

FRIENDSHIP NEWSLETTER

Faith. Friendships. Belonging.

THIRD QUARTER 2018

Special Edition: Impact Report





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



P.S. 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



2018

BUILDING ON OUR STRONG FOUNDATION

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 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

TOGETHER

by Friendship
MINISTRIES



AUGUST 2016
CHOOSE COURAGE



AUGUST 2016
JESUS: FACE TO FACE



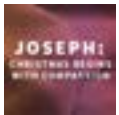
DECEMBER 2016
MARY: GIVING BIRTH TO GOOD NEWS



JANUARY 2017
UNWRAPPING YOUR GIFTS



JUNE 2017
LIVING WITH PAIN



DECEMBER 2017
JOSEPH: CHRISTMAS STARTS WITH COMPASSION



JANUARY 2018
PRAY.!?

PLANNED: DECEMBER 2018
THE MAGI: UNEXPECTED GUESTS

PENDING FUNDING: SPRING 2019
COVENANT: THE LONG-HAUL GOD

FUTURE:
ROAD TO JERUSALEM

ACTS: LIVING IN COMMUNITY

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT: PART 1

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT: PART 2

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT: PART 3

GOD'S STORY, MY STORY

FINDING MY PURPOSE

THE IMPACT: YOUR FEEDBACK

[TOGETHER] has been AMAZING! Thank you all so much for the time and attention that you spent creating this curriculum and thank you for sharing it with us for such a nominal fee.

The spiritual truths that you all help us to convey to our friends are fantastic and resonate with them.

Karen G., TX USA

At Friendship, we listen to each other's concerns, joys and sorrows, and care for each other as unique personalities... At Friendship we can see that each person is important to God, that he values them just as they are.

Trudy P., ON CA

CHOOSING COURAGE AT HOPE HOUSE

This summer, residents and staff at Hope House group home worked through Choose Courage from our TOGETHER curriculum series.

Here's what they thought:

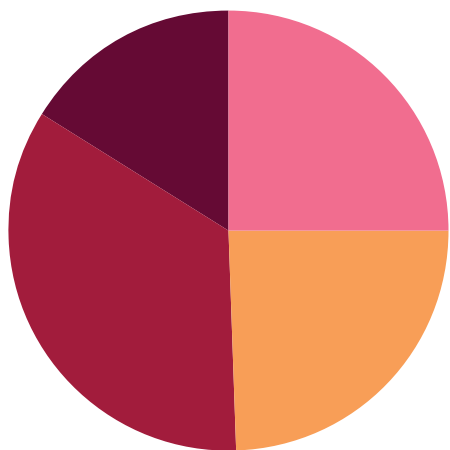
This study [Choose Courage] is truly amazing! Not only did all the ladies have fun, but we talked through very deep truths that cause us to be scared or worried and to lay those in God's hands.

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

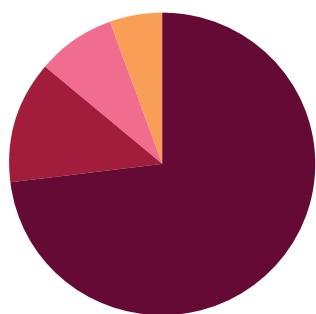
HOW WE USE OUR BUDGET



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

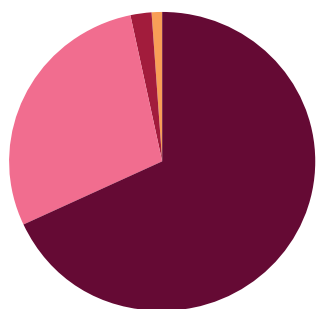
DONATION CHANNELS

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

WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU:

-  888.866.8966
-  friendship@friendship.org
-  www.friendship.org
-  www.friendship.org/blog
-  [facebook.com / friendmin](https://www.facebook.com/friendmin)
-  [@FriendsMins](https://twitter.com/FriendsMins)
-  [@FriendMinistries](https://www.instagram.com/FriendMinistries)

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 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



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FRIENDSHIP NEWSLETTER
Tips & Tools to Include Our Friends

