

“Getting on the MAP”

Methodist **Action** Program

Summer 2009

Friendship House Men’s Day Center Program



Friendship House is a non-profit corporation committed to making a difference in the lives of the homeless people of Delaware through the traditional spiritual ministries of hospitality, education, empowerment and community. For twenty-one years, this coalition of over one hundred churches has served as a

sanctuary and a stepping-stone to those in need. On any given night, its emergency shelter for the elderly and eight halfway houses serve seventy homeless individuals and families. Its three daytime centers for men and women daily serve over two hundred homeless clients. Its clothing ministry—The Clothing Bank of Delaware—distributes more than 13,000 pounds of quality used clothing monthly through its network of more than two hundred fifty distribution centers and offers employment training to over 30 women yearly.

The Friendship House Men’s Day Center is part of the network of homeless ministries housed at Old Asbury United Methodist Church. Its principal services include an early morning coffee hour (6:00–8:00 A.M.), the *Home Base Program* (mailing address, phone service, locker & savings bank), a consultation & referral service, A.A. and N.A. meetings and the *Job Readiness Program* (I.D., resume, online job searches, bus tickets, lunches, work clothing, equipment, starter jobs, short-term transitional housing). It also screens and interviews referrals from churches for financial assistance.



The Men’s Day Center routinely sees 120 clients before 8:00 AM. While the number of unduplicated clients in 2008 (2,451) rose only 7% from last year (2,287); the number of new contacts increased by 16% from 792 to 919.

“The greatest among you will be your servant. For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted” Matthew 23:11-12

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*“To works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ..”
Ephesians 4 : 12*

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Introducing the Executive Director - Maurice Simmons

Maurice C. Simmons is a native of Washington, D. C. and is a lifelong United Methodist. He was raised in the Baltimore-Washington Conference where he was active in Youth Ministry at the local church, district and Conference level throughout his high school years. He has been a member of Tindley Temple United Methodist Church in Philadelphia for the past twenty years, where he has held several positions of leadership as well as serving on the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry for 14 years, 12 as Vice Chairperson. Mr. Simmons is currently serving as Co-Chair of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Transformation Team (CTT) which supports congregational ministry throughout the Conference.

His professional career has been focused on sales and marketing management. He has held management positions with Procter & Gamble, Johnson and Johnson and Weblink Wireless. He has been an independent insurance agent representing several companies in the life and health field including AFLAC, Genworth Financial, Mutual of Omaha and John Hancock.

Mr. Simmons is a graduate of Dartmouth College where he majored in Economics and completed the Urban Studies Pro-

gram. He also has earned a Master of Business Administration degree from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania in Entrepreneurial Management. He resides in Philadelphia, PA with his wife Vicki Baker and their two sons.



Message from the Director:

I am delighted to have the opportunity to lead this dynamic organization forward in meeting the needs of the less fortunate citizens in the greater Wilmington community. Map has a 41-year history of assisting those who are marginalized by society and are having difficulty accessing basic human needs. I am pleased to have an organization that serves the homeless, adjudicated youth and seniors.

This is an eclectic mix of people who benefit

from our services and very few agencies are able to claim to serve as broad a population of persons in need.

My hope and plan is to continue to serve those who are in need and continue to develop our expertise in serving youth. Through our intervention services to young people, we are directly affecting the future of our community. We are instilling values and life skills that will help prepare this age group to be productive citizens as they enter adulthood. There are no other agencies in Wilmington providing these services to adjudicated youth.

I hope that members of our local community, local churches and others focused on serving those in need will join with us in this effort. I look forward to working in partnership with you in this regards.

“Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and Whoever wants to be first must be your slave— just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Message From Board Chair – Rev. Dr. H. Ward Greer

Hope for the Hopeless-

In the book of Jeremiah, a book about the vision and rebuilding of a city, the prophet reminds the hearers that God has a special plan and vision for the city. Jeremiah reminds the people of faith that unless it invests, reaches out, and seeks to transform and bring wholeness/shalom to the city, then its' very life is in jeopardy. However, if the church seeks the shalom of the city, then it will find its' shalom. The prophet completes this section of the narrative by reminding the people, those within the “fellowship” and those in the broader community that God has a plan for the city. “I know the plans I have for you, plans for your

welfare (shalom) and not harm, to give you the future of Hope”.

The Methodist Action Program (MAP), continues to provide a presence, (through it's ministries, advocacy and involvement) in the city which attempts to keep this prophetic word alive. The realities with which the least, the lost and left out are confronted have continued to place more hardship on those whose lives have already been compromised and whose existence is minimal. We need the

assistance of the churches within the entire Conference in order to continue to be the presence in the city that we are chartered to be and our mission mandates.

We continue to focus on transforming lives and communities that through the Grace,

Love and Shalom of God there will be a better quality of life and the children families within our reach have at least access to the things that provide for shalom and Hope.

I take this opportunity to thank those of you who have caught this vision and have continued to support us financially. In addition, I encourage others to take another look at what we have done and seek to do and trust that this will encourage you to find it in your heart and within your resources to share some “love” and hope to the children, youth and families of the city of Wilmington.

Together with our new Director, Mr. Maurice Simmons, and the renewed dedication and commitment of the MAP Board and other staff, we con-

YMF— (Youth Moving Forward)



In February of 2009, the Youth Moving Forward Program incorporated the “Arise” Life- Management Skills Formula program into the YMF 16 week curriculum. This is a new form of learning for the Wilmington area. Last Fall, two of our staff went to Washington, DC for training in the ARISE formula. This program is monitored by the D.Y.R.S. because of it being a first time use within our ongoing program. The training and materials are covered under the ARISE Grant. The Youth Moving Forward Coordinator that teaches these classes is Shawn Allen.

The mission of this program is to provide young men and women with the tools they

need to survive, succeed, and become super-productive members of society. It educates and motivates young adults by equipping them with practical information they can use every single day of their lives. It is to assist the youth in achieving their highest potential by enriching their own lives and those they interact with.

You ask “what’s different about ARISE”? The lessons are fun and interactive, never boring. No one sits quietly on the sidelines because the learners are involved in activities. They learn from each other, with activities that are engaging, such as role-playing, brainstorming, and group discussions. It is perfect for those with reading



difficulties. All workbook pages are easy to read, but the intellectual level is much higher. Each lesson is self contained and NOT dependent on previously learned material. The students do not have to know anything about the subject when they enter the class. Learners are able to jump in on the first day in class. Some of the subjects covered are self-esteem, violence and conflict, sexual abuse, jobs and finances. This curriculum has been taught to over 500,000 high-risk youth with stunning results.

During the 16 week classes, the youth visit the “Cradle to Grave” presentation at Temple University Hospital, Philadelphia, PA. At the hospital they get to witness an enactment of when a youth is shot and brought into the emergency ward of the hospital and the procedures the victim goes through. It is a mind wrenching presentation and hopefully awakens the youth that violence is real and not play. It shows them the realistic things that can happen, unlike what is portrayed in movies and television.

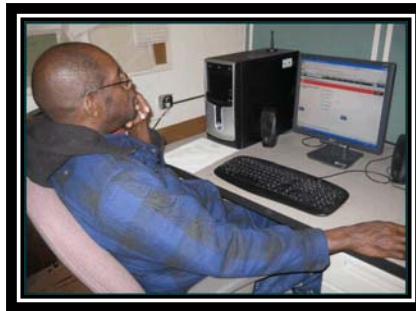
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In 2008, one in every three clients served was new to Friendship House and homelessness in Delaware. In 2008, the majority of these newly homeless clients had lost their jobs due to the current recession. More than ever, the primary causes of homelessness are economic. People relying on unemployment insurance, part-time jobs, social security or disability checks simply cannot afford the current cost of housing in Delaware.

Besides the lack of decent paying jobs, the reacquisition of one’s legal identification papers remains the single greatest impediment to recovery. Inmates being released from prison, migrant

workers relocating from other states, people evicted from their homes, victims of robberies, runaways and throwaways all share a common dilemma – they cannot prove that they are who they say they are. They lack birth certificates or passports, social security cards or driver’s licenses.



Without the proper documentation, they can do nothing. In 2008 Friendship House spent nearly \$16,000 and countless staff hours helping homeless clients re-establish their identity as a functioning member of society.

In the second half of 2008, Friendship House also expanded its job readiness services to include a technology center from which clients could receive computer training, access email accounts and apply for jobs on line with the assistance of

Friendship House staff and volunteer job coaches. Open three afternoon weekly, the technology center has now served more than 220 unduplicated clients with a vari-

ety of services, resources and enhanced case management.

Bill Perkins, born in Baltimore, Maryland of a large family, has been Executive Director of Friendship House for the past twenty years and has been working with disenfranchised people for the last forty-three years. Before coming to Wilmington in 1988, Bill was a Roman Catholic priest and a member of the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits) for twenty-three years. As a Jesuit Bill worked as an inner city teacher, social worker and pastor in Baltimore, Washington, D.C., Philadelphia and New York City. He also did missionary work in Canada and India. He did his graduate work in theology and social ethics at the University of Toronto, doing his dissertation on the moral philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi.

Bill is married to **Marcy Perkins** who is also employed by Friendship House as its director of Women’s ministry. Bill and Marcy currently live in New Castle, Delaware with their three dogs and four cats."



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Mission of MAP

Helping individuals, congregations and communities;

Meet Human Needs

Promote Positive Social Change

Facilitate Church Development

Through the transforming power of Jesus Christ.

**Donations and Partnering provide us with a consistent ,
reliable income source, allowing us to run our programs to
help others. Please mail your contributions to**

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*For more information about the Methodist Action Program,
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