

Issue 7

Fall 2005



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“HURRICANE KATRINA”

Katrina hit the Gulf Coast with so much force, that some of the structures didn't have a chance to survive. This was no place for humans and /or animals to be.

With the pressure of the water the levees couldn't hold the water back. Then the water broke through and flooded everything that was in its path. The sewage and gas had no place to go, except in the water. The snakes and alligators, once in the swamps and lakes, are now in your backyard swimming around. Someone said, “Looks like a bomb hit there.”

We are having a hard time comprehending what we see on TV. So now, I want you to imagine yourself with only the clothes on back and that is all you own. There is no food or water to drink, and you don't have shelter to get you out of the heat. There is nothing but death all around you. You are losing hope that you will survive and nobody cares about you. But help does come! There will be many stages that they will go through to get their lives back again. It will take time and patience for them.

I should know what the people are going through. I

have been on two mission trips in 2000 and 2002 through my church. I took part in building homes for the families. That is when you see the hope coming back into their lives. The people even work right beside you in rebuilding their lives. You have to be there to feel the love and caring the people have.

We will never forget what Katrina has done to part of our country. We will see the start of people coming together to help with the healing. Even other countries want to help us. We live in a world that cares about what happens to each other. That is **LOVE!**

Diane Kossel

ACTIVITIES UPDATE



“SUMMER BRUNCH WITH JULIE & CANDY”

The brunch was held on August 12th. There was a good turn out for the summer brunch. Everyone enjoyed himself or herself and the food was delicious.

For the brunch we were served egg, ham, and cheese

bake. We also had danish, toast and jelly, cantaloupe and to drink there was tomato juice and cranberry mix.

Julie and Candy prepared all the delicious food.
Jimmy Schneider



“CORN ROAST”

On Thursday August 4th many of the participants enjoyed a scrumptious corn roast. Also on the menu was smoked sausage on a bun, chips and dip, red, white and blue cupcakes, and soda.

As usual Julie and Candy did a fabulous job of cooking for us hungry people.

April Blair



“AT THE ZOO”

There was a lot of monkey business going on. On Friday September 9th. Some of the participants at Friendship Place went to the *Greenville Zoo*. All of us had a great time.

We saw lots of different kinds of animals. Tigers, turkeys, pheasants, deer (even pieball deer -almost white), monkeys, wolves, rams, and peacocks. They even had a petting zoo where one could pet a Llama calf, fawns (even a pieball fawn), sheep, pigs (pot belly), and goats. They even had a white baby fox.

After the main part of the zoo the group went on a train ride to see more of the zoo animals like: badgers, brown raccoon, bobcats, deer, and a black swan. So all and all, the group had a great time. Julie Grondahl got a mating dance from a male turkey and Jimmy Schneider seemed to be somewhat liked by a tiger.

Denise V. Walber



“TRIP TO WINNEBAGO COUNTY FAIR WITH ADA!”

One time while at Friendship Place I saw a poster on the upcoming events bulletin board that showed the fair on it. When

I saw that the date and cost worked out I was able to go. So I signed up and paid the cost of \$4.00 in order to go.

There were five other people beside me that went. We got to the fair at 5:30 pm and met at the gate at 7:45pm.

I went on a couple of rides, played one game, pet the animals and went to see the rabbits, geese, and horses. I had a great time.

If it weren't for Ada and Friendship Place I would not have been able to go the county fair.

Debbie Eberly

“BASKET WEAVING”

There were many proud faces on Wednesday August 3rd. We learned how to weave baskets. The Langner family worked with us on creating our own baskets.

Each person's creation came out excellent. Most made a basket, and one participant made a flat round wall hanging. Many thanks to The Langner Family for their generosity and knowledge.

April Blair

FRIENDSHIP TRAIL”

On August 27th, seven of the participants from Friendship Place went on a walk on the “New

Friendship Trail” that is between Neenah and Menasha. It crosses Little Lake Butte Des Morts. The trail used to be an old railroad trestle bridge. It recently opened as a walkway for pedestrians.

It was a nice sunny warm day. They have scenic rest areas and fishing areas. You can start at the locks in Menasha and end at Fritche Park in Neenah. Round trip the walk is about two miles long.

Jean Seager



“PONTOON TRIP”

It was a beautiful and gorgeous day when a group of participants enjoyed two days of fun at Dennis and Judi’s home.

This included: a fish fry, fishing, a campfire, swimming, and a pontoon ride. Dennis taught two of our ladies, Maggie and April, how to filet fish. April said it’s always fun to learn something new.



Group having fun.

We all enjoyed fun and laughter. Especially, we enjoyed watching Candy trying to sit in a water chair. Participants involved were ones that raised money for the “Human Race” fundraiser. There were nine this time: Jerry, Denise, Dave, Jimmy, Maggie, Ruth, and April. Julie and Candy (staff) also came along. One other lady that raised money but didn’t come was Jean.

We all thank the Jansens for a wonderful time.
April Blair

“AFTERNOON AT THE LANGNER’S”

On Saturday August 13th my parents had a cookout at their house for the participants of Friendship Place. We had a tour of the land. People had fun watching Jimmy and me fishing. Jimmy ended up catching 11-12 small fish and seemed to enjoy himself.

Some of the food that was prepared was hotdogs, hamburgers, and chicken breast strips all done on the grill.



Friendship Group at the Langner’s.

Russ, Delores, Danielle, Tom, April, Denise, Jimmy, Jerry, Julie, Candy, and I were the people that ended up going. Everyone ended up enjoying him or herself a lot. Hopefully they’ll do something out at their house next year.

We only had one problem; Julie and Candy got lost, but we eventually got them to where they needed to go. A special thank you to the Langner’s for putting on an enjoyable time for everyone involved.

David Langner

AUGUST’S VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Ada Hall is August’s volunteer of the month. She has been volunteering at Friendship Place for a little over a year. She has also been a participant on the Board of Directors for Friendship Place for several years.

She works for Affinity Medical Group located in Menasha & Neenah. She

has been working as an ophthalmologist for 21 years.

She has been married to Michael for 21 years. They have two daughters. She loves her many pets. Ada says the best thing about volunteering her time at Friendship Place is the wonderful people that she gets to meet. She says she enjoys spending time with them playing games and singing.

Ada's pretty much here volunteering at Friendship Place every Wednesday night from 5 to 8 pm.

Denise V. Walber

SEPTEMBER'S VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Bill Falck is September's volunteer of the month. Bill has been married to his lovely wife, Linda for 10 years. Linda is my best friend, replied Bill. They have three daughters.

Bill served in the U.S. Air Force out of Hurlburt Field in Florida. He is a Gulf War Veteran, serving in the 1st Special Ops. with AC 130 Gunships.

Bill owns and runs his own Taxi/Limo Service called R & B. He has donated his Limo's on different occasions.

Bill started volunteering in September 2002. He talked to Dennis about doing repairs at Friendship Place. One thing led to another and Bill became a permanent fixture.

Bill is here every Thursday night to help out. Has also been our D.J. for the dances.

He has a great sense of humor. He enjoys playing pool and darts.

Bill commented that he enjoys coming to Friendship Place because the people here are the sanest people he knows. The reason is because people here know that they have a problem and are doing something about it.

Bill has been a blessing and a real help to us at Friendship Place. We are very thankful for all Bill has done and is still doing. Bill, *Thank You* for becoming a volunteer here. You're Our Friend.

April Blair

STAFF SPOTLIGHT ON SUE CARPENTER

Sue has worked at Friendship Place for seventeen years. Prior to that she worked at the Social Services Building as an Outreach worker in the Clinical Services Department and at ARC where she taught handicapped children

between the ages of three to seven.

She suffered from post-partum depression and was hospitalized for two years, so she can relate to others at Friendship Place.

On a personal level, Sue suffered through two bad years. She lost her husband, and her daughter Lisa was seriously injured. In spite of this, you hardly ever see her without a smile.

Her favorite color is mauve, favorite food everything, favorite guy "Charlie." She has two children Shawn and Lisa and a dog Rascal. The two apples of her eye are Sam and Ben, her grandchildren. Her love of the people here at Friendship Place has helped her through hard times and she hopes that she has made a difference to her friends here.

P.S.: A note from a friend; her personality can cheer Friendship Place up whenever she walks in.

Denise V. Walber

POETRY AND ART

The following are some art and poetry done by the present and past participants of Friendship Place.

"GREAT THINGS AT: THE FRIENDSHIP PLACE"

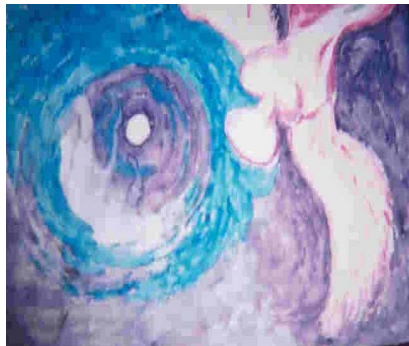
By Melissa Schroeder

I started going to The
 Friendship Place
 Three months ago
 A friend told me, “Don’t go
 there—
 No No No No!”
 She said the people, who go
 there are really weird,
 Some aren’t aware
 Of what’s going on in
 reality,
 Man, what a scare!

I met a nice lady who then
 told me
 Try it and see
 She said she goes there all
 the time
 It’s up to me
 I know my own thoughts
 are not always the best,
 Not logical
 I fit in since I’ve also been
 “weird”, and at this place
 I’m comfortable

Courageous people, smiling
 faces, caring friends,
 I met while there
 Talented people, intelligent
 people,
 Willing to share
 People like you and me
 trying to better ourselves
 Come in and see
 If you want to just rest and
 try your best
 There is no fee
 Lots of activities, classes to
 take,
 And much, much more!
 Or a safe place to go when
 you’re not doing so well
 Open the door
 Great staff persons,
 compassionate, always
 there
 Just what you need

Do a good deed and tell
 someone about this place
 Just plant the “Seed”
 So invest yourself in
 learning to be
 Strong and healthy
 All these things come
 together at a special place
 They’ll set you free
 I learned the stigma that
 comes with our illness
 We can erase
 Just educate others and
 show them we’re all part of
 the human race.
 All these great things are
 found close by everyday at
***THE FRIENDSHIP
 PLACE!!!***



BIRD IN FLIGHT
 By Dale



LADY by Nancy

FRIENDS
 By April Blair

Some are extremely tall
 Some are uniquely short
 Some are loudly extroverts
 Some are timidly introverts
 Some are handsomely male
 Some are pretty females
 Some have humor beyond
 normal
 Some are seriously quiet
 Some have depressive times
 Some have super high days
 Some are like curious cats
 Some are like roaming lions
 Some are fiercely friendly
 Some are gentle souls
 Some laugh at life’s
 problems
 Some cry when they hurt
 Some are there when you
 need a hug
 Some have big shoulders
 Some have long loving
 arms
 Some just quietly listen
 Some have great words of
 wisdom
 Some have just words
 Some laugh, some cry
 These are my friends at
Friendship Place.

LIFE
 By Samm Seager

Sometimes we do not feel
 Like we want to feel
 Sometimes we do not
 achieve
 What we want to achieve
 Sometimes things happen
 That do not make sense
 Sometimes life leads us in
 Directions that are beyond
 our control
 It is at those times, most of
 all
 That we need someone

Who will quietly
understand us
And be there to support us
I want you to know
That I am here for you in
Every way
And remember that though
Things may be difficult now
Tomorrow is a new day!



PANDA BEAR
By Dennis

SLEEPLESS NIGHTS
By Jean Seager

Tossing and turning
Reading a book
Pacing the floor
Just another sleepless night

Staring at the ceiling
Waiting, waiting to fall
asleep
Watching TV, listening to
music
Just another sleepless night
Ears ringing,
Head pounding
Heart beating
Just another sleepless night

Warm bath, warm milk
Nothing
But nothing helps
Just another sleepless night

**NOTE FROM THE
EDITOR**
“WHAT IS
NORMAL?”

According to the dictionary it is used as an adjective. Meaning: according to standard or rule, regular, natural customary, as “normal” procedure. As a noun: “norm” is an established standard rule or pattern. Some people seem to think that you have to have a job, family, be happy, and be active in everyday life. I feel that there is no normal way of being! Everybody has his or her own distinct “DNA and fingerprints.” Why not also their own normal way of being.

Some people are unhappy most of the time. So what! But they have to put on an act as to not upset the general public.

So for us with a mental illness we have to take medication in order for us to be normal. Why? People that have a couple of drinks everyday think that it is okay to do. Why? They are really just self-medicating to forget their problems in their everyday life. Maybe they need to stop self-medicating and then they too will be “*OUR NORMAL.*”

Some food for thought the next time you say to someone, “Why can’t you

be normal?” stop and think maybe that person is and your not.

Jean Seager, Editor



Friendship Place

**FRIENDSHIP PLACE’S
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

In 2004, we launched a campaign to purchase our building, which we had been renting for \$1,000 per month. To date, we have raised enough money to have a mortgage of only \$51,000. The best part about that is our mortgage payment is only \$450.00 a month.

Now, we’d like to reach a point where we can pay the whole mortgage off! We have enough money pledged to get our mortgage down to about \$37,000, and would love to be able to raise that amount to pay it off in full.

What a difference it would make in our budget to not have any mortgage payment each month!

Please consider a pledge toward this goal! We appreciate you very much!

Dennis Jansen
Director

REGULAR MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

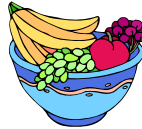
BOWLING—every other
Wednesday
BINGO—
twice a month
ART every
other Friday
CLUB 10—every other
Thursday
KARAOKE—once a month
POETRY & CREATIVE
WRITING—every other
Tuesday
KARA'S DISCUSSION
GROUP—every other
Tuesday night
BIRTHDAY OF THE
MONTH—
INTERNATIONAL
DINING—once a month
MOVIE NIGHT—every
other Tuesday
CREATIVE
SHOPPING—once a month
COOKING CLASS—once
a month
FAMILY DAY/NIGHT—
twice a month
RANDOM ACT OF
KINDNESS—once a month
SHEEPSHEAD—every
Tuesday afternoon



NEW HOPE GROUP—
every Thursday afternoon
VIDEO NIGHT—once a
month

WISH LIST

Heavy duty vacuum cleaner
with attachments
Fresh fruit
Art supplies
Volunteers
Pool sticks
Sugar-free
snacks
Popcorn machine
Styrofoam cups
Dinner certificates
New electronic items
\$1 TO \$5 PRIZES
Hot dogs & buns
Stamps



*It's that time of year
again.....*

**When non-profits like us
start nail-biting as funds
run low!**

**This year is especially
scary because we
budgeted a \$10,000 grant
into our 2006 budget from
Winnebago**

**County, and now it's
pretty certain that we will
not be receiving that after
all due to budget
constraints being
experienced by the
county!**

**So....we sure could use
your help with a year-end
gift to Friendship Place!**

**We are making big strides
to help people believe in
themselves, develop their
talents, take
responsibility, and be
accountable!!**

**Your tax-deductible
contribution will help us
develop our retail store
operation, which will have
a business plan, be
operated solely by our
participants, and feature
creative writings, art,
ceramics and crafts
designed and created by
our participants right
here at Friendship!**

**THANKS TO ALL THAT HELPED GET
THIS NEWSLETTER OUT!**

Jean Seager—Editor

April Blair—Photographer

Writers—April, Jean, Denise, Jimmy,

Diane, Melissa, and Julie

WHERE FRIENDS ARE
FAMILY

Friendship Place
220 N. Commercial St.
Neenah, WI 54956

MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of Friendship Place is to provide people with mental illness a safe, caring and stable environment for socialization, recreation, friendship, peer support, education and fellowship.

Yes, I would like to be a friend of

Friendship Place

Enclosed is my tax deductible Contribution of:

\$5.00 \$10.00 \$25.00 \$50.00 \$100.00

We appreciate your helping others gain their independence. God Bless You!