

Friends Aware Social Committee—Improving the Lives of Consumers

The Friends Aware Social Committee is a group comprised of parents, family, friends, and caregivers, who work together to provide social events to individuals receiving services from Friends Aware. Annual events include the Spring Fling, the consumer picnic, and the Halloween and Holiday dances. The committee funds such events through community organizations and private donors.

The committee also raises money through the “200 Club,” a lottery in which 2 numbers are drawn weekly for a chance to win \$50.00. The cost to play is \$5.00 a month or \$55.00 for a full year. Any individual affiliated



The Social Committee Halloween dance was a SPOOK-tacular event! Above (L to R) are Brian Evans, Johnny Barger, and Juliann Bascelli. Below (L to R) are Crystal Brehm, Linda Gretchen, and Charles Hanekamp.



with Friends Aware who wishes to participate in the “200 Club” should contact Barb Evans at 240-362-7952.

In October 2008, the committee sponsored the annual Halloween dance. They also sponsored a “Turkey Bowling” fundraiser in November at When Pig’s Fly restaurant. Participants threw frozen Butterball turkeys at regulation size bowling pins—right in the middle of the main dining room! Gifts and coupons were graciously provided to all participants by When Pig’s Fly, and a great time was had by all!

The Social Committee recently made a donation towards the purchase and installation of new automatic doors with wall mount and pole mount openers in the entryway to the Day Program. Installed in December 2008, the automatic doors provide accessibility to individuals in wheelchairs and walkers. The new equipment has proven to be a tremendous asset to assist in the daily needs of the individuals who receive our services.

Friends Aware appreciates the Social Committee’s generous donations and their focus on improving the lives of consumers.



Kathleen Breighner puts on her best game face at the “Turkey Bowling” fundraiser.



The Friends Aware Social Committee donates a commercial food processor to Friends Aware. Left to Right are: Barbara Evans, Committee Vice-Chairman; Cletus Evans, Social Committee Chairman; Cecilia Stakem, Activities Coordinator; Terrie Lease, FAI Food Service Manager; Barbara Barb, Committee Treasurer; and Robin Kerr, FAI Training Center Director.



Susan Kildoff (above) operates the newly-installed automatic door system in the entryway to the Day Program.



FAI Transportation Department

Fall Festivities at the Training Center



Tony Wagoner (left) and Kim Gnegy making crafts.



Left to Right: Gertie Shumaker, Dean Thomas, Jimmy Lloyd and Bridget Winner enjoying the Harvest Festival.



Charlie Hatcher (left) and Margaret Bartlett taking in the hayride at Higson's Farm.



Sharon Hunter in the pumpkin patch.

Friends Aware operates a total of 36 vehicles between the Day Program, Work Development Project, and Residential components. Now falling under the jurisdiction of the Day and Vocational Programs, the Transportation Department has 8 vehicles, with 17 drivers and aides, that daily transport consumers to and from the Day Programs and Senior Center. The Transportation staff is responsible for the safety and well-being of our consumers while traveling.

Teresa Mason, Day Program Operations Manager, has been with Friends Aware for 17 years. When recently asked about the Transportation Department she said, "I am grateful for the staff and all they do. They make my job a little easier. I have a great team that all pull together to get the job done!"

The FAI Transportation staff is out there in the rain, sleet, snow, and sweltering heat. She explains that in inclement weather conditions, unlike county school buses that travel the main roads, our buses go door-to-door on some narrow, difficult-to-manuever roadways, and indiscreet side streets. Many of these "non-user-friendly" roadways are not always treated in winter weather, making the journey more challenging. She commends the Transportation staff for the job they do and for their outstanding safety record.

FAI has been awarded a grant from the Mass Transit Administration for



Teresa Mason (left) with her right hand man, bus driver Gene Kerr. Gene assists with maintaining the Friends Aware transportation fleet, ensuring safe, daily travel for consumers and staff.



Left to Right: Robin Kerr, Amelia Geary, Linda Moses, and Teresa Mason.

two new 12-passenger Ford buses, both equipped with wheelchair lifts. They have replaced two vans that have since been retired. The Maryland Department of Transportation, Section 5310 Capital Grant has awarded Friends Aware with 13 new buses or vans over the past 15 years. The grant pays 80% of the cost of new vehicles. The agency continues to seek additional funding to continue to provide needed upgrades and replacement vehicles.

Greenhouse Update

Spring (hopefully) is right around the corner, and with it the start-up of our greenhouse. Please keep us in mind for your spring herb planting. We will again be participating in the May Flower Sale, and in the Farmer's market in June. **Thank you for your support!**

Vocational Services Trainee of the Quarter

Lora Bowman was selected as the Trainee of the Quarter for the final quarter of 2008 (October thru December). This award is presented to an individual within the Vocational Services program who has demonstrated significant achievement or consistent improvement in certain areas of their lives, based on their unique strengths, skill sets, character traits, motivation, and individual challenges.

Lora had been nominated for this award on several occasions over the past two years. She has been working very diligently to improve very specific aspects of her life. Lora was nominated this quarter because of her improved social interaction with others, her ability to accept and follow through with redirection, her willingness and motivation to continue to work on various in-house contracts, including bulk mailings, Superfos contracts and ATK contracts (probes and nosecones). She assists with agency (and outside business) document destruction on a daily



Lora Bowman

basis by using the commercial shredder. In addition, she works in the commercial kitchen with lunch preparation, bin bussing, and clean-up. She also volunteers to work in the Senior Center by emptying trash and completing various other maintenance duties. Lora's attendance is excellent and she rarely misses a day. Lora is also very considerate of her co-workers and likes to be helpful to staff.

Congratulations Lora! The Vocational Services staff is very proud of your accomplishment and have recognized the effort you have put forth in order to receive this award.

Celebrating the Holidays at Friends Aware



FAI Residential Staff Members Peggy Blume (left) and Kim Denney enjoy a holiday brunch at the Ponderosa.



Ed Whitaker spreads holiday cheer at the Senior Center.



Training Center says Ho! Ho! Ho! (L to R) Michael Brooke, Rachelle Eversole, and Clarence Dingley.



"Getting Down" at WDP.

Weighing In...



Kelly Washington, at left, with Hazel Shaffer, weighing in on the newly purchased wheelchair scale. **Thanks to all Ox Roast supporters who make purchases like this possible!**

SAVE THE DATE!
12th Annual FAI Ox Roast
 Friday, June 19, 2009
 at the Ali Ghan Shrine Club Picnic Grounds
 All You Can Eat & Drink
 Cash Prizes • Live Music

Gifts ♦ October 1, 2008 - December 31, 2008 ♦ Gifts

Friends Aware Contributors

Thank You for Your Generous Donations!

- Food Lion
- MD Charity Campaign
- The Doug & Betsey Schwab & Family Foundation
- Elliott Memorial UMW
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- Mrs. Patricia Kauffman
- Mr. John DeMoss
- GFWC Western Maryland Community Club

FAI Holiday Note Cards

Two years ago Kim Plummer, Community Development Specialist in the Work Development Program, initiated the Note Card Project. The first illustrations were designed by Friends Aware artists Linda Gretchen, and the late Ellen Taylor. Thanks to the help of local artist Dave Dunkin, the note cards were developed and printed. The first edition of five cards was sold at a cost of \$5.00 throughout the holiday season. Portions of the proceeds from the Holiday Set were sent to the Animal Welfare Society in Ellen Taylor's memory. Ellen passed away in December 2007 before the project was completed. Holiday



cards are still available. Future cards for all occasions are being developed by various talented artists in the Friends Aware community. If you are interested in purchasing FAI Note Cards, contact Kim Plummer at kplummer@friendsaware.org or call 301-722-7268 ext 210.

Ringling Bells for the Salvation Army



FAI Volunteers (L to R): Margaret Gracie, Jarrod Wolfe, and Jason Hines.



Ringling Bells at Farley's Foodland (L to R): Roxanne Lewis and Jody Washington.



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