

FAI Annual Recognition Dinner

Friends Aware's Annual Recognition Dinner was recently held at the Ali Ghan Shrine Club. **The American Red Cross** was recognized as the 2012 Community Partner of the Year. Red Cross Board Member Dr. Troy Strieby accepted the recognition award on their behalf, for partnering to provide a location for Friends Aware's Training and Residential Program.

PharmaCare was recognized as Business Partner of 2012. Jennifer Hare accepted the recognition award, for their exceptional partnership with Friends Aware, Inc. PharmaCare has been a long-term supporter of employment opportunities for our individuals, being the first employer to hire a person through our Supported Employment Program 18 years ago. Today, PharmaCare employs nine individuals at five different locations. Our individuals perform a variety of jobs, including the packing of medications and confidential shredding, as well as clerical and custodial duties. In addition to providing employment opportunities, PharmaCare serves as the agency's pharmacy, going above and beyond to meet the needs of the individuals served in our Residential Program.

The Karen Marie Howell Helping Hands Award recipient for 2012 was **Jennie Myers**, for her outstanding character and willingness to help others. This award was established last year, through the generosity of the Howell Family, in memory of the late Karen Marie Howell who attended FAI for 27 years.



Photo: W.A. Hedrick

Red Cross Board Member Dr. Troy Strieby (left) accepts the Community Partner of the Year Award from FAI Executive Director Robert Godfrey.



Robert Snoeberger, Employee of the Year

Robert Snoeberger, FAI bus driver, was the recipient of the 2012 Friends Aware Employee of the Year Award for his exceptional performance and dedication.



Photo: W.A. Hedrick

Marie Duckworth (left) and Victor Mazzocco give the dinner a thumbs up!



The Howell family presents the Karen Marie Howell Helping Hands Award (L to R): Rita Howell, Charles Howell, Award Recipient Jennie Myers, Marjorie Howell, Beth Leake, Greg Leake and Brian Howell.

Staff Celebrates Years of Service

30 Years of Service...

Sue Buehler

25 Years of Service...

James Twigg

20 Years of Service...

Tonya Clites

John Crites

Gayle Fazenbaker

15 Years of Service...

Patrick Brode

Arika McMillan

10 Years of Service...

Meggin Bittner

Janice McGraw

Lorna Pfitzenmayer

5 Years of Service...

Linda Anderson

Robin Brooks

Denise Hughson

Jennifer Hutzell

Debra Hutzell

Melissa Powell

Ralph Scarlett

Robert Snoeberger

Kelly Washington



Photo: W.A. Hedrick

PharmaCare accepts the Business Partner of the Year Award (L to R): Debbie Perrin, PharmaCare Administrative Assistant; Jodi Chamberlain, PharmaCare Human Relations Director; Julie Christopher, PharmaCare Chief Financial Officer; Jennifer Hare, PharmaCare Director of Marketing; and Robert Godfrey, FAI Executive Director.

Friends Aware Contributors

Thank You for Your Generous Donations!

- GFWC Western District, Inc.
- Mr. & Mrs. Robert Stakem
- Mr. Joseph Washington
- Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Winner
- Mr. & Mrs. John Yates
- Mr. & Mrs. Albert James
- Ms. Susan Clucas
- Ms. Jean Riley
- Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Geary
- Ms. Mary Ellen Harrison
- Ms. Virginia Lloyd
- Classy Chassis Car Club
- Ms. Margaret Phillips
- Ms. Carol Kauffman
- GFWC Western Maryland Community Club
- Mr. Dennis Bernard
- Mr. Todd Christopher
- Mr. & Mrs. John Ralston, Sr.
- Fidelity Bank
- J. Rowland Circle of Melvin UMC
- Sunset View Real Estate & Development
- Ms. Pamela Kauffman
- Ms. Noreen Murray
- United Commercial Travelers #179
- Altoona Area Kennel Association
- The Kate, Bill & Diane Dailey FDN
- Mr. James Wiegand
- Maximus Foundation
- Mr. John Boyer
- Ms. Cyril Johnston
- Mr. Roger Snyder
- Mr. Douglas Schwab
- Mrs. Elsie Ray
- Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Day
- Ms. Sapna Nagabhushan
- W.A. Hedrick Photography
- Moriah K. Photography

“Building Independence” Capital Campaign

Friends Aware kicked-off its “Building Independence” Capital Expansion Project at the PACE Reception in Annapolis on January 24th. Friends Aware networked with local, state and federal government officials, and community members from Allegany and Garrett Counties.

The “Building Independence” Capital Expansion Project will provide:

- Positive and sustainable economic impact to Allegany County.
- Increased number of full and part time jobs to Allegany County residents.
- Greater capacity to serve the vocational, residential, and support needs of individuals with developmental disabilities.

Stay tuned for more information in upcoming issues of “FAI Info” or check-out our “Capital Campaign” page at www.friendsaware.org.



Photo: Moriah K. Photography

Friends Aware representatives attending the PACE Reception (L to R): Christina Sherman, Executive Assistant; Kathleen Breighner, Community Relations & Resource Development Director; Christopher Howell, Capital Campaign Chairman; Deborah Boggs, Board Member; Robert Godfrey, Executive Director; Dottie Turner, Board Member; and Lee Anne Santiago, Board President.



Partnering with Western Maryland Food Bank

Friends Aware recently held its 5th Annual Food Drive. During the past five years, Friends Aware has donated 1,971 lbs. of food to the Western Maryland Food Bank to help aid the community during the holiday season. Friends Aware is a longtime supporter, having partnered with the Western Maryland Food Bank for over 20 years. Every week, groups of Friends Aware volunteers lend a hand by cleaning, sweeping and completing various tasks as needed at the Food Bank Warehouse located at 816 Frederick Street in Cumberland.



Front Row (L to R): Diana Loar, Western Maryland Food Bank Director; Ashley Nichols, FAI Community Development Assistant; Adam Smith, Friends Aware; Dean Thomas, Friends Aware; Laura Courtney, Friends Aware; Sue Carr, Friends Aware; Kathleen Breighner, FAI Community Relations & Resource Development Director. Back Row (L to R): Bob Snoeberger, FAI Bus Driver; Teresa Howard, FAI Community Development Assistant; Brenda Hayhurst, FAI Community Development Specialist; and Chris Davis, Friends Aware.

Bradley Shirey is Quarterly Winner of LEC Achievement Award

Bradley Shirey is the recipient of the LEC Achievement Award for the fourth quarter of 2012. Brad began receiving services through Friends Aware in September of 1994. He continues to work three days a week in the Vocational Services Program at the Life Enrichment Center, where he works in the commercial woodshop and on various in-house contracts. He performs all woodshop tasks including saw operation, and retrieving and stacking boards. He also assists with assembling pallets for delivery to Hunter Douglas to help meet their weekly production demand. He is one of the top producers, if not THE top producer, on the container contract for Berry Plastics. Brad is very quick to learn new jobs, has a great work ethic, and has even come in to the LEC over the summer and during holiday breaks to assist with contract production to help meet deadlines.



Bradley Shirey

Brad likes to stay busy and will frequently ask if there is work for him to do. He also likes to work outdoors and has assisted with landscaping the grounds around Friends Aware. He has given back to the community through volunteering at the Day of Caring & Sharing, cleaning the Handicapped Trail at Rocky Gap, picking up trash at Constitution Park, and helping at the Food Bank and Salvation Army. LEC staff have commented that Brad is "highly motivated... dedicated... a great team player... always ready to jump in and help... easy to get along with... and really enjoys earning a paycheck."

This past year, Brad also began working two days a week in the Materials Management Department at Western Maryland Health System. Brad says that he loves his job which involves walking the floors of the hospital, collecting discarded cardboard boxes, and taking them to the compactor to be smashed. This job involves quite a bit of walking, which pleases Brad. Before Christmas, Brad was asked if he would substitute for a co-worker who was out on medical leave, and he willingly obliged, working five days a week for several weeks. He also chose to work over the Christmas holiday shutdown at Friends Aware. Job Coaches have remarked that Brad does an "excellent" job when at WMHS and displays a "great attitude every day." He works very hard and does whatever is asked of him.

In his personal life, Brad is quite the sports fanatic. He loves football and is an avid fan of the Pittsburgh Steelers and Mountain Ridge High School football teams. During the 2011 football season, Brad had the good fortune to be selected to work with Frostburg State University's football team as an equipment manager. Although this grant-funded program only lasted one year, Brad greatly enjoyed this experience. Brad himself is a talented and gifted athlete, with a passion for bowling. He currently bowls in four leagues. He speaks often of someday achieving the elusive 300 game, and has come very close on a couple occasions with high games of 287 and 269. At one point, Brad's highest average was 182.

Friends Aware would like to congratulate Brad on achieving this recognition.

Save the Date!

16th Annual Ox Roast • Friday, June 21, 2013
5:00 to 9:00 p.m. • Ali Ghan Shrine Club Picnic Grounds

Toys for Happiness



Wrapping gifts for Toys for Happiness at the Country Club Mall are Friends Aware volunteers (L to R) Angela Rudd, Barb Evans and Christina Sherman.



(Standing L to R) FAI Community Relations & Resource Development Director Kathleen Breighner and FAI Executive Director Robert Godfrey present Toys for Happiness donations to Chuck Koelker. Linda Moses (seated) with toys collected from Friends Aware's 5th Annual Toy Drive.

Friends Aware Art Program



Friends Aware Artist Tara Lewis shows off the Friends Aware Art Display at the Culinaire Café on the Downtown Cumberland Mall. Pieces are for sale through the Allegany Arts Council.



1601 Holland Street
 Cumberland, MD 21502
 Phone: 301-722-7268 • Fax: 301-724-8965
 www.friendsaware.org

PRSRT STD
 NONPROFIT
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 CUMBERLAND, MD
 PERMIT NO. 963



FAI Info is designed and produced by
 GGI Advertising, a division of General Graphics, Inc.

Executive Director: Robert Godfrey
Officers of the Board: Lee Anne Santiago, President • Dottie Turner, Vice-President • Frank Billard, Secretary • Mirjhana Buck, Treasurer

Welcome New Board Members!



Deborah Boggs



Frank Billard
 Board Secretary



Mary Bond



Sarah Cowan



Anita Collins

Meet Darren Wiley

My name is Darren Wiley and I truly feel privileged to serve as the new Employment Services Manager for Friends Aware. I was born and raised in Allegany County, MD. A Fort Hill High School graduate, I received my Associate of Applied Arts & Sciences in Human Services from Allegany College of MD, and my Regents Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from WVU. Currently, I am pursuing my Master of Arts in Counseling from Liberty University. My background includes extensive work with diverse populations throughout the tri-state area. I specifically enjoy working with people with disabilities, and strongly advocate for equal opportunities for those who wish to enter the workforce. I also have extensive experience working with businesses who support non-profit services and am looking forward to helping Friends Aware continue to grow and prosper through their supported employment services. Feel free to contact me at 301-722-7268 ext. 116, or dwiley@friendsaware.org.



Darren Wiley

"Getting Clean with Dean"

The 2nd Annual "Getting Clean with Dean" was held to benefit the Family Crisis Resource Center (FCRC). The volunteer project began last year when Dean Thomas came up with the idea for the annual drive. Friends Aware assisted Dean in collecting supplies for children and families in need. Dean works hard to promote the benefit and enjoys delivering the supplies to the Family Crisis Resource Center.

Dean Thomas (center), with FAI Community Relations & Resource Development Director Kathleen Breighner (left) and FCRC Executive Director Sarah Kaiser.

