

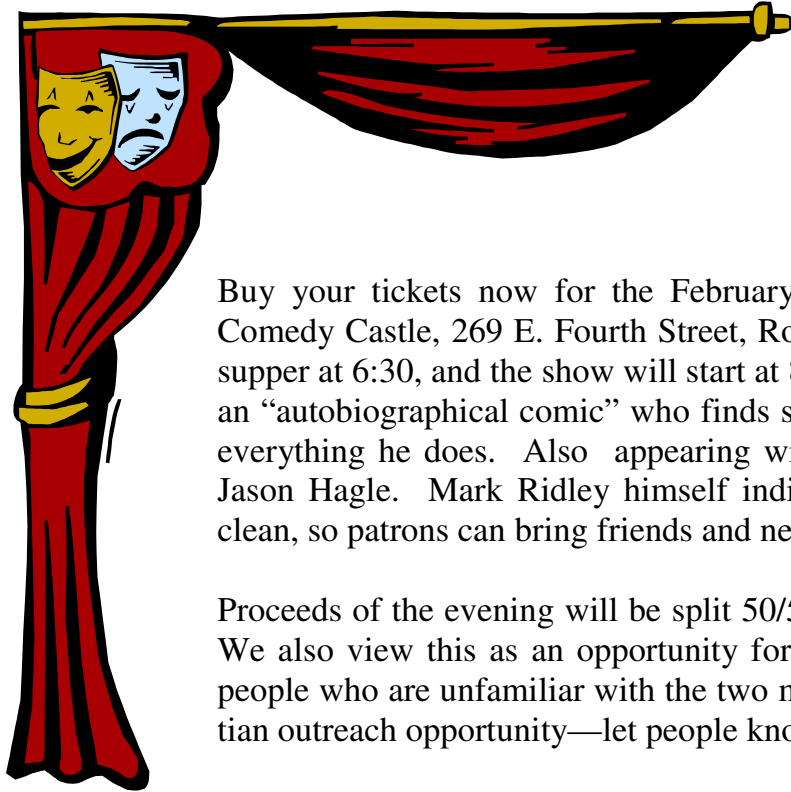
Friends of Friendship House *Online*

9540 Conant, Hamtramck, MI 48212; 313-871-7443

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Two Lepers and Jesus Walk Into a Bar...Comedy Night A Joint Fundraiser for Camp Lael and Friendship House

Buy your tickets now for the February 19, 2009 Comedy Night at Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle, 269 E. Fourth Street, Royal Oak. The evening will begin with a light supper at 6:30, and the show will start at 8:00. Headliner Tommy Johnagin is known as an "autobiographical comic" who finds something funny about everyone he meets and everything he does. Also appearing will be Paull Piziks and Master of Ceremonies Jason Hagle. Mark Ridley himself indicated that Mr. Johnagin's comedy routine is clean, so patrons can bring friends and neighbors without embarrassment.

Proceeds of the evening will be split 50/50 between Camp Lael and Friendship House. We also view this as an opportunity for "friend-raising" and encourage you to invite people who are unfamiliar with the two ministries to come with you. It's also a Christian outreach opportunity—let people know that Christians can laugh and have fun!

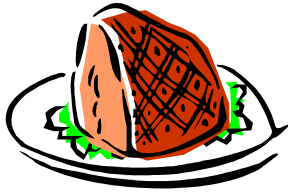
Tickets are \$25 before February 12 and \$30 thereafter. For tickets call 248-722-4516 (Jim Bolin) or 313-871-7443

(Friendship House). For more information, go to www.geocities.com/twolepersandjesus/comedy.html.



Church World Service Donates \$2,330.43 from Birmingham-Bloomfield CROP Walk

Proceeds from CROP Hunger Walks throughout the country are typically split between international and local hunger projects. Friendship House was designated to receive \$2,330.43 from the 2008 local Birmingham-Bloomfield CROP Walk efforts. In these tough economic times, we are grateful for this infusion of money for our Harvest Food Pantry.



Hams, Turkeys and Chickens for 500 Purchased for Christmas 2008

Because of the generosity of individuals and churches, Friendship House had enough money to buy 4-6 pound hams, 10-14 pound turkeys and good size chickens for the Christmas food give-away. Kroger once again worked with us to secure the hams at a great price, as did Sam's Club for the chickens.

Harvest Food Pantry families were able to choose their own side dishes when they came for the extra Christmas distribution. Thanks to all who contributed both money and food for the holidays. You made Thanksgiving and Christmas special for countless families.

Snowblower Needed for Sidewalks and Back Lot

Anyone got a snowblower sitting around that they don't need? Friendship House needs one to clear the sidewalks for our clients, many of whom walk to Friendship House. Just as importantly, we need to clear our back lot where Gleaners, Forgotten Harvest and waste hauling trucks must travel. Call 313-871-7443 if you have questions or can help us out.

One Great Hour of Sharing Grant Received for Harvest Food Pantry Program

American Baptist Churches collect money for special causes throughout the year, one of which is called "One Great Hour of Sharing." In 1950, several American Protestant denominations merged their campaigns for relief to create what is now known as the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS). ABCUSA joined this effort in 1973. The collective effort raises about \$20 million annually for development aid, disaster relief and refugee resettlement assistance in more than 70 countries around the world. What has this got to do with Friendship House?

In applying for this grant, Friendship House made the case for help to purchase more and better quality protein, as well as dairy products for the Harvest Food Pantry. In the last seven years, Michigan's Department of Human Services has kept their food grant to us at the same level. We all know what the price of food has done in seven years! As a result, Friendship House has had to reduce purchases of meat and dairy and increased purchases of cheaper foods just to make ends meet. People with health challenges like diabetes are not aided by diets loaded with carbohydrates and cheaper foods.

The \$15,000 OGHS grant will be split in half to cover two years (we are eligible to apply every other year). We are grateful to American Baptist Churches USA and the endorsement of ABC-MI Executive Dr. Michael Williams for this sizable grant to improve the lives of some of Michigan's most impoverished residents.

Every Person Counts Wish List

On January 28, 2009 50 teams of volunteers will spread out throughout Detroit to count the number of homeless in our neighborhoods. To show compassion in a practical way, and to encourage cooperation, teams will distribute bags containing items of value to the homeless. Some of the items can prevent serious illness and death, no small matter! You can help by donating those valued items for inclusion.



Why count the homeless? The amount of federal funds to be distributed to Michigan for homeless programs is based on these counts. So it is important to be as accurate as possible. It is also the opportunity to put a human face on homelessness. Ideally, we will collect 2000 of each of the following items:



Stocking Caps/Winter Hats & Scarves

Mittens or Gloves

Warm Socks

Lunchable Kits (lunchmeat/cracker kit)

Durable Bags (such as cloth bags distributed at conferences), new and used backpacks, tote bags, duffel bags, personal care size bags distributed by optometrists, etc.

Personal Hygiene Items (travel size shampoo, soap, toothbrush and tooth paste, deodorant, lotion, powder...)

Give a monetary (tax-deductible) gift to help provide 40 stipends of \$25 each to Street Ambassadors who are key to our success. Make checks out to HAND and mail to P. O. Box 3238, Highland Park, MI 48203; Attention Amanda Sternberg

Drop off donations at University of Detroit Mercy, 4001 McNichols, Detroit, Student Union Lobby, University Ministry Office between January 19-21, 2009 (use Livernois Entrance)

Please call MC at 248-982-6266 or Linnea at 248-990-4685 to let us know what you are collecting. In a pinch, Linnea will pick up your donations.

**Sponsored by HAND (Homeless Action Network of Detroit)
Website: www.handetroit.org**



This would be a fantabulous project for your youth group, a Sunday School class, a department of employees, a scout troop, a fraternity or sorority...and the impetus to clean out your closets!