



# Newsletter - Spring 2005

**A Newsletter for Friends of Friendship Trays**

**Spring 2005**

## **2005 Board of Directors**

### ***Executive Committee***

Jennie Holt, President

Linda Blum, President-Elect

Frances Baldwin, Secretary

Leland Atkins, Treasurer

Gene Cochrane, Member-at-Large

### ***Directors***

Bryan Adams

Mary Ciminelli

Chris Clackum

Judy Ann Deal

Rhodes Dodson

Sarah Erickson

Ted Goldthorpe

Linda Kincheloe

Thom Klingman

Gladys Massey

Bill Robertson

John Thomas

Cathy Thompson

Carolyn Wilson

### ***Staff***

Lucy Bush Carter, Executive Director

Donna Thrasher, Assistant Director

Frandetta Barnes, Office Manager

Ann Moore, Accounting

Ken Saunders, Development

Jane Lea, Volunteer Coordinator

David Blough, Outreach Coordinator

Kelly Palmer, Intake Coordinator

Frances Query, Donor Relations

Lenell Wade, Food Service Director

Sibyl Durant, Assistant Kitchen Manager

## ***New Leadership at Friendship Trays***

The Board of Directors of Friendship Trays is pleased to announce the promotion of Lucy Bush Carter from Assistant Director to Executive Director of Friendship Trays. Lucy will replace Julie Duckworth, former Executive Director who served in that capacity since 1998. We thank Julie for her hard work and leadership in bringing financial stability to Friendship Trays as well as growing the number of meal recipients and volunteers.

Lucy joined Friendship Trays in 1985 as a volunteer. She has held several staff positions during that time, as well as serving as a Board member, and has been Assistant Director since 2002. In addition, Donna Thrasher will take over Lucy's responsibilities as Assistant Director. Donna joined Friendship Trays in May of 2004 as Volunteer Coordinator after a number of years as a Friendship Trays volunteer.

Lucy and Donna bring a wealth of experience, energy and enthusiasm to the organization. Please join us in congratulating them. We look forward to working together and moving the organization forward as it approaches its 30th anniversary.

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

*To deliver daily, in a caring and friendly manner, balanced meals to individuals in this community who are unable, because of age or infirmity, to obtain or prepare their own meals.*



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# *Communication and Information*

## *Letter from the President*

I am honored to have the opportunity to serve as President of the Board of Directors of Friendship Trays for 2005. Throughout its history, Friendship Trays has been blessed with strong leaders. They can be credited with growing the organization from a handful of volunteers who delivered meals to six shut-ins to one that delivers more than 700 meals daily. I am certain that Lucy and Donna will continue to carry on this legacy and I look forward to working with them to guide the organization as it moves forward.

As Friendship Trays looks towards celebrating its 30th anniversary, the staff and the Board are exploring ways to improve and expand Friendship Trays's services to better serve the community. For example, Friendship Trays recently conducted a survey among meal recipients to evaluate the quality and variety of food provided. Some recipient comments from this survey can be found on page 8 of this newsletter.

In addition, Friendship Trays is working with other agencies and Mecklenburg County officials to assess the need for in-home meal delivery now and going forward. It is our goal to be on the forefront of developing solutions to meet this growing need.

I am proud to be associated with such a fine organization. I wish to thank our donors, volunteers and sister agencies for their generosity and continued support.

### ***Sidebar:***

*Jennie has served on the Board of Directors of Friendship Trays for three years. She is a community volunteer and has served on numerous other boards. Jennie is a graduate of Duke and Tulane Universities. She currently works as a psychotherapist in private practice. She is a member of Women Executives, Sierra Club, and First Presbyterian Church*

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## *Lucy's Message*

Things are cooking right along at Friendship Trays these days... We are serving over 700 meals each day and have created FOUR NEW ROUTES SINCE JANUARY! Sadly, our waiting list numbers 135 as of April 1, 2005. Our volunteer needs are infinite!

We are busy planning our 2005 Driving Away Hunger Golf Tournament to benefit Friendship Trays and looking forward to the Volunteer Appreciation Party on May 26.

Look for your name if you think you are due a five, ten, fifteen, twenty or twenty-five years of service delivering Friendship Trays award. You will find the service awards list in this newsletter.

We have a terrific, dedicated staff of people here, working together to find ways to better serve those among us in need of home-delivered meals. Visit our brand new website, still under construction, to see who they are!

### ***Please note:***

Your financial support will help us fulfill our mission.

Can you assist us with volunteer recruitment?

Do you have friends, co-workers, neighbors who might give a couple of hours each week to deliver Friendship Trays?

Can we make a presentation to your neighborhood group, your church circle, or Sunday School class?

***Please consider ways to assist us in serving those in our midst who need a hot lunch and a friendly visit!***

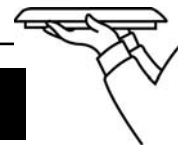
***It's the best use of a lunch hour there is!***

*Lucy Bush Carter, Executive Director*

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## ***Communication and Information***



### ***PLEASE HELP FRIENDSHIP TRAYS TEE-UP AGAINST HUNGER IN THE 2005***

### ***FRIENDSHIP TRAYS***

### ***DRIVING AWAY HUNGER GOLF TOURNAMENT***

Our Spring 2005 Driving Away Hunger Golf Benefit will be held on Thursday, May 19th, beginning at noon at Birkdale Golf Club. Community participation and your support are critical to help make this fundraiser a success – our eleventh year for this event!

It will raise much needed dollars for Friendship Trays - monies which will go toward increasing our ability to feed the approximately 125 people currently on our waiting list, in addition to allowing us to more effectively deal with the growing numbers of elderly expected in our community as our community continues to age.

Sponsors are needed for the outing and Team Packages, inclusive of sponsor options and player sign-ups, are available, ranging from \$200 per player to \$250 - \$2,500 for sponsor packages:

- ♣ \$2,500 BEST FRIEND – includes four complimentary player registrations, supporting sponsor banner, hole sponsorship, and acknowledgement & recognition in the tournament program.
- ♣ \$800 GOOD FRIEND – four player registrations.
- ♣ \$250 HOLE SPONSOR – signage at the hole.
- ♣ \$200 SINGLE PLAYER.

All players will receive a golf shirt, a sleeve of golf balls, a box lunch, and hors d'oeuvres following the event as well as other items! Prizes will be awarded for first, second, and third low net scores and one prize will be awarded for the low gross score. The format will be a four-player captain's choice.

Registration deadline is May 6th. To sign up to sponsor or register to play, call Donna Thrasher or Lucy Bush: 704.333.9229.

***SEE YOU ON THE TEE BOX!***

#### ***Changes in our Intake Department Staff***

We have had to say good-bye to our Intake Coordinator, Robin Welch, who resigned in March to work closer to home. We will miss her efforts and dedication to Friendship Trays.

Please welcome Kelly Palmer, who now serves as Intake Coordinator and Special Projects Assistant. Kelly's will be the warm, friendly voice you will reach when making a referral to receive our meals.

Kelly, David Blough, and Frandetta Barnes make up our Intake Team. They work together to ensure that referrals are processed in a timely manner –taking a potential recipient through the eligibility process, beginning with the initial call, obtaining their physician's diet order instruction, right down to directions to their home.

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## *Communication and Information*

# **MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THIS YEAR'S VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PARTY!!**

Get ready to enjoy good food and good fellowship as we show our appreciation to all of our wonderfully dedicated volunteers at our 2005 Volunteer Appreciation Party. This year's Appreciation Party will be held on Thursday, May 26th, from 5:00 until 8:00, here at Friendship Trays, 2401-A Distribution Street. As always, our friends from Community Culinary School of Charlotte will be preparing the fabulous buffet selections. At 6:00, we also will be honoring those volunteers with their 25, 20, 15, 10, and 5 years of service awards. These fine folks are listed below.

*We hope to see you!*

### **5 Years**

Jim Bigham  
Margaret Bigham  
Julie Brenizer  
Martha Bryson  
Tom Bryson  
Linda Butler  
Ross Cahn  
Colleen Colbert  
Angela Coleman  
Wes Conrad  
Judy Dasher  
Wanna Dayvault  
William Doggett  
Patti Doster  
Sarah Doster  
Donna Francis  
Doug Francis  
Marsha Goforth  
Carmen Henderson  
Carole Hill  
Amy Massey

Kitty Mazina  
Meg Mitchell  
Carole Parkinson  
Dan Parkinson  
Richard Peek  
Azara Ratliff  
Nell Reece  
Ellen Richards  
Kenneth Roberts  
Allison Sadri  
Louisa Shugart  
Sherry Simpson  
Jenny Stern  
Banna Underland  
Mary Witt

### **10 Years**

Mary Arnett  
Warren Arnett  
Delores Bender  
Mary Brewer  
Gene Cathey

Rob Chambers  
Judy Ann Deal  
Georgette Fowler  
Fred Fowler  
Charlette Johnson  
Brenda Leonard  
Cathy Link  
Mr. & Mrs. Sherwood  
Lapping  
Burton Mackey  
Nancy Mackey  
Wardie Martin  
Gladys Massey  
John Massey  
Dorothy Menze  
Tommy Robinson  
Susan Stepp  
Tracy Stone  
Janet Stout  
Linda Wilson

### **15 Years**

Andy Andrews  
Emily Batts  
Larry Batts  
Priscilla Bynum  
Alice Dorsett  
Rob Dyer  
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph  
Easterling  
Mark Fishero  
Garland Gribble  
Ira Griffin  
Jean Harrelson  
Elizabeth Herrera  
Phillip Herrera  
Jocelyn Hill  
Dot Horne  
Drusilla Ingold  
Eleanor Kalnik  
Lloyd Lancaster  
Peggy Lancaster  
Allan Macguire

Helen Patterson  
Anne Peterson  
Tom Peterson

### **20 Years**

Melissa Arroyo  
Maggie Heidenreich  
Jane Killough  
Barbara Knowles  
Anne Mauldin  
Ann Timberlake

### **25 Years**

Ann & Bud Fitzsimmons  
Marg Kuhn  
Connie & Bob Maccubbin

### *A Couple of Reminders For Our Volunteer Drivers*

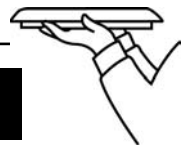
When you are delivering your meals, if no one comes to the door and there is no cooler beside the door or no "special instructions", it would be great if you could call us while you are at the location to let us know that you're getting no response. We will be happy to call the recipient while you are there.

Many times, a recipient may be hard of hearing and not realize you are there trying to deliver their meal and your call to us allows them to get their lunch that day. A recipient may be running long at a doctor's appointment and the call allows them to give us instructions to ask you to leave the meal at a neighbor's.

Please, please, please, DO NOT just leave the meal at the door, and, certainly, do not leave it in the mailbox.

If you do not carry a cell phone with you, please take the time when you get home or back to the office to give us a call and let us know there was no answer at a particular stop. Our recipients and their families count on all of us to be that "daily check" that all is well and your timely participation in that effort is critical.

*Thanks so much for your good works!*



## Sibyl Durant

COOKS FOR A CAUSE.

Sibyl broke a cycle of drug addiction and the accompanying lifestyle to become a positive role model for her children and for others wanting to make a change in their lives. She came to Friendship Trays, Inc., a nonprofit that delivers meals to the homebound, after graduating from the Community Culinary School of

Charlotte, an organization that helps the jobless and homeless prepare for careers in foodservice. Since starting at Friendship Trays in 1999 as a prep cook, she has also catered and continued her education with a certificate in Dietary Management from Central Piedmont Community College. Now the

kitchen manager, she's responsible for producing 720 meals a day. Unless she gets a calling from "the man above," Sibyl plans on continuing her career at Friendship Trays where she can give back on a daily basis. "I know I've done something positive today besides earn a paycheck."



# Communication and Information



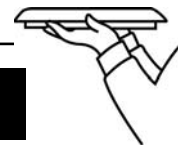
***Volunteer Opportunities***

There are many opportunities to volunteer such as: drivers, kitchen helpers, distributors, cold meal baggers, office volunteers, fundraising and special events volunteers. Training will be provided as needed. If you have the desire and the time to volunteer, please let us know at 704-333-9229. We appreciate your help.



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# Communication and Information



## *Here Are Some Answers, Just In Case You Had The Questions...*

Here are some questions that we are often asked about Friendship Trays- and the answers.

**-Is this a government agency?** *No, Friendship Trays is not a government agency.*

**-Is this a United Way agency?** *No, we are not.*

**-Do the recipients pay for their meals?** *In our intake process we determine the financial situation of the recipient and charge accordingly. The charge per meal is \$4.30 down to \$0. 78% of the recipients pay less than the \$4.30.*

**-Where does the financial support come from?** *Our largest source is individuals, followed by the faith community, foundations and corporations.*

### ***-How can I help?***

1. Volunteer your time to deliver a route, work in the kitchen or in the office.
2. Remember Friendship Trays for your charitable contributions.
3. Utilize your employer's matching gift program to match your gift to us.
4. Keep Friendship Trays in mind in your will.
5. If you have contacts with your church or synagogue, organizations or foundations that could help us financially or with volunteers, let us know.
6. Tell your friends about Friendship Trays.

### ***Rare Opportunities***

I thought that you might enjoy this little story. Thursday afternoon (12/9/04) I visited the Lepner's as part of the intake process. Mr. Lepner has one cell carcinoma of the lung and isn't doing real well. He has refused any further chemotherapy. He and his wife met when he put a classified ad in the Charlotte Observer requesting a piano be donated to him at Ft. Bragg, where he was stationed. She is the one who gave him a piano and that is how they met. I believe that they've been married for 50 years. He has a nickname of "Big John" and that he is. He is 6'4" by my estimation and is still of a solid build. He has given music lessons, played for nursing homes and anyone else who needed him. He doesn't play the piano much anymore and hadn't for six months, until the day I visited him. His wife gently coerced him to play for her and me. He played 3 pieces on his electric piano and it was, without question, the highlight of my week. What a delight it was. She started crying just listening to him play and, of course, I wasn't far behind her; having a fairly good idea of what she was thinking and feeling. They were gracious and delightful people who so enjoy having company in their home. It encapsulates why I feel fortunate to be here and is a reminder for all of us...there are rare opportunities in this life and they are life's treasures. Isn't this why we do what we do? (Postscript: Mr. Lepner passed away in early January, 2005 and while he may be in a better place..those of us still here will miss him.)

*David Blough, Outreach Coordinator*

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## Volunteers!!!

Please remember to return the borrowed coolers and the new cooler bags so that we can keep cost to a minimum. We are happy to sell the cooler bags for \$3.00.

## Duplicate Mailings

If you should receive duplicate mailings, please help us maintain our costs by calling the office to let us know that you are receiving duplicate materials. Thank You.

## Letters and Notes from recipients and family members *in their very own words*

### Comments from Our Recent Recipient Survey:

*I really appreciate all you do at Friendship Trays. I can't half cook by myself so Friendship Trays means a whole lot to me.*

*Ms. L.A. (87 yrs old) and husband C. (97 years old)*

*You are one super group of people. You have some of the best volunteers I have ever seen. I know you are proud of them all.*

*Mr. B.B.*

*I love the service and I want to thank all of you that work so very hard for us. The people who deliver are so uplifting, especially since I live alone. The food is so good and I know it takes loads of work to prepare it. Thank you so very much for allowing me to get your services.*

*Ms. G.M.*

*Without Friendship Trays I would not be able to make it.*

*Anonymous -Over 80 year old female*

*I don't know what I would do without Friendship Trays.*

*Ms. F.B.*