



the house news

Winter 2013



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Banquet/Silent Auction Fundraiser

Our annual banquet/silent auction fundraiser is coming up soon, **Friday evening March 29th!** It is being held at **Seasons Event and Conference Center, 155 Riverside St. in Portland from 6:00 – 8:30 PM.** There will be musical entertainment, an Italian Buffet meal and the opportunity to bid on a wide array of items, with all proceeds benefitting Friendship House and men in recovery here. We are asking as many of our friends and supporters who are able, to come out and enjoy the banquet and help us make this fundraiser a huge success. There are several ways that individuals, churches, businesses and organizations can help. We are trying to secure as many items as possible for our silent auction, including donations of items, gift cards, services, etc.. We are also looking for table sponsors for our event. Sponsorships are \$250.00 per table, which would cover

the banquet costs for the 8 people seated at your table. It is a great way to not only help us here at Friendship House, but to enjoy the evening with some of your friends, colleagues and members of your church or business. Individual cost for attending this event is \$30.00 and again, we would love for you to join us on March 29th. If you, your business, church or organization can help us in any way, please contact Herb @ 767-7403. We will be accepting items, sponsorships and donations of any kind right up to the week of our fundraiser. All of our banquet/silent auction supporters will be recognized on the night of our event. We hope to see you there! Please call the above number to make your reservation as early as possible, so we will be able to provide an accurate count to Seasons by the middle of March.

Kitchen Makeover



Before



After

Our kitchen renovation has begun. As you can see from the pictures, it has made a dramatic difference in our high traffic kitchen area. We would like to express our great thanks to those who helped make this tremendous blessing possible. Dave Baker, owner of **Trico Millwork Inc.** (which specializes in custom wood fabrication and design) in Limington for designing, making and donating all of the cabinetry pictured in this project! **St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church** in Yarmouth for awarding Friendship House a generous \$750.00 grant for our kitchen renovation through their Social Action Program, which allowed us to buy a desperately needed brand new stainless steel dishwasher and help with the installation of this project! Also, thank you to Ted Amell for all of your time and effort in the installation process!



THE DIRECTOR'S TAKE



As we have begun 2013 and I take a look back at this past year that has just seemed to fly by, I am thankful for many things. I am thankful for the 62 men that have been residents here and the great things that have happened in many of their lives. Many have gained steady employment, built a solid community support network around them, began a relationship with God and found safe housing solutions upon leaving Friendship House. It is a privilege to see residents who came into this house in hopeless and desperate circumstances leave with renewed hope and determination for the future that lies ahead of them. A verse we mention often, Jeremiah 29:11, "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'", we see in action in the lives of many of these men! I am thankful to be working with our Board of Directors, who continue to have a passion to serve and carry out the mission of Friend-

ship House, as well as Bob and Dan, our house manager and intern, who serve daily in many capacities and have a great impact on the lives of men here and the direction we are headed. I am thankful for the vision and courage of the Montgomery's (Louise and Claude) to begin this work 28 years ago and for all those who have helped carry the vision forward to the present, including former board members, directors, house managers and others who have served Friendship House well. Last and certainly not least, I am thankful for all of our supporters and volunteers, you all are an integral part of this house continuing to operate and impact the lives and families of men in recovery from substance abuse. The donations of money for our high cost of operational expenses, grants from several foundations allowing us to address some real problem areas, donations including items from our wish list, household items, clothing, delicious meals, wood to help us heat this large house and so many more expressions of kindness, have been a tremendous blessing over this past year and helped us forge into 2013 with great optimism! The needs continue to be great, so I would like to humbly ask you to continue to keep our residents in your prayers and consider continuing to support us in any way that you can. I would love to see many of you at our annual silent auction/banquet on Friday evening, March 29th at Seasons Event and Conference Center and I wish you all a coming year full of God's blessing!

Herb



RESIDENT LETTER

My name is Garry Cain and I am writing to express praise for the Friendship House. Friendship House has helped me to focus on getting my life back on the right track, a great deal. When I got here, my life was down and out, due to alcohol. Friendship House has helped me focus on my sobriety and has helped me bring Jesus into my life. I have been here for 7 months and so far I have changed a lot. I know I have a long way to go, but my life is so much better. I plan to continue to use what I have learned here in my life, when I leave. I highly recommend Friendship House to anyone who has a drug and alcohol problem and wants to get their life back together. I can't say enough about the Friendship House. If you truly want a clean and sober life, this place can help you get on the right path.

Truly,
Garry Cain



ABOUT LOUISE

(A new article to look for in future newsletters, with facts and quotes from Friendship House's founder Louise Montgomery, who passed away on November 5th, 1992)

"Most of our guests never had a real home before. Many called us Mom and Pop. This is the most rewarding work I have ever done and I am constantly grateful to the Lord for His guidance, help and miracle power. I asked my husband why the Lord waited until I was in my 70's. He wisely answered that I wouldn't have been ready before."

Our Winter Wish List!

(Thank you to all who made donations from our Summer Wish List, it was greatly appreciated)

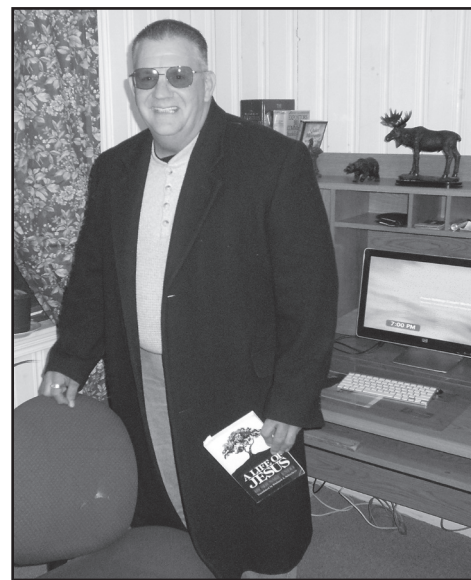
- Bibles
- Large Trash Bags (55 Gallon)
- Paper Towels
- Toilet Tissue
- Bath Towels & Dish Towels
- Wood (4 Foot Lengths or Less) for the Wood Dr. (Heating Source)
- Laundry Detergent
- Laptop Computer for Residents (Applications, Job Searches, Etc.)
- Brady Requests Large Milk Bone Dog Biscuits
- Coffee Cups (New or Used)
- Cereal and Salad Bowls
- Twin Mattress Covers
- Comforters and Blankets
- Shop Vac

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Many thanks to all who made donations in response to our annual "Harvest for the Homeless" appeal, your generosity and concern for the homeless who are in recovery is greatly appreciated and greatly reduced our operational expense deficit for 2012
- Thank you to Mr. Tom Griffin and the Scarborough Middle School "Builder's Club" for coming and putting on a great meal and spending an evening with us (These 6th, 7th and 8th graders do a lot of community service and we appreciate all of their service)
- Thank you to our many supporters who have dropped by with donations of items off our wish list, great meals, food and clothing
- Thank you to Covenant Family Fellowship in Gray for providing each resident here a stocking for Christmas morning (the personal items, gift cards and other surprises were greatly appreciated), as well as their invitation to worship with them and share about the mission of Friendship House in a Sunday morning service (and Christmas dinner afterward)
- Thank you to First Parish UCC in Yarmouth for inviting us to worship with them and participate in their annual "missions fair" and all of the great support you provide to us
- Thank you to Cindy Blake, Helen Nev-ers and Connie LaBrecque for taking an afternoon and decorating Friendship House for Christmas (It looked great and our attempt at decorating was obviously in need of a woman's touch!)
- Thank you to First Baptist Church in Wal-doboro for providing us a generous gift card to purchase household items with
- Thank you to Cape Elizabeth Church of the Nazarene and Pastor Jon Twitchell for their invitation to worship with them, share about Friendship House during their annual missions conference, as well as their generous donation.

MOMENT WITH THE MANAGEMENT

Hello... Greetings from the staff and residents of Friendship House. Lately, I have spent a lot of time staying focused on what it means to be grateful. I have opened some doors to the past, that were painful and full of shame. I go back to this place often, because I do not wish to ever forget how unmanageable a life can become. Even though you see the effects of addiction all around you, they always cry out to me, "Bob, don't come to this place. Turn and run from here. Death is waiting and hiding behind the door and he has a huge bag in his hand with your name on it." I have been there and I bring you evidence as recent as 2 weeks ago. I lost yet another friend who just had to run back for something. I don't think he knew the spirit with the bag was waiting for him in the other room. I am so grateful that I no longer choose to go in there. God has led me safely away from there. What I left behind must stay there. It was of no value what-



soever, anyway. A grateful heart will never drink. How about you? Have you told God how grateful you are, lately?

Bob J. – House Man

Our Roofing/Shed Project Has Also Begun

We would like to recognize and extend our great thanks to the **Sam L. Cohen Foundation** for awarding an \$8000.00 grant, **The Agnes M. Lindsay Trust** for awarding a \$2500.00 grant and Joe DiPaolo of JC DiPaolo Construction for greatly reducing the cost of materials and the labor involved in this project! Because of their

generosity, this project began in December and will be completed in the spring. Areas of our roof that were in desperate need were able to be addressed before the onset of winter, which may have saved us many additional costs in the coming months. Thank you all for partnering with us in this important project!

SAVE THE DATES

Friday March 29th – Banquet/Silent Auction @ Seasons Event and Conference Center

Saturday June 15th – Annual Friendship House Yard Sale (Thank you for your response with donations last year, we will begin receiving donations for this year's yard sale on April 1st, so please keep us in mind when doing your spring cleaning and organizing!)

Friday September 13th – 2nd Annual Montgomery Classic Golf Tournament @ Nonesuch River Golf Club (We will start signing up teams in June, \$100 per player includes 18 Holes with Cart, Prizes for winning team, individual contests including longest drive and closest to the pin, as well as a chance for each participant to win \$10,000 for a hole in one) Look for our Spring newsletter for more information about becoming a sponsor for this year's event!



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INSIDE: The latest news and changes at Friendship House

Friendship House began in 1985 when founder, Louise Montgomery, felt the Lord directing her to open a home for the homeless.

Friendship House, Inc. is a non-profit organization, governed by members of a volunteer Board of Directors who are committed to helping men in need by providing shelter and a warm family atmosphere for them in which to grow physically, emotionally and spiritually.



AS BILL SEES IT

Bill Wilson was one of the co-founders of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA). The articles selected are from his book, "The AA Way Of Life" published in 1967.

"The moral inventory is a cool examination of the damages that occurred to us during life and a sincere effort to look at them in a true perspective. This has the effect of taking the ground glass out of us, the emotional substance that still cuts and inhibits."

FRIENDSHIP HOUSE

OUR MISSION

To express the love of God through Christ to the poor and disadvantaged, by providing a safe home where hope and healing are extended to those who are broken spiritually, emotionally or physically.

Board of Directors

Jason Castle - President
Dave Quigley - Vice President
Ralph Blumenthal
Dave Smallwood

Ex Officio

Sydney St. Felix Thaxter

Advisory Board

Robert M. Hayes
Jane Boyer
Nancy Savage
Frank Parker

House Manager

Bob Joyce

Executive Director

Herb Blake