



November, 2009

Dear Friends,

2009 has been a difficult year for many of our neighbors on Whidbey. Although the stock market appears to be rebounding, we read daily about people losing their jobs and some, their homes. A glimmer of health care reform lights the horizon but still we receive requests from our neighbors needing help paying for prescriptions, medical care, diagnostic testing or needing gas or ferry fare to get to the mainland for treatments. **At the end of September, FoF had helped 198 South Whidbey residents with \$66,900 of medical related expenses.** Last year at this time we had helped 179 individuals with \$60,000 of expenses.

At our 4th annual Mr. South Whidbey pageant held October 3rd Norm Walker charmed the audience to win the coveted crown. He and fellow candidates Dick Guise, Tom Harris, Dan Lennon, Scott Mauk, and Rob Mattern wowed the crowd with their heartfelt and sometimes hilarious talents. We are grateful for their willingness to step into the spotlight on behalf of our cause. The event raised about \$20,000. Even though the evening was a grand success, **it raised less than one-third of what we've spent this year.**

Friends of Friends has been a conduit for our community's overwhelming generosity for the past twelve years. Since 1999 we have paid \$577,000 in medical and dental bills for our neighbors. Our administrative expenses amount to 6% of our budget. We are frugal, we have low overhead, and we strive to get the biggest bang for your buck.

We know your mailbox is overflowing with requests for end of year giving. Ours are too. Leonard Nimoy, Star Trek's Mr. Spock, said, "The miracle is this – the more we share, the more we have." We agree with that sentiment and are asking you to experience the miracle.

We have made it easier for you, too. You can write a check and send it in the enclosed envelope or you may visit our website where you can simply click and pledge your donation. Due to the generosity of an anonymous donor, Friends of Friends now has an endowment fund. Now you may donate to our **general fund** - used to pay medical expenses for our neighbors. Or you may donate to our **endowment fund** that, as it grows, will provide interest income for the general fund.

We invite you to go to our website: www.fofmedicalsupportfund.org to see photos from the Mr. South Whidbey Pageant 2009. While there, please make a donation.

Wishing you the miracle and the joy that comes from giving,

Claudia Fuller, President

PS We are proud that our FoF model of providing temporary shelter from medical bills has spread up the island. Small Miracles is in Coupeville. This year we have consulted with a group in Oak Harbor that is now forming the Medical Safety Net of North Whidbey.

Friends of Friends Board

Julie Buktenica, Becky Foote, Bob French, Claudia Fuller, Susan Gilles, Doug Johnson, Dana Kelly, Christi Ruscigno, Suzanne Schlicke, Barb Schultz, Diana Shirley, Mary Stewart, Patty Willson, Melissa Young