



Friends of Friends Medical Support Fund
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fofmedicalsupportfund.org

November 13, 2008

Dear Friends,

Since 1997 Friends of Friends has been part of the fabric of South Whidbey, quietly easing the burden for our neighbors who are faced with choosing to pay for groceries or a needed prescription or doctor visit. The generosity of our community warms our hearts as we use your donations to help our friends pay bills that can't be paid any other way. This year, through the end of October, we have helped 200 people with \$64,855 of medical and dental expenses. Many people new to FOF have asked us for help this fall—a sign of the economic times, as well as seniors hitting the Medicare prescription drug “doughnut hole.” To compare, in 2007 we paid \$75,000 on behalf of 242 South Whidbey residents.

Requests for help reach us via letters and our voice mailbox. Our Service Coordinator, Emily Schmidt, responds to them with gentle compassion. In the words of some of those we've helped, “Thank you so very much for your help; it's deeply appreciated and gives me one less headache to deal with.” Another wrote, “I had two teeth to chew with on my top left jaw... I would have lost the tooth and the ability to chew food on one entire side of my mouth. What FOF provided will last the rest of my life.” And one more said, “The costs... are overwhelming, but a little less so with your kind help.”

A change in our administration in January won't bring universal health care to South Whidbey. The need for FOF will remain. An anonymous friend generously donated \$20,000 to us this summer to use as seed money for the start of the Friends of Friends Medical Support Fund Endowment. As the fund grows, so will the interest we receive from it, feeding our General Fund. If you are in the process of estate planning, we ask that you consider leaving a gift to FOF.



Our third Mr. South Whidbey pageant was held October 4th. If you were there, you know it was a rousing success, and this letter is not meant as a solicitation from you. Our thanks to Kirk Francis Mr. South Whidbey 2008, runners up, Chris Spencer and Tom McCabe, plus Drew Kampion, Jay Davenny, and Bob Dalton. All of these candidates raised the bar in their fundraising for FOF. We also extend our heartfelt thanks to all who made the evening such a fun experience. Photos can be seen on our website.

If you didn't have the opportunity to attend or support a candidate, please consider this letter as your opportunity to donate to FOF. As always, we appreciate your generosity. Isn't it wonderful that we live in a community where its members truly care about each other?

Wishing you much warmth and love this holiday season.

The FOF Board of Directors,

Claudia Fuller, President; Bob French, Vice-President; Patty Willson, Secretary; Becky Foote and Dana Kelly, Co-Treasurers; Julie Buktenica; Susan Gilles; Doug Johnson; Christi Ruscigno; Diana Shirley; Suzanne Schlicke; Mary Stewart; and Melissa Young