

FRIENDS of the CARPENTER  
 Changing lives with love  
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Spring '19

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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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Shop on-line: [friendsofthecarpenter.org](http://friendsofthecarpenter.org)  
 Or visit our store at: 1600 W. 20th Street  
 Handmade in Vancouver, Wash.



**Product of the Month**  
 We have been busy beavers gearing up for Spring, with refreshing new products: Easter, spring flowers, Mother's & Father's Day, garden stakes and bird houses. The picture does not do justice to the many beautiful colors. So come in and see these wonderful creations made by our participants and volunteer woodworkers.

FRIENDS of the CARPENTER

Changing Lives with Love

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# The Carpenter's Tool Box

Volume 21, Issue 1

Spring 2019

## Imagine a New Direction

by Tom Iberle

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

*Jeremiah 29:11*

About this time last year, as the new Navigation Center was taking shape, the Friends of the Carpenter Strategic Planning Committee began exploring future directions for our Ministry. We had been hosting the Share Day Center for two and a half years, so we realized there is a need in Vancouver for both the case management ably provided today by the Navigation Center, and for the structure and purpose which our programs provide. From the beginning, it has been Friends of the Carpenter's intent to complement the services available in our community, and avoid any duplication of services

provided by another organization. That led us to the conclusion that a vital re-evaluation of our current programs was necessary.

Our emphasis remained and continues to be focused squarely on maintaining our overall Mission and Vision. The Committee was asked to consider ways in which we could better use our God-given and unique strengths and resources to provide safety, structure, and a sense of purpose for vulnerable members of our community.

After much research and prayer, the Committee recommended focusing on three areas where we can build on our successes and strengths. These were proposed to our full Board of Directors at their October meeting

and were approved at their December meeting.

I am pleased and thrilled to share this new plan with our readers and supporters in this month's Carpenter's Toolbox. We feel very strongly that, with God's Providential guiding hand, this renewed focus will lead us in a positive direction of providing even more effective service for our community.

The three focus areas are as follows:

**Vocational / Life Skill Training.** This new program would make use of our woodshop and our talented volunteers and staff to help those living in poverty improve their job and life skills, enabling them to then find productive, family-wage employment. A team of volunteers and

staff with background and expertise in this area is working on defining this new program. We intend to have a first draft of a program plan by the end of May. We've seen individuals make amazing progress at our Center and want to expand this to serve more people.

**Projects with a Purpose.** A refinement of our existing activity program which allows participants the ability to engage in meaningful projects that help them learn skills, build confidence and feel productive and valued. Many of the projects will involve basic woodworking as we do today, but other skills and crafts would be offered as well.

Our **Regular Drop-in Events**, such as the Wednesday afternoon Love Gift event. Our unique warehouse space allows us to offer programs which are difficult for other organizations

to do regularly, such as the Food with Friends Shower Trailer every Wednesday, the Hands of Favor ministry which offers haircuts every third Wednesday, and our regular HUGS events that feature warm clothing along with plenty of good food, warm hospitality and fellowship - - and BINGO! These events will continue to serve as an entry point to building relationships and inviting people into our other programs.

We feel very well positioned to make progress in all three areas, given our committed and talented team of staff and volunteers, our well-equipped mill and shop full of high quality tools, and our community partners who can help enhance and complement the services we need to be able to provide. In collaboration with those community partners, we intend to offer an opportunity

for a brighter future for committed vulnerable participants who want to improve their situation in life. This three-part plan is still very much in its early formative stages, but we look forward to sharing even more about it as we progress. In the meantime, if you have skills or experience which might help build our new direction, or you just want to know more, we invite you to contact us at 360-750-4752.

Please keep all of these efforts in your prayers. God has blessed this Ministry in so many ways throughout our first twenty years, and we have confidence that grace will continue to show down upon the Friendship Center for years to come. With your support, we look forward to Changing Lives with Love in new and creative ways now and into the future.

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helps with Life Wellness and Life Enrichment programs like Friends of the Carpenter. Two to three seniors will be joining us twice a month. When given the tour, the gentlemen were so excited to know that they could start using their woodworking skills again. <https://www.touchmarkvancouver.com/>

**Trillium Employment Services:** This program helps promote inclusive community and employment opportunities. [www.trillium.org](http://www.trillium.org)

These new partners join our existing partnerships with Daybreak, who alternate between 2-6 boys and 2-6 girls every Thursday; the Vancouver School District GATE Program, who bring 3-5 students every Friday, and the 3 to 4 independent participants with challenges whom grace us with their many God-given talents.

Please join us to be a part of our peaceful, happy environment as we build together a better understanding of those with challenges in life. Help us provide them a place where they can come sit, converse and enjoy the spirit of true caring love that we offer. Come visit or call me with any questions or information needed. Also remember that Devotions are held daily from 9:30am - 10:00am with wonderful spiritual readings and songs.

Blessings to all and looking forward to sharing the joy and rewarding experience I receive every day when I walk through these doors.

Diana Espinoza  
Activity Coordinator  
360-750-4752

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



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



**Friendship Center Donation Wish List:**

- Blankets
- Coffee
- Men's Underwear sizes small—xxl
- Travel-size deodorant



Sunday, May 19th  
4:00 pm



*"Harmony Helping Friends"*

Benefit concert for Friends of the Carpenter

at Family of Christ Lutheran Church  
3500 NW 129th Street, Vancouver

Enjoy an afternoon of fun, refreshments & music while helping Friends of the Carpenter. Two choruses performing songs from every era, from the '20s to today, from classic jazz to current Broadway hits - all in their unique barbershop style!

No tickets necessary!

A freewill offering will be taken for the benefit of Friends of the Carpenter.

# Calendar

## Upcoming Events

- March 16th, Saturday  
Show & Tell, 9:30 am
- April 20th, Saturday  
Show & Tell, 9:30 am
- April 30th, Tuesday  
Volunteer Appreciation Night  
7:00 pm
- May 18th, Saturday  
Show & Tell, 9:30 am
- May 19th, Sunday  
NW Harmony Concert, 4:00 pm
- May 27, Monday, Memorial Day  
Center closed for holiday

## FOC Board of Directors:

President: Art Edgerly  
 Vice President: Rev. Josh Rowley  
 Treasurer: Linda Otton  
 Secretary: Harry Smith  
 Frank Stowe  
 Brent Stahl  
 Wendy Wright  
 Rev. Lou Bauer  
 David Wetmore

## Welcome to the Activity Corner

Well, another winter season is almost gone. It was a wonderfully blessed and busy Holiday season with sanding, painting of new Christmas ornaments, making of Christmas cards and decorating the Friendship Center with a pinecone and holly garland and lights. It was so warming and delightful to see the happy faces on our participants as they worked. Truly the spirit of goodness and happiness was present in the Friendship Center. We also welcomed in the New Year on January 2nd with a great gathering of food & entertainment, a blessing provided by our friends at Vancouver United Church of Christ. Our HUGS party on January 16th was another day of success with lots of laughter and fun. We played bingo and distributed lots of clothing for the cold winter season, along with blankets and sleeping bags and celebrated all the quarterly birthdays thanks to the Catholic Daughters.

Friends of the Carpenter is now gearing up for new spring and summer projects. We assembled 20 bird houses; many went with our participants to enjoy in their yards and use as gifts for caregivers and the rest will go into our product sale. Garden stakes with cut out vegetables are a new addition, as well as new Mother's and Father's Day mementos (see the Product of the Month photo). All this has been possible because of two new scroll saw participants who started as community service workers and decided to continue volunteering with us because they see how we are helping provide structure and purpose in life. A blessing for sure!

We are so thankful to the community for sharing what we have to offer to those that need skill enhancement and well-being of life. Because of your belief in our mission to provide purpose and safe environment, we are teaming up with three new community partners...

**Evergreen Public School District POST-- Secondary Transition Program:** There will be 2 to 3 students attending 3 hours 3 days per week. These are children to young adults with physical, emotional, academic, or intellectual disabilities.

<http://www.evergreenps.org/Article-View/special-education>

**Touchmark Fairway Village:** This is a retirement facility that

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## Volunteer with us!

No experience necessary - just a smile!

Our most urgent needs are for:

Front Desk Host Thursdays 9am-12:30pm and  
 Activity Assistants (flexible hours.)

The Front Desk Host greets guests and welcomes them to the Friendship Center. Tasks include answering the phone and some light clerical work. The Activity Assistant helps with Center activities and preparing projects. For more information on these and other opportunities available, please visit our website or call Linnea at the Friendship Center at (360) 750-4752 or email [linnea@friendsofthecarpenter.org](mailto:linnea@friendsofthecarpenter.org).



## SAVE THE DATE! VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION NIGHT

7 PM Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>  
 at the Friendship Center

Food! Fun! Live music!

### Ministry Updates

We are pleased to announce that we have two new partnerships which will open new doors for us at Friends of the Carpenter.....

#### Southwest Washington Woodturners

Friends of the Carpenter welcomes the Southwest Washington Woodturners as a new tenant at our Friendship Center at 1600 W 20th Street. Southwest Washington Woodturners is renting 500 square feet of the space which was previously the Share Day Center. In that space, the Woodturners will offer workshops, classes and seminars on the art and craft of turning out beautiful bowls, pens, and other hand crafted wood items.

“The Woodturners are very happy to continue this great relationship we have built through the years with Friends of the Carpenter,” said Adam Luna, club president. “We are pleased about this opportunity to open our R.E. Vaughn School of Woodturning in our new space, which is equipped with eight lathes and tools. We will offer one day classes led by master wood turners on a regular basis, plus our monthly meetings are open to all, from novices to experts, interested in learning more about the art of wood turning. Come check us out; I promise you will have the best time in front of the lathe. There is nothing like the satisfaction of creating a unique hand-made piece!”

For more information about SWWT and their schedule of classes, call 360-887-8963, email [info@southwestwashingtonwoodturners.com](mailto:info@southwestwashingtonwoodturners.com) or visit [southwestwashingtonwoodturners.com](http://southwestwashingtonwoodturners.com). Their next classes are scheduled for Friday, June 28th, and Saturday, July 27th, 2019. The club meets on the fourth Thursday of each month, 7 to 9 p.m., in their new space.

#### Nifty and Thrifty Thrift Store

The other great news is that Friends of the Carpenter has been approved as a member of Nifty and Thrifty Thrift Store which recently opened at 6607 E Mill Plan Blvd. Donations marked for FOC will be gratefully accepted, sold and half of the proceeds shared with us in support of our Ministry. You can learn more about them at [www.vancouverthrift.com](http://www.vancouverthrift.com). While this new partnership doesn't replace the community experience of our beloved 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance Thrift Store, it does provide a great location for your gently used items to continue to support us and other good causes in our community. Please stop by and check out Nifty and Thrifty sometime soon.



### C.A.R.E. Committee



The C.A.R.E Committee is off to a fun start this year with several trips already in the works. We recently enjoyed an afternoon of volunteering at the FISH food bank and coming up soon are trips to **OMSI** in March and **the Grotto** on Good Friday. CARE (Community Awareness Reaching Empowerment) was started in 2008 and is funded by a grant from the Archdiocese of Seattle and the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. It is a collaboration

of participants and volunteers, with Board and staff members providing oversight. Thanks to the grant, the CARE Committee is able to plan monthly events and activities for Friends of the Carpenter at no cost to participants.

Save the Date

### Annual Auction & Dinner



Warehouse '23

Saturday, October 19th