



W
H
E
R
E

F
R
I
E
N
D
S

A
R
E

F
A
M
I
L
Y

F
R
I
E
N
D
S

O
F

F
R
I
E
N
D
S
H
I
P

P
L
A
C
E



THERE'S A NEW DIRECTOR IN TOWN!



Most of you are aware that Dennis Jansen has retired from Friendship Place after valiantly serving as Executive Director for several years. He is sorely missed, and is always welcomed.

As of late January, 2006, Lori Hill has joined Friendship Place, Inc. as the Executive Director. Before joining Friendship Place, Lori worked as the Employment/Life Skills Training Program Coordinator for Outagamie County & Goodwill Industries since 1997. She has a Master's degree in counseling and is a National Certified Counselor. Her interests include job training/retention, planning activities, reorganizing and increasing functionality of space, and enjoying life to its fullest.

She is excited to continue to assist in the mission of Friendship Place, help the drop-in center to grow to its fullest potential, and stomp out stereotypes about persons with mental illness.

FRIENDSHIP PLACE, INC. ARTISANS RETAIL STORE

By Jimmy S.

A guy named Dennis brought the retail store to Friendship Place participants.

It is a store for the people who come down to the Friendship Place. There are some hidden talents here that Dennis thought would be good for the store. The retail store is to help put Friendship Place on the map, and to help participants become a part of the society that is known today.

We are making fishing flies, painted pots for plants, paintings, birdhouses, and miscellaneous writing and poetry—all works created by Friendship Place participants.

Wisconsin Resource Center (a minimum security prison) donated knitted hats, mittens, and scarves for the store. Our beautiful shelves were donated to us from Paul & Monica Rankens.

We would like to thank Dennis Jansen for believing in us and helping to bring out our talents. It takes an effort of everyone to make the store happen—we need everyone's support. Thanks Dennis for everything!

Special points of interest:

- New Director/Dennis Retired?
- What's Friendship Place up to this Spring/Summer?
- Friendship Place Goes Red & Purple For A Day
- Retail Store Grand Opening!
- Jeanne's Book Review
- Thank You & Recognition



GRAND OPENING OF RETAIL STORE will be AUGUST 15, 2006 from 11AM to 1PM. We invite you to come and see the store and grab some refreshments. We hope to see you there!



A DAY WITH THE RED HATTERS By Denise W.

What is the Red Hats Society all about? Easy, it is a group of women that dress up in reds hats and wear purple. Sharon, the Queen Mom of the Red Hats from Legend Lake, says it's a way for 50+-year-old women to have some fun in their life.

Sharon says the idea of the Red Hats originated in Texas and is also based on the poem, "When Old I Will Wear Purple and Wear a Red Hat." She also says it's a way for an older group of gals to play dress up and have some fun doing it.

Some of the Friendship Place people got to know these ladies personally. How, you may ask? Well, the Red Hats invited some of us out to lunch and a movie. And not just any old lunch and movie, but to Mark's Eastside and the Big Picture. The lunch was a

wonderful experience. All of us chatted around a big table as we enjoyed our lunch (popovers, chicken dumpling soup, crackers, sandwiches, dill pickle, and homemade potato chips.

The Big Picture private showing was of Grand Canyon. The theater consists of a 6-story high by 90 feet wide (length and width of the screen allows for things to be seen that people don't get to see) screen, and a sound system that mocks the human ear.

Also, like lunch, the Big Screen was a big fun. The Grand Canyon movie was an awesome experience. When going over the waters or cliffs (because the screen is built the way it was built) it gives you the feeling of flight.

It was a wonderful day for all of us and we were so fortunate to get to know these ladies. They are the nicest and funniest bunch of ladies we ever met.

We at Friendship Place say a big thank you to all of the Ladies of Shawano/Legend Lake Red Hats Society.



JEANNE'S BOOK REVIEW

By Jeanne S.

For me to cope with some of the daily stresses in life I have been reading at least one book a week. It relaxes me and takes me away from the everyday problems and stresses that occur. Therefore, I recently joined the Monday Morning Book Klatch at the Neenah Library. It gives me reading suggestions and one Monday morning a month we meet to discuss the book of the month. My review is of *72-Hour*

Hold by Bebe Moore Campbell. A divorced mother is trying to get her Bi-Polar daughter the help she needs. It explains to you about the different episodes her daughter goes through and the group support system that her mother uses. After her daughter turned 18 years old, the mother was left with no say in her daughter's treatment. However, with nothing left to do, the mother did the most unthinkable thing she could do to get her daughter the help she needed...

I will leave you to wonder... what did she do?

Although the book was fiction, it could very well be true. I would recommend this book to any one trying to understand a person with Bi-Polar or any other mental illness. It helps a person understand what the person with mental illness is going through and how the family also needs to cope.

ACTIVITIES UPDATE

VPI Outreach Center in Appleton and FSP join hands and space to host activities together. Bingo was held at the Outreach Center—4 FSP participants won 4 out of the 5 blackout prizes! FSP will be hosting a cookout with the Outreach Center in late May. This is a great opportunity to meet new people!

Club 10: Club 10, an official program of Refocus, Inc., meets 2 Wednesday mornings per month led by Dennis. The purpose is to help members manage money more effectively. Each member establishes a working plan of money management, which includes the envelope system, put and take

savings, long-term savings, and bill paying plan. Fun and educational!

Don't forget to check out our *calendar* that we included in the newsletter to learn about the 30+ activities going on.

THANKS TO ALL OF YOU THAT MAKE FRIENDSHIP A GREAT PLACE!

We at Friendship Place can't thank all of you enough with your continued support. You all deserve a pat on the back!

Friendship Place Board Members, all of our volunteer "regulars"—you know who you are, Pick 'N Save Bakery, Presto Products, Harmony Café, Winnebago County Health and Human Services, Steve Morton/Morton Pharmacy, US Oil/Schmidt Family Foundation, Fox Cities Performing Arts Center Community Support Committee, Brownie Troup 296, Monica & Paul Rankens, Lee Schmalz, Frank & Florence Heckrodt, Doty Island Development Council, Bletzinger House, Phillip Scoville, Appleton Outreach Center, Oreck Floor Care Center, Red Hats Society, Cries of the Heart, NAMI-FV, Winnebago County Clinical Services, Cranky Pat's, Dairy Queen, St. Margaret Mary's Parish, Outagamie County Sheriff's Dept., Hoffmaster, Burger King, Dairy Queen of Neenah, BJ Clancy's, Fazoli's, Galloway Foundation, JJ Keller Foundation, Kathy Westover, Roosevelt School (Soupster), Ponderosa, Bork Family, Langner Family, and many more.



DENNIS' RETIREMENT PARTY

By Denise W.

March 14th, 2006 will always be an impression in the minds of FSP people for it was a special day—we celebrated Dennis' retirement.

Hugs, smiles, and a lot of love were felt in everyone that attended the surprise retirement party.

The day was spent with Dennis unwrapping gifts opening cards and eating cake and ice cream.

Also, on the day's menu were ham sandwiches, 3-baked bean salad, jell-o salad, 2 different seven layer salads, olives and pickles, crab salad, crackers, and cheese and soda.

Even though he's retired, don't worry because I'm sure he'll pop in here and then for a visit.



FRIENDSHIP PLACE GETS GARDENING!

By Lori H.

That's right, Friendship Place has acquired a donated garden plot behind the Fox Cities Workforce Development Center in Menasha, called The Friendship Garden. The garden was acquired through the Community Garden Project

The plot is 20' X 25', and includes soil, fertilizer, and water.

The season goes from May 20 until October 14. All kinds of plans are being drawn up as to what we'll be planting. Herbs have been started, plants purchased...now we sit anxiously waiting for May 20, the day the gardens officially open.

The garden is open to everyone! Our goal is to learn about planting of vegetables, fruits, and flowers. We wouldn't mind catching a little sun while we're at it. What could be better than fresh fruits and vegetables, sun, outdoors, and physical exercise? The company of Friendship Place participants is pretty cool.

Come check us out at the Neenah Farmer's Market on August 26th! We will be selling fresh herbs, cut flowers, and delicious vegetables.

"THE MYTH OF HOPELESSNESS"

By Leah S.

Many of us are led to believe mental illness is a dead end in life. On the contrary, it is an illness, like others such as epilepsy and diabetes. We only need to recognize this.

Being biological in manner, it requires constant monitoring and medication. What we accept about it goes a long way in determining what we can do in life. It can be a tool for learning about oneself and what we want to do in life.

Illnesses can be great teachers. We are also given abilities that we can develop and use. We can learn coping skills from our doctors and counselors, and when ready, make our way in society.

Many famous people have had a mental illness. We are limited only by our attitudes and lack of acceptance. Once we do, the door opens for opportunities and we can now give of ourselves too.



FRIENDSHIP PLACE PARTICIPATES IN THE HUMAN RACE

By Kerry B.

Friendship Place participated in the Human Race on May 6, a community fund-raiser that provided an opportunity for all non-profit organizations to raise money for their programs. Participating agencies receive 75% of the money collected. Friendship Place raised just under \$1000.

Participants collected pledges and donations, as well as participated in the race on May 6th.

Friendship Place offers mentally ill people a safe, caring, stable environment for peer support, socializing, recreation, and fellowship. Your support helps the whole community benefit. All donations are tax deductible.

Look for all of us next year. We have bigger plans for our participation in the Human Race.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT ON LEAH SCHWARTZ

By Denise W.



Leah Schwartz has been working at Friendship Place since the first time it opened its doors.

If you're ever in Minneapolis, MN, you might find another Leah running around. But trust me, it's not. It's her twin sister, Linda. Leah also has another sister, Sue, and two brothers, Bill and Bob.

Although Leah is a staff person at the Friendship Place, she is also a consumer. Leah was diagnosed with a mental illness in 1978.

But before being diagnosed, she spent the summer backpacking across Western Europe in 1973. In 1974 she joined the army and was stationed in Bamberg, Germany.

There, she spent part of her time working as a drug and alcohol counselor.

When asked why she likes to work at Friendship Place, she responded by saying, "Because I like working in the mental health field, and I enjoy helping others at Friendship Place." She also states, "Although everyday is a new challenge, it brings a special time to my life."



GOOD-BYE TO DENNIS

By Leah S.

I wish to thank our former director, Dennis Jansen, for his numerous contributions to the success of Friendship Place.

He succeeded in bringing Friendship Place to a higher level. His caring attitude is reflected in both the consumers and the activities he initiated. Dennis held the consumers accountable for their behavior while at Friendship Place. He initiated the Club 10 group, a financial planning group. He also started work on a store at Friendship Place that would showcase articles made by the consumers. It is a work in progress. He initiated many other activities as well.

One of the activities he enjoyed the most, was taking consumers out into the community to do random acts of kindness. It was his way of getting people to see others' needs besides their own. But Dennis wasn't all business. All of us at Friendship Place have fallen victim to his zany sense of humor.

He has made the community outside of Friendship Place aware of us with his many talks. He believed in us. We believed in him. Thanks, Dennis. Mission Accomplished.

**FRIENDSHIP PLACE
GOES TO HIGH CLIFF
STATE PARK**



What a gorgeous day was June 8th, 2006. Nine FP staff and participants braved the great outdoors at High Cliff State Park.

The day started with the hard work of outreach specialists, Julie and Candy, preparing our yummy bag lunches and stocking the coolers with lots of cool drinks.

Lunch was great



As soon as that was over, Dave L. got hiking, climbing, bird watching, etc.



All had a good time—a little lunch, hiking, and sunning by the beach. Now that's living!

**WHAT'S WITH THIS
MONKEY BUSINESS AT
FRIENDSHIP PLACE?**



It's a Luau! May 25, 2006 FP hosted its annual "Spring Fling." This year it was Luau style. And what fun—trees, canopies, lights, music, and monkeys! There was food, wild costumes (including grass skirts), and great music to jam and dance.



Motto of the night—let loose and dance!

**POETRY & SHORT STORY
CORNER**

"Growing up Getting Younger" By Denise W.

Smiling, laughing, having fun
Adults shout "Settle Down!"
Why?
Why shouldn't children play?
When they laugh doesn't it mean
they are happy

Or...
Should they be as some adults?
Sad and lonely?
Imaginations growing
Smiles showing
Twinkles in the eyes.
They laugh and play if they
can...

All day.
Why?
Why can't children be children?
Should they have to grow up
fast?

In a way we are all children.
We learn new things everyday.
As children, we are still learning
by our mistakes,
As children will learn.
When we grow up, or grow old,
Sometimes adults say,
"Ah! To be young again."
But if they would look closer
They would see
They already are...

Not a lot of hair,
Eyes not as good.
Whining, crabbiness
Bones not as strong
Not being able to
Do the things you used to do.
"Needing help"
Well, if you think
Why can't I be young again?
Just step back and see...
As we grow older
We become like children
So, when you get a little older,
Just look at it this way...
I guess I got my wish...
"I'm a child all over again!"

The White Bench In The Woods

By Jean Seager

I was getting frustrated not knowing what to do with myself. So I decided to go for a long walk.

It was dark out and the full moon lit the clear night sky. My walk took me down by a sandy beach. The sand had many different colors of brown in it. As I continued walking along the beach I saw a white bench in front of the biggest oak tree with billions of colorful leaves on it.

You could wander through the woods and loose yourself in thought there, just a few yards behind the bench and oak tree. But, I decided to sit on the bench and watch the waves roll in and bombard the rocks.

Soon I was thinking out loud to myself, wouldn't it be nice to be able to bombard my problems like the ocean waves bombard the rocks, breaking them down a little each time? All at once the wind picked up and the leaves started falling all around me, but not one touched the white bench or me. I then started to think, why couldn't life's problems and stresses fall away without touching or bother me?

So, deep down I imagined all my problems and stresses falling around me and not hurting me or complicating my life any more.

Then, all of a sudden, someone started talking to me from the woods. Although I wasn't able to see their face, they told me that I have now completed my life's journey

and that I should now go home and sleep in contentment from now on.

"Your True Friend"

By Denise W.

Climb up a hill
Look over
Nothings there
Climb up another hill
Nothing there
Climb up a hill
Look over
Something's there
Walk down the hill
Something's there still
Walk on and on
It's still there
You walk on more and more
You see in the distance
There's something there still
You start walking over
To this figure
And there you find
Your something
A friend
You take this new person's hand
And start walking again
This person
Even though new to you
Is like an old friend
He walks on over the hill
With you
Even though the travel is far
He leads you on
Once or twice you stumble
But your friend
Helps you to your feet
And you carry on
He talks low
But his words you can hear
And they bring you comfort
And peace
About a place so dear
Finally as you near the end
Of your long journey
He opens his arms
Far and wide
With one gentle hug
You know now
"You're really home"

Memo: Jesus is the best friend you'll even know. Just

remember he's there wherever you are, and wherever you go, he'll go.

Windy Days

By Jean Seager

Tarps flapping in the wind
Like flags they wished they were

Snow blowing like it is falling
All over again

Men on roofs walking around
Without a care
Like squirrels on a limb
Of a tree

Leaves falling from a tree
And landing blocks away

Wet clothes hanging on a line
Whipping fresh air into them
Drying in the bright sun light

Walking into the wind
Being push back
Three steps for every five taken
Never reaching your destination

WISH LIST

- Decaffeinated coffee (ground)
- Gift Certificates to Office Depot/Office Max
- Dinner certificates
- Diabetic friendly treats
- Hot dogs & buns
- Stamps
- Styrofoam cups
- Fresh fruit
- Art supplies (paints, paint brushes, paper)
- Volunteers
- Carpet cleaning services
- Movie passes

FRIENDS OF FP is a newsletter of Friendship Place, Inc., published twice per year in spring/summer, fall/winter.

Contributors:

Kerry B., Lori H., Leah S., Jeanne S., Jimmy S., and Denise W.

Board of Directors

President

Jim Travis

Secretary

Dennis Jansen

Treasurer

Terry Tessier

Brenda Cross
Doug Dietrich
Lynn Erickson
Lt. Howard Fuerst
Dick Galloway
Dr. Ada Hall
Malcolm Hjerstedt
Connie Kafura
Sue Rae Miller
Kara Patterson
Robert Paynter
Chris Schwab
Diane Turke

Executive Director

Lori L. Hill

Outreach Specialists

Julie Grondahl
Candice Luedtke

Outreach Assistants

Dan Carroll
Dan Paynter
Leah Schwartz

MISSION STATEMENT:

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

FRIENDS OF
FRIENDSHIP PLACE
NEWSLETTER

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

This issue is dedicated to Dennis Jansen

YES! I want to help Friendship Place with a financial donation.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE _____

Enclosed is my **tax-deductible** contribution of:
__ \$5.00 __ \$10.00 __ \$25.00 __ \$50.00 __ \$100.00 __ Other

We appreciate your helping others gain their independence.

Please make your tax-deductible checks payable to **Friendship Place**.
Send to: 220 N. Commercial St., Neenah, WI 54956.