



Changing lives with love

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Fall 2017

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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

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Changing Lives with Love

The Carpenter's Tool Box

Volume 19, Issue 3

Fall 2017

Housing First

"One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life...."

Psalm 27:4

Regular readers of The Carpenter's Toolbox will not be surprised to read here that our community has an ongoing crisis regarding the availability of affordable housing. That's not news. There has been plenty of media coverage too. While this situation has been building steadily over the past thirty years or so, in the last couple of years the situation has risen to an unjust and critical level in Clark County. Rapidly rising rents have put many households in dangerous situations where they pay as much as 50% of their income on rent alone. In addition, many others have been priced out of the housing market completely. Many individuals and families who come to the Friendship Center tell us that they have recently lost their housing due to rising rents. Most end up living in their vehicle if they have one. The latest statistics are really pretty

scary and show that we as a community are not addressing this basic human need for shelter very well.

Blessedly, the City of Vancouver has been in the forefront of trying to address this crisis. An Affordable Housing Task Force was convened by the City Council in February 2015, and charged with advising City Council and the Planning Commission on a



range of policy options. One of those came to fruition when Proposition 1 passed with substantial support on November 8, 2016. The City of Vancouver now has an Affordable Housing Fund to support the construction, acquisition and rehabilitation of multifamily rental housing. Some of the Fund will also provide rental assistance vouchers for very low income families and individuals. Regardless of where you stand on this issue or whether you voted for

Prop 1 or not, there is a consensus that this is a step in the right direction. Help is on the way. Some help is already here, too. Lincoln Place is a wonderful community partnership which provides permanent supportive housing for up to 30 of those on the street who are most at risk, and who tend to utilize the most community resources. Lincoln Place is an excellent example of the Housing First philosophy, in which those who are chronically homeless are provided immediate access to housing, and then are offered the wraparound services they need to make progress and work toward long-term stability. Housing First has been demonstrated to be effective at helping those with the most complex needs and cost effective for the community. Hospitalization and incarceration rates go down, mental health improves, and drug and alcohol consumption decreases.

At this point, you may be wondering "Tom, what does all of this have to do

By Tom Iberle

with Friends of the Carpenter?" The clearest connection is that we welcome many Lincoln Place residents to both our weekday program in the Friendship Center and also to the Share Day Center on a regular basis. Many had frequented our day facility before Lincoln Place opened, and continue to join us now that they are housed. We have noticed that some of these Friends have been able to make improvements in their lives since Lincoln Place opened. The Housing First philosophy does work. Lincoln Place residents often find they need some place constructive to spend their time, and between our program and Share's, they are able to fill that essential need at our Friendship Center at 1600 W. 20th St. For more on that topic, check out Grover's The President's Viewpoint on page 3 in this edition of The Carpenter's Toolbox.

So we've made some progress in alleviating hardship and addressing this one slice of the housing crisis. However, the hard reality remains that the need is currently and will continue to be much greater than what is now available or even in the pipeline. It took us a while to dig the hole that we find ourselves in and it will take time for the market and the housing community to react and respond. As people of faith, do we throw up our hands in frustration and say this problem is too big, that we have no hope of digging our way out of this mess? Of course not. There is always hope. That's an essential part of our faith in the Lord. This community has a wealth of resources to tap and caring people who want to see everyone in safe, affordable housing. When we come together, listen to each other and bring our creative ideas forward, we are

sure to come up with myriad ways to help become part of the solutions that we need. In November, Friends of the Carpenter plans to host a presentation by the 'Faith Partners for Affordable Housing' group, which will give anyone who is interested an opportunity to further explore this complex issue and hear about some creative community solutions.

We appreciate all of our community partners for joining with us and so many others in Clark County who are working to make a difference. We also especially want to Thank all of you for making our Ministry a reality through your support of Friends of the Carpenter. You are providing safety, structure and purpose to those in our community who are struggling and vulnerable. You continue to Change Lives with Love every day. We deeply appreciate it.



2017 Church Sponsors

- Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church
- Bethel Lutheran Church
- Calvary Mennonite Church
- Cascades Presbyterian Church
- Church of Refuge
- East Woods Presbyterian Church
- Faith Foursquare Church
- Family of Christ Lutheran Church
- First Congregational United Church of Christ
- First Presbyterian Church
- Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
- Grace Lutheran Church
- Highland Lutheran Church

- Hillcrest Church of the Nazarene
- Immanuel Lutheran Church
- Life Journey Lutheran Church
- Mill Plain United Methodist Church
- Orchards United Methodist Church
- Salmon Creek United Methodist Church
- St. Andrew Lutheran Church
- St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church
- St. John's Presbyterian Church
- St. Joseph Catholic Church
- St. Paul Lutheran Church
- Trinity Lutheran Church
- Zion Lutheran Church

Volunteer Happenings

As always, the Summer season has been filled with activities and groups here at the Friendship Center as well as having a presence at Vancouver's many festivals. Everything from Compassion Vancouver Heights to Felida's July 4th Parade to National Night out in Ridgefield, it has been wonderful hearing the stories that people tell as they walk by our booth about how their lives or someone they know has been touched by Friends of the Carpenter.

We also helped host a July 4th community picnic with our newest church sponsor Immanuel Lutheran where neighbors joined church members for a BBQ, and games. Friends of the Carpenter wood items were given away in raffles and as prizes.



Immanuel Lutheran
4th of July

Looking ahead, Give More 24! – Vancouver's online day of giving – is coming up on September 21st so mark your calendars. We are once again teaming up with 4 other local non-profits to hold a fun event all day at Boomerang coffee shop in downtown Vancouver. We appreciate your support either by stopping by for free coffee and activities or through your online donations. More details to come!

Finally, we are currently looking for more volunteers to help out at 2nd Chance Thrift Store or our activity area. We can work with volunteers' schedules as several dates/times during the week are available. We would very much appreciate your assistance and anyone interested can contact me directly. Thank you!

John Ryan
Volunteer Manager
360-750-4752
johnr@friendsofthecarpenter.org

A "God Sighting" at the Clark County Fair.....

We want to share a wonderful instance of how God's Love can fill our lives through our Ministry. One of our Devotion leaders and good Friend of the Carpenter Tom Benner has a ten-year-old friend named Brody who he knows through his church. When Brody got a look at some of our Shop Assistant Samuel Abron's art work, he was absolutely captivated by it. One piece in particular especially caught his eye – a full-color hamburger with all the fixings completely made out of wood. Even the lettuce!! Brody acquired the art piece and entered it in the Clark County Fair art competition, on Samuel's behalf. The hamburger went on to win Most Original Design for the entire art show, blue ribbon included.

On Wednesday August 23rd, Brody surprised Samuel at Morning Devotion with the awards that he had won for his art at the Fair. Samuel presented Brody with a kit

that he can use to make his own hamburger creation. There was hardly a dry eye in the crowd of 40 or so at the Center that morning.

Thank You Brody, for your love of art and your thoughtfulness and care for our brother Samuel. And Thank You Samuel, for sharing your God-given talent with us and with the community. You are both true Friends of the Carpenter!!



Samuel's Award-Winning
Hamburger



Tom, Brody, Samuel

Calendar

Upcoming Events

- Peace & Justice Fair
Saturday, September 9th
Esther Short Park
- Show & Tell
Saturday, September 16
- Give More 24!
Thursday, September 21st
- Friends of the Carpenter Auction
Saturday, October 21
- Clark County Prayer Breakfast
Thursday, November 9th
- Show & Tell
Saturday, November 18th
- Thanksgiving, November 23rd
Friendship Center closed

FOC

Board of Directors:

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Grover Icenogle
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- Thrift Store Liaison: Frank Stowe

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- Charles Mackey
- Lois Smith
- Wendy Wright

Welcome to the Activity Corner

It has been a busy summer in our woodshop and activity area. So far, we survived the heat wave and enjoyed a solar eclipse. It has been a blessing to see many familiar and new faces this summer.

In July, we had our summer HUGS party. We had over a hundred people attend the event where we served hot dogs, baked beans, fresh green salad, fresh fruit, chips and juice. We had the great privilege of having many amazing volunteers helping at the event. The wonderful ladies from St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church volunteered their time and made delicious cakes, and donated items to share. Participants received socks, hats, undergarments, t-shirts, and personal care products. They also played bingo and received various prizes and goodie bags. We appreciate all of the staff, volunteers, participants, and donors who made our HUGS party an amazing success.

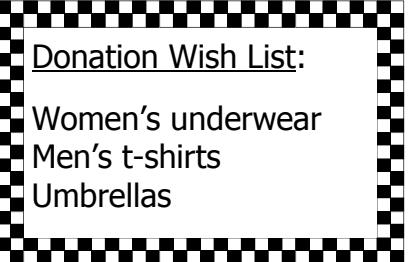
Throughout the summer, we were also blessed to have numerous youth volunteer groups from LAST-Learning and Serving Together-which is a partner program that works with FOC and is run by Pr. Jeff Lowery. Different church youth groups from all over the Northwest come and stay for a week in the Vancouver/Portland area and donate their time to serve many local charities and nonprofit organizations. Each group helped us with various special projects,

but a main focus was our train engine planter centerpieces for our upcoming auction in October. They turned out great and we can't wait for everyone to see the final product!

We also had many other Mission volunteer groups visit us this summer including Daybreak Youth Services and Project Transformation. Each group helped with different special projects including wood burning, sanding, and scroll saw activities.

I appreciate all of your support while transitioning into my new role as activity coordinator since Dan Neeley left in June. I'm excited to develop new product for sale, and new activities and projects for volunteers and participants. It has been nice meeting everyone, and I encourage you all to come and see the new things we have going on in the Activity Center.

Thanks,
Janine Keats
Activity Coordinator



The President's Viewpoint

The Importance of a Day Facility

By Grover Icenogle

"Friends of the Carpenter is a non-profit, faith-based day facility that provides safety, structure and purpose for vulnerable members of our community." Mission Statement

There are three day facilities in Clark County. Janus Youth Services operates The Perch, which "offers a dry, warm, safe place where youth have access to laundry facilities, computers, a phone, a meal and skilled staff to help them problem solve."

Share Day Center provides services like computer access, cell phone charging, mailboxes, lockers, social services, legal counsel, and hot and cold weather shelter.

Having the third day facility, Friends of the Carpenter offers participants (our term for homeless persons) positive activities that lessen the stress of being homeless. Friends of the Carpenter provides daily devotions for those

interested; craft work, like woodworking, that give a feeling of success; a cup of coffee and a pastry; a chance for conversations. The CARE Committee, participant led, does events such as HUGS parties,

movie days, and field trips. Friendships form among participants.

Participants also receive services at the Friendship Center. Helping persons navigate the web of social services, we make referrals to other organizations. We are a site for serving community hours ordered by courts. We help train persons in basic job attitudes and skills. We have a vetted Pay it Forward program for small cash assistance. We offer access to mental health counseling. We help participants problem solve and use their own initiative. Participants find assistance with their difficulties.

A participant told us, "I come to the Friends of the Carpenter because I feel safe here and at peace. I made true friends here. I have been an alcoholic since I was 10 years old and coming here helps me stay strong. I made a wood frame today to frame a picture to give to my dad for Father's Day to let him know that I love him. I am glad to be able to do that here at the [Friendship] Center."



You can help Friends of the Carpenter earn donations just by shopping with your Fred Meyer Rewards Card!



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[Amazon Smile](#) is a way to give back to Friends of the Carpenter when you shop on smile.amazon.com

15th Annual Auction & Dinner



October 21, 2017

5:30 pm

Warehouse '23

100 Columbia Street, Vancouver, WA 98660

Tickets are \$75.00 each or a table of 10 is \$650.00

Buy your tickets online at
www.friendsofthecarpenter.org/event-items/annual-dinner-auction-october-21-2017/

or in person at the Friendship Center or by mail!

Stability Station Sponsor:



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Other Sponsors:

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GIVE MORE 24!

For the fourth year in a row, Friends of the Carpenter will participate in a community-driven, online giving campaign called Give More 24! This year, the effort gets started at midnight on Thursday September 21st and runs for 24 hours until 11:59 pm that night. Give More 24! is sponsored by the Community Foundation of Southwest Washington, which provides the website and support, along with a stretch pool that is shared in proportion to how much of the total each non-profit raises. This year, the online event aims to raise \$1 million for local causes in 24 hours and engage more than 4,000 donors. Last year, 3,062 donors—enough to fill 85 city buses—donated more than \$920,000 during the 24-hour period. Donors didn't just come from southwest Washington either. Gifts came from 41 states and as far as Melbourne, Australia.

Friends of the Carpenter has lined up a matching fund of at least \$1300.00 so the donors who contribute the first \$1300.00 on September 21st will have their gift doubled.

So please log on to the Give More 24! website on Thursday September 21st and help us out – the minimum donation is the modest amount of \$10.

There is a link on our website that will get you there www.friendsofthecarpenter.org or you can go direct:

<https://give-more-24.org/designee/friends-of-the-carpenter>

FRIENDS
of the
CARPENTER
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 Saturday

Where Friends are
helping Friends
to succeed

Hello to all our supporters!

There are so many of you out there who support 2nd Chance Thrift Store in so many ways. Some of you shop, some of you donate items for us to sell, some of you do both and some of you donate time as a volunteer at our store. To one and all I say THANK YOU! Thank you for all the support you show, however you may show it.

We are currently going through some growing steps at the store, trying to keep it current and fresh for you. We recently added a dressing room that is a bit more secure than we previously had in the store. This has been a good beginning step as it has increased the comfort of those who are trying on clothing. There are other ideas in the works which will be coming in stages to the store. I invite you to come in and check out how things improve and change as time goes by. And keep in mind, our product changes daily, so you will almost always be able to find a treasure or two to take with you during your shopping experience. I would be happy to hear any input you may have for us as well.

We have had a lot of success lately with inviting groups in to do a "field trip" so to speak. We would love to have your church group, senior home, bridge group or any other group come visit us for a shopping trip. You will find an extremely attentive team of volunteers ready to assist your group as they browse and shop in our small store atmosphere perfectly suited to those who are less mobile or just want to enjoy a small friendly environment. Several of the groups that have taken advantage of this time also make a day of it and go out for lunch as well. We are not able to provide transportation, I'm afraid. We provide the store, the atmosphere, the low prices and a place where everyone can shop with ease. We can offer the shoppers in your group a 10% discount on items of \$1.00 or more. (Yes, you can still find items for less than a dollar at our thrift store.)

Give me a call at the store (360-750-3867) and let's set up a time for your "field trip".

Sincerely,
Jim
Thrift Store Manager

Welcome to LouAnn Blocker, new Friends of the Carpenter Development Associate

Since Monica Mogilewsky has now departed for Madagascar to complete her PhD research, we are blessed to have LouAnn Blocker, another talented and experienced Development Associate, join our team. LouAnn has a background in library services and recently had a position at Clark College Foundation. She is ready, willing and able to step right up and pick up where Monica left off. Welcome aboard LouAnn!!