

FRIENDS of the CARPENTER
 August
 Changing lives with love
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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



Changing Lives with Love

The Carpenter's Tool Box

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Ministry in Our Own Backyard By Tom Iberle

"If I ever go looking for my heart's desire again, I won't look any further than my own backyard. Because if it isn't there, I never really lost it to begin with."
 L. Frank Baum, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*

There is an ebb and flow to most organizations, and that is true of our Ministry at Friends of the Carpenter. Things at the Center change from day to day, from week to week, and more dramatically, from season to season. Summer brings a number of Youth Group Mission teams. They visit the Friendship Center as part of their exploration of what it means to live out their Gospel call. They come from all over the West – Idaho, Utah, Wyoming, Oregon, eastern Washington, and our own Vancouver/Portland metro area. We get so much out of their participation – lots of extra hands and strong backs to help with our activities and special projects. We also make use of all that youthful vitality and enthusiasm to spiff up the grounds and the building too. The regulars are energized by their presence. The atmosphere in the building is always more positive and upbeat by the time they depart at the end of the week.

One of the Mission Groups is called Backyard Ministry, because all of the youth

come from Roman Catholic parishes right here in Clark County and serve for the week at different places in their own 'Backyard'. We have been blessed by a team from that Ministry for several years.

Backyard Ministry was held this year from July 20th through 24th, and things seemed to click especially well this time around. I'm not sure if that was due to the five youth who made up the team, or their chap-erone, or the activities CJ had lined up for them, or the participants and volunteers with whom they interacted – most likely, it was a combination of those factors. I do know that I witnessed an extraordinary amount of God's Grace overflowing into our program because of their presence.

Just a couple of examples: On Wednesday, another group of young adults from a different denomination joined with the Backyard team to create a WAPI production line that morning. A WAPI is a Water Pasteurization Indicator – look it up on our website if you

don't know much about it. I hung around taking photos, and being a 'fly on the wall' to listen to them talk and share with each other. I heard many positive and respectful exchanges that were producing understanding and appreciation of each other's beliefs. The older adults I spoke with were pleased with and amazed at what happened at those two long tables in our Friendship Center that day. On Friday, CJ gave the four youth a turning lathe lesson, where a rough blank of wood was transformed into a beautiful rolling pin. They had plenty of coaching along the way (Thank You, Wade Boyd!), but they were all rightfully proud of what they had accomplished on their first time effort.

At one point late in the week, it was pretty quiet in the shop, so I asked the group to tell me what they had experienced in their time with us. It's always helpful to hear an evaluation of our program from those with a new perspective. They related that it was a little scary at first – coming into an unfamiliar situation with a group of

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Product of the Month

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind." (Matthew 13:47). As summer continues, enjoy time with family and friends while sharing God's love & kindness with all those around us.



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strangers, unsure of how to interact or talk with them. But once they had had a chance to get to know several of the Friends of the Carpenter, they came to the realization that we all have God-given gifts to share and that no one should be too quick to judge someone until they have a chance to learn more about that person. We hear that sort of sentiment over and over again from other volunteers.

The Friendship Center is a great place to break down barriers and start to make all kinds of wonderful connections.

In a fairly short time, these youth and their leader had learned a great deal about themselves and what it means to live out your faith in a real and practical, but deeply significant, way. We are all on a journey of understanding with each other.

We continue to strive – at the Friendship Center, in our Congregations and with our family and friends – to do our best to love one another – for Love is from God, and everyone that loves is born of God and knows God. Thanks to everyone at Backyard Ministry and the other youth groups for reminding us of that. As always, we continue to Thank all of you for your great support of our Ministry.

August Volunteer Star Spotlight

Barbarita Gately has been volunteering for Friends of the Carpenter since August 2012. Barbarita has volunteered as a Hospitality Host, sanding and finishing wood products, making decorations for the Jim Fischer Concert, creating two auction items and making Water Pasteurization Indicators (WAPIs). Barbarita related that making WAPIs literally changed her life. Barbarita has always wanted to be connected to the needs of Africa. Many WAPIs have been sent to the Continent of Africa. Barbarita was amazed that “a simple thing can save many lives.” She heard a story about two Guatemalan villages that were supplied with WAPIs and many lives were saved from cholera. Barbarita is so passionate about WAPIs that she was recognized and given an award at the Volunteer Recognition Event in April of this year. Barbarita is currently retired but she is known as the “Resource Queen.” Many churches and organizations seek her knowledge and skills in working with developmentally delayed adults and severely abused children. Barbarita has a wealth of experience working with both children and adults, including a school she created-“Tri Town Toddlers” in Rowley, Massachusetts and at the Alaska Psychiatric Institute in Anchorage, Alaska. When Barbarita is not making WAPIs, she loves gardening, embroidery, sewing and cooking. FOC appreciates all the hours you have given to serve people.



By Bernie Gerhardt

Activity Corner

Wednesday
Event Activities
1:00 — 3:00 pm

WOW!! Again I am in awe of this Ministry. Just spread the word you are going to have a water balloon battle.. (in conjunction with the HUGS Party) and look who showed up ~~~~at least 100 people were here that day. Because of the wonderful donors who have given so generously to FOC, scores of hats, underwear, umbrellas and sox were handed out to those who came to the Center. I would be remiss if I didn't also thank the volunteers who fixed/served lunch, filled the orders, gave the 25 haircuts (Hands of Favor), took part in the fun and games, because we could not have looked soooo good without them. It was just too much fun to watch Tom and the staff get pelted with the balloons on a very warm day.. LOL... I understand some blackmail

pictures exist.

We also continue to have several youth groups from LAST (Methodist Churches throughout the Pacific Northwest), the multi-state LDS contingent, and Back Yard Ministry (Vancouver/Battle Ground Catholic Parishes) come and help with the WAPI program and various other projects, including our semi-annual product inventory, woodworking special projects and interaction with the participants. They will account for around 500 “man” hours of work by the end of summer. What a wonderful gift from God to FOC. It also represents another generation who have been exposed to the art of Woodworking (a hobby dear to my heart).

As ever, YOU are welcome to come down and have some fun with us any time. See you soon. CJ

August 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	8/22 9:30 am Show & Tell
	1:30 pm Staff Mtg	1:30 pm Point Man Ministries (Veterans Support Group)	10 am Faith Sharing Group	10:15 am Discipleship Class	9/4 Closed for Paving	
	8/31 10:30 –4 pm Youth Build Boot Camp	7 pm VCCB Practice	1 pm Wednesday Afternoon Activity	7 pm Pipe Band Rehearsal		
	9/7 Closed for Labor Day		8/12 11–4 pm Hand of Favor Haircuts	8/20 One (1) Day of Prayer for Clark County and FOC		
			8/26 7 pm Woodturners	9/3 Friendship Center closed for parking lot paving		
			1 pm Newsletter Activity			
			8/31–9/2			



2nd Chance Thrift Store

3414 NE 52nd St., Vancouver, WA 98661

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

All of you have been very supportive of us in the past and it has made a difference to the store and to Friends of the Carpenter. We appreciate your continued donations.

You have given your cherished donations in the past. They have made 2nd Chance Thrift Store a quality store.

Give of yourself and join our family of volunteers. We know how to have FUN! A four-hour commitment a week is all we ask.

You can help maintain Friends of the Carpenter's ministry by volunteering at the thrift store. Come in for an application.

Share your quality donations with us. We need items that are CLEAN and in useable condition. Large furniture items can be picked up. They must be on the ground floor. Call the store for details.

Thank you to all of our faithful volunteers. Some have been with us nearly five years. Without them, we could not be the successful operation that we are. They are the BEST!

360-750-3867 www.2ndchancethriftstore.org