FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A Friendship group leader recently shared with our team:

“Our Encircle Life Class has really enjoyed using TOGETHER this year. Friendship continues to be on the cutting edge of appropriate and engaging lessons… Our group has come to love the multi-media aspect.

“With that said, when will the 3 upcoming units be available?”

That is a great question—that YOU can help us answer!

Our curriculum development is currently on hold as we wait in patient hope for God to provide what we need financially to take the next steps.

We have always raised funds to support curriculum development, and we have never sold it for as much as it costs to produce. This keeps it affordable enough for everyone to use, and God has blessed these efforts with the addition of 143 Friendship groups in the last 5 years—many of which started with TOGETHER.

We are seeing more and more people get on board with inclusive ministry that is accessible for everyone, across all levels of ability. We need your help to stay on the cutting edge, providing material that uses new technology and is more accessible, versatile, and adaptable than ever before.

So when will the next TOGETHER studies become available? You can help us answer that question, and we are so grateful for the hundreds of supporters that we trust will answer in faith with us—soon!

Thank You,

Tom VanWingerden
Executive Director
tomvw@friendship.org
888.866.8966

PS. Keep an eye out for an exciting new way to give online through our upcoming Walk TOGETHER initiative! Visit friendship.org/walk-together for more details.

NOTAS DE AMISTAD

Diane Kuipers: A Beautiful Testimony of Generosity

In last quarter’s Notas de Amistad, we expressed our thanks for the donation received from a Friendship group in Canada for Amistad groups located in Argentina.

Today, we want to highlight the wonderful work of Diane Kuipers, who was a volunteer and mentor for many years in the Friendship group of the Ebenezer CRC church located in Trenton, ON, Canada.

Diane Kuipers passed away last fall, and her family made a donation to the Ebenezer Friendship group that allowed to this Friendship group to purchase new educational materials as well as help start-up Amistad groups in Argentina. This is a great opportunity to thank Diane and her family for such a beautiful testimony of generosity.

In Memory of Diane Kuipers, who was a wonderful and faithful mentor to our friends at Ebenezer CRC for many years.

Elizabeth Rodriguez
Ministerio Amistad
info@ministerioamistad.org
954.514.7960
WHAT WE BELIEVE
We believe that all people belong in the body of Christ, serving and being served with their unique gifts and talents.

THE REALITY
We recognize that people with intellectual disability are marginalized in many churches today. Because people with disabilities may not respond or learn well from traditional methods, the church is often at a loss for how they should love, teach, and receive wisdom from those with disabilities.

OUR VISION
Disability ministry — a separate church program for people with intellectual disability — has been the answer for many years. But our vision is inclusive ministry, where people with and without intellectual disability grow in community side by side, together.

THE RESPONSE
Inclusive ministry can seem daunting, confusing, and too costly. We want to change that and make it easy for churches to include people of ALL abilities.

WHAT WE DO
Since 1982, we’ve been creating easy-to-use resources that equip churches to welcome, teach, and facilitate community building with people who have intellectual building disability.

WHAT DOES OUR NEWEST ACCESSIBLE CURRICULUM COST?

COST TO GROUPS
$1 per member, per session

COST TO PRODUCE A SINGLE SESSION
$7,000 - 8,000
- Writing
- Copyediting
- Theological review
- Creation of art and videos
- Webpage assembly
- Printable page assembly
- Final production / proofreading

COST TO PRODUCE A 6-SESSION STUDY
$42,000-$48,000
This summer, residents and staff at Hope House group home worked through Choose Courage from our TOGETHER curriculum series. Here’s what they thought:

This study [Choose Courage] is truly amazing! Not only did all the ladies have fun, but we talked through very deep truths that cause us to be scared or worried and to lay those in God’s hands.

Kiri, staff member

Hope House Bible study has been great over the summer months. It has impacted on Hope House on how we have the courage. Let’s keep it going on for a long time.

Elizabeth, resident
HOW WE USE OUR BUDGET

- 25% Administrative Costs
- 24.5% Curriculum
- 34.2% Consulting & Program Costs
- 16% Fundraising Costs

DONATION CHANNELS

USA: $146,632 USD
- $107,405 USD Individual Donors
- $19,305 USD Churches
- $12,037 USD Foundations
- $7,885 USD Businesses

CANADA: $90,115 CAD
- $61,556 CAD Churches
- $25,795 CAD Individual Donors
- $1,864 CAD Foundations
- $900 CAD Business

PROVIDING FREE CURRICULUM

- $3,986
  Raised through Ride for Refuge to benefit Friendship groups in Canada

- $1,437
  Distributed through the Mary Louters Fund to benefit Friendship groups in Latin America
THE FUTURE

From here, where is Friendship Ministries headed? You have helped us lay the foundation. Since our founding in 1982, we have produced numerous tools and studies to facilitate inclusive ministry. In the last two years, we’ve produced 7 studies in the TOGETHER series, which pairs multimedia tools with a deeper focus on ministry in partnership with persons with disability.

We have a plan for 9 new units to be released in the next 3 years. Will you help us get there?

THANK YOU FOR INVESTING IN FRIENDSHIP!

Volunteer
Become a mentor, prayer warrior, or helper with a Friendship group.

Pray
Keep the Friendship Ministries staff and board of directors in your prayers for wisdom, understanding, patience, and joy.

Share
Tell someone about Friendship Ministries, and encourage new groups to get involved.

Donate
friendship.org/give
Friendship Ministries
2215 29th St SE Ste B6
Grand Rapids, MI 49508

Friendship Ministries — Canada
PO Box 1636 Stn LCD 1
Burlington, ON L7R 5A1
CHURCH PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Heartfelt thanks to these new and renewing members of our Church Partnership Program:

Sustaining
Beaverdam CRC of Hudsonville, MI
Community CRC of Frankford, ON
Mountainview CRC of Grimsby, ON
Providence CRC of Beamsville, ON
Rock of Life CRC of Willmar, MN

Growing
Covenant CRC of Woodstock, ON
First CRC of Artesia, CA
Grace CRC of Welland, ON
Inglewood CRC of Edmonton, AB
Maranatha CRC of Cambridge, ON
Maranatha CRC of Lethbridge, AB
Orangeville CRC of Orangeville, ON
Palos Heights CRC of Palos Heights, IL
Second CRC of Kalamazoo, MI
Sussex CRC of Sussex, NJ
Williamsburg CRC of Williamsburg, ON

Expanding
Ebenezer CRC of Trenton, ON
First CRC of Kingston, ON
Immanuel CRC of Caledon, ON
Medicine Hat CRC of Medicine Hat, AB
Palmerston CRC of Palmerston, ON
River Park CRC of Calgary, AB
Waterloo CRC of Waterloo, ON

Global Outreach
Clearview CRC of Oakville, ON
First CRC of Hamilton, ON
Maranatha CRC of Bowmanville, ON
Plymouth Heights CRC of Grand Rapids, MI

WELCOME TO FRIENDSHIP MINISTRIES

Join us in welcoming the following groups:
3E Community Center of Acworth, GA
Ada Bible Church of Ada, MI
Blue Mountain Community Church of Thornbury, ON
Jacksonville Chapel of Lincoln Park, NJ
The Salvation Army of Toronto, ON
Valley Community Baptist Church of Avon, CT

WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU:

888.866.8966
friendship@friendship.org
www.friendship.org
www.friendship.org/blog
facebook.com / friendmin
@ FriendsMins
@FriendMinistries

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR GIFTS IN MEMORY OF:

Jerry Lee Bouwkamp
George Hoekstra
John & Bernice Hoekstra
Mary Louters
Nella Uitvlugt
Ellen VanEek
David Van Hekken
Kenneth VanLeeuwen