOC by Andre Provost!

Andre was starting to pull together a few FOC members for Bible studies. My baptism was my way of recognizing my willingness to stay clean, follow God and for the first time in my life, I even opened a Bible. I promised myself and God, whom I had always believed in and prayed to, that I would learn the Word for myself and my family through my path back to them. I was hoping that God would help me find myself, my life and my heart again. Now three months after being baptized, I'm still clean, living in a shelter, attending a discipleship class at FOC and am a member of Living Hope Church and focusing on my life and my health."

Thank you for your prayers and support which makes this possible.

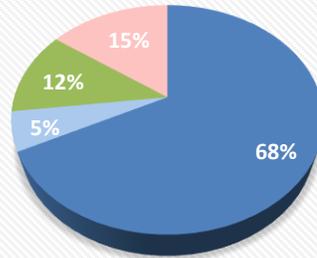
Ministry Growth



Our program has continued to be successful and we continue to accomplish our Mission, as demonstrated by the dramatic rise in the number of homeless and low-income participants over the past three years. We have also seen the diversity in who we are serving continue to grow. For example:

- In 2013, we saw a modest increase to an average of **150 visits per month** in people served by our Ministry, compared to a range of 57 to 103 per month the previous three years. A major part of this increase was due to a significant number of clients with special needs who visited with their job coach or caregiver.
- In 2014, our low-income participant count alone rose to an average of **225 visits per month** and the sum of all populations combined to a total of **300 per month**. A similar increase in the range of services needed by those populations has resulted as well.
- Our numbers in 2015 have continued that accelerated upward pattern. In fact, our average monthly total in people served ballooned to **620 per month** for the year. From 2013 to 2014, our numbers doubled – a significant increase that often stressed our volunteers and staff. This past year, we saw our numbers double ***again*** - a phenomenal increase by any measure one could imagine. With the opening of the new Share Day Center program, we fully expect our numbers to increase again.

Who do we welcome to the Friendship Center?



• ■ Participants ■ Community Service ■ Partner in Careers ■ Special Needs

- In so many ways, we are blessedly bursting at the seams. Our effort to provide Safety and a Sense of Purpose is connecting with a substantial and growing group of people in need of those crucial services in our community. Over and over, we hear testimony from participants that Friends of the Carpenter is a lifeline and a source of hope for many who otherwise would have little or no reason to keep trying to improve their lives. It's both humbling and incredibly challenging. All of that brings with it added strain on and opportunities for our Board, our Staff and our base of volunteers. We have added one more staff person in our Activity Area in response to the increased growth. Yet more support and planning is critically needed for both the short- and long-term stability of our Ministry.

2015 Volunteer and Outreach Report

There have been many “Grace Connections” in the Volunteer and Community Outreach arenas.

- There is a saying that it would be good “to grow your own.” FOC has participated in a number of activities directed towards Youth. We have had had pre-school age to high school students paint bird house garden stakes (made by our participants) and “punch out” pocket crosses during the spring and summer months in partnership with the Vancouver Mall. One child was very eager to make her pocket cross so she “could be close to Jesus.” In December, the Uptown Village association invited our FOC volunteers to assist children in making wooden and cloth toys. The expectation was for about 50 children. The volunteers assisted over 300 children in making toys. The supplies were provided by Home Depot.
- In October, the Key Service Club from Skyview High School volunteered for the second time at our annual auction and dinner. Some of the students had not heard of Friends of the Carpenter. This was a wonderful opportunity to introduce the students to the Mission and Vision of Friends of the Carpenter.
- The Activity Center hosted a record number of Youth groups from “Backyard Ministries” and for the first time, Methodist youth groups from: Corvallis, Eugene, Madras, and Hood River, all in Oregon; Cheyenne, Wyoming; Ogden, Utah and Audubon Park, Spokane, Seattle and Tacoma, Washington. The youth provided a “Joy effect” for FOC. The Youth enjoyed themselves so much, many will probably return this summer.
- Friends of the Carpenter has increased visibility by the distribution of what is our signature devotional piece pocket crosses. On the local front, many organizations distribute them, including local churches gluing the pocket crosses on their business cards. Individuals also give pocket crosses to all with whom they come in contact. Some individuals have even taken packets of crosses on their vacations to Idaho and Minnesota. Also, pocket crosses are given away whenever we are selling products or participating in community events. On the regional and national level, Knights of Columbus San Juan Diego Council 5729 (Portland) has had a youth group place pocket crosses in 5,000 food boxes at a day shelter in Portland. Also, the Knights of Columbus sent 2,000 crosses to Father Pat Conroy S.J., Chaplain for the House of Representatives in Washington, DC. Fr. Conroy has met the Dalai Lama and Pope Francis on their visits to our Nation’s Capital. It is speculated that Fr. Conroy may have given our “signature pocket crosses” to these two world leaders.
- Mike Maksimowicz, FOC devotion leader and “Ignite The World Ministries Director” has distributed hundreds of crosses to the citizens of the Philippines, Myanmar, Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, Thailand and Bhutan. Mike reports the crosses are in high demand and has sent pictures of new Christians all over the world holding the crosses proudly.

- There has been a heightened awareness of the value of the Water Pasteurization Indicator (WAPI). This is simple low-cost device containing a special soy wax that helps users determine when water has reached pasteurization temperatures. In 2015, WAPIs have been sent to 25 international countries. This year, orders have been sent to Cuba, Myanmar, Paraguay and Guatemala. Vancouver's First Presbyterian Church Group connected with a United College Group in Guatemala to distribute the 200 WAPIs. One of the college students, had been trained by the local WAPI group and is now the liaison between the government and international entities entering Guatemala. A core group of Young Adults from LDS Church have faithfully been coming on Wednesday afternoons. In fact, the interest in making WAPIs has been elevated that there is hardly any room at the table to do their work on Wednesdays.
- Volunteers are the heart and soul of many organizations. Retention of volunteers is also very important. This is especially true of the volunteers at FOC. There were two high visibility events to recognize our volunteers. First was the Volunteer Recognition Event "Shine like the Stars" on April 16, 2015. Our star presenter was Craig Cluff who gave a personal testimony on his horrific car accident and the role God has played in his life. Bob Tait, David Cambrey, Barbarita Gately and Kate McCarthy were honored with "star awards" for their work with the WAPI project. An article and picture of the group was noted in the Columbian. Secondly, the volunteers from the 2nd Chance Thrift Store were honored and treated to appetizers, drinks and barbecue dinner at the beautifully decorated Lynch home in December. The Woodwinds Anonymous music group serenaded the crowd with Christmas Carols. The volunteers were presented with unique, handmade pens crafted by our wood turner volunteers. Everyone shared that they had "Snow Much Fun."
- Our daily devotions have been enriched by 10 new devotion leaders, who have become regulars or substitutes.
- Friends of the Carpenter influences many communities from birth to death. Many people come in to buy gifts for baptisms, confirmations, weddings and memorial services from the Product Room and our Annual Auction. One representative from Peace Health Southwest Medical Center bought a cross with a dove to welcome the new incoming CEO of their organization. The logo for Peace Health has similar elements as FOC's logo. FOC also had a Memorial Service for the Homeless on Monday, December 21st, 2015 in partnership with St. Paul Lutheran Church.

Board Members

President – Brent Stahl

Vice President – Bob Housley

Treasurer – Phil Sherman

Secretary – Sandy Mathis

Members - Bill Parsons, Bob McKusick, Frank Stowe (Thrift Store Liaison) , Charles Mackey, Grover Icenogle

Changes since 2014 include the resignation of Pastor Kit Neeley and Shirley Knight. Grover Icenogle was elected onto the board.

Regular meetings of the Board of Directors occur bimonthly in February, April, June, August, October and December. The annual meeting is held in conjunction with the regular February meeting,

Friends of the Carpenter Staff

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retired November 2015

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Tag Line: *Changing Lives with Love!*

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