A lot has happened since our last newsletter. We had the house painted, the office updated and have been on KELO-Land news a couple of times, plus in the Argus Leader! It is nice to know the community is now responding to a need we saw years ago. The families who have stayed with us and agreed to be interviewed are angels in our eyes. Everybody has helped stretch their angel wings at the Family Connection Hospitality House. On the following pages there are pictures of the house being painted this Summer. Del Duncan, the “Painting Coordinator” has figured out what the paint job would have cost us if all of the angel wings were not working overtime ... about $9,000. A very big Thank You to Warden Doug Weber, Unit C Trustees, Sioux Falls Paint & Glass and Iowa Paint for all their help to make this “Home away from Home” a pleasant place to stay for the “families left on the outside”. Pastor Kevin Walker, Executive President of New Beginnings in Tennessee states: “No matter what a person had done, while they are incarcerated in prison, the inmate still needs to know they have loved ones outside who still care.” And we want the inmates to know we care enough to want a safe, dignified, pretty place for their loved ones to stay while in Sioux Falls.

I subscribe to an email newsletter called Daily Angel Wisdom from the site www.beliefnet.com that gives me a daily inspirational message. Whenever I read it, I think of the angels that are a part of Family Connection. Here is a quote from September 23, 2002: “The very presence of an angel is a communication. Even when an angel crosses our path in silence, God has said to us, ‘I am here. I am present in your life.’
-Tobias Palmer, “An Angel in My House”

We all need to be aware of the angels in our lives..and be thankful for everyone of them.

Connecting Points has changed its schedule...we will now be printing in January, April, July and October. If you need an updated Wish List after this Newsletter goes to press, just let me know. I can email, fax or mail one out.

Thanks to all the Advisory Board members who responded to our files updates. Family Connection wants to graciously thank you for the time and support you have given us over the years.

I also want to thank everyone who kept me in their prayers during my surgery and recovery. I am getting better each day. By the time you receive this newsletter, I should be just about good as new!

And, since this is the last newsletter of 2002, I want to personally say Have a heart-warming Thanksgiving Day and a very Blessed Christmas and a Wondrous New Year!

Dorothy Richards
Executive Director

A Look Inside...

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On July 20th Family Connection participated in the Human Race. We are very grateful to all who joined us in this successful fundraiser. Family Connection angels raised over $1187 to help keep our doors and hearts open to the families left on the outside. Here are pictures of some of the participants. Next year, maybe all who participate will have their picture taken for us!

Ann Marie Rossing

Ann Marie was a runner, she came in 53rd out of 94 participants. Very good, Ann! Ann Marie came in second in overall fundraising; helping Family Connection come in third overall. We received prizes of two cases of copy paper and two wonderful sketches from local artists.

Family Connection Walkers

Our walkers are from left: Amy, Mary Finck, Pastor Leroy Iseminger, Connie Matsuda and Clancy Matsuda. They had a fun day and played very hard to raise money for Family Connection.

September 30

Today I officially retire as Family Connection House Assistant. I have met wonderful people. Because of my volunteer status I will be free to do many fun things for Family Connection...like traveling to churches with Pastor Leroy and talking about the House. Fairs at the schools, cooking for the Mayor, fundraisers and running over to the house to cover for Jennifer. The only thing different is no paycheck! But the benefits are great! Please welcome the new House Assistant, I will train her in the meaning of hospitality here.

God bless this ministry and call when you need me.

Nam

- Saint Theresa of Lisieux

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**Wish List**

**Kitchen items**
- Fresh vegetables & fruit
- Individually wrapped snacks
- Juice & cold drinks
- Hamburger
- Packaged meal mixes
- Sharp knives

**Housewares**
- Swiffer mop
- Ironing board cover
- Iron
- First Aid Kits

**Children’s Connection**
- Play dishes
- Birthday gifts for children 8-12
- Polaroid camera

**Office Needs**
- Postage Stamps
- Colored copy paper
- 7” envelopes
- Toner for Canon copier
- Ink for HP 812C printer
- Computer address labels

**Gift Certificates**
- House one family ($30)
- Grocery stores
- Walmart
- Office Max
- Phone cards
- Taxi Cabs
- Gas Station

**Special Needs**
- Small fire extinguisher
- Film for 35 mm camera
- AA batteries

**Furnishings**
- Dehumidifier
- Picnic table

Your gifts help to provide a dignified, comfortable place for our guests. Thank you for your generosity. If you would rather we buy the item, please mail a check to Family Connection, designated for “Wish List” item of your choice.
Greetings from Family Connection! We’ve had a very busy and exciting summer here at the Hospitality House. This summer we’ve seen several reunited families and have been able to play a small role in their “success stories.” Many times after picking up their loved ones from the prison they stop by the house to let their husband or son see where they have been staying during the times that they come and visit. It’s always nice to be able to put faces to the names that we hear so much about in family conversations. It is always a little bittersweet for me because even though I am elated to see these families finally overcoming the tremendous obstacle of incarceration I also know that I will not be able to see these remarkable women on a regular basis anymore. Now instead of face to face contact I keep in touch through email and letters. Everyone that I have heard back from so far has only good news to share. I’ve also been busy giving tours of the house to visiting organizations from Sioux Falls and the surrounding areas. This is such a rewarding part of the job for me because it not only gives me an opportunity to show off the house I also get to meet some of the nicest people around and form a relationship between the Hospitality House and the groups that tour. Always feel free to call and sign up for Jennifer’s 5 cent tour or just stop by if you’re in the neighborhood for some free coffee and hospitality.

Jennifer Koepsell
Hospitality Director

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**“Scalloped Corn”**

2 eggs  
1 can cream style corn  
1 can whole kernel corn (do NOT drain)  
1/2 cup melted butter  
1 cup sour cream  
1 small package corn muffin mix (Jiffy brand type)  
salt and pepper taste  
1 cup shredded mild cheddar cheese

Beat eggs. Stir in corn & melted butter. Add sour cream. Fold in muffin mix, salt & pepper. Pour into greased 9”x13” casserole dish. Sprinkle with cheese. Bake 60 minutes at 350° until golden brown.

Dorothy Richards
Executive Director
Family Connection

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God does more than send angels, he grants them the insight and strength they need to protect us.

- Timothy Jones, “Celebration of Angels”
Painting the House...

Volunteer from Flynn Outdoor Signs and Inmate Trusty getting ready to raise the boom truck to repair and paint the tower.

Trusty getting ready for his “ride”!

Volunteer from Flynn Outdoor Signs and Inmate Trusty climbing to the tower. Note the “angel wings” cloud in the background!

Leonard Johnson, Maintenance Chairman, our “Fearless Leader”

Laurie, wonderful volunteer, getting all excited about cooking a meal for the volunteer painters.

Nan, our House Assistant and “Mom” enjoy a meal.

Jennifer Koepsell, Hospitality Director, working out a problem.

While the trusties were busy painting, a youth volunteer group from Epiphany Catholic Church in Minneapolis came by and worked-helping in the yard, cleaning and organizing. The kids were great!

Barbara from Massachusetts, was our “cook” while she was here. Barbara and Dorothy, relaxing after a meal while the painters go back to work!

Nancy and her mom from California. Nancy was the self-appointed water girl for the volunteer painters. We appreciate it, Nancy!
A big Thank You to all the angels involved in this project!

The painting of the Hospitality House lasted just about all Summer! We had to coordinate our schedule with the prison inmate schedule, so they were not here every day, but many days in June, July and August. The house took two coats of primer and two coats of finish paint for a total of approximately 48 gallons of paint which was donated by Iowa Paint Company and Sioux Falls Paint & Glass. Del Duncan was the most wonderful coordinator of this paint job. He was here daily with the Maintenance Chair, and worked right along with the trusty volunteers. The pictures just show you the house during the painting (and in black and white)...you have to come by and see it in living color! We also have a new flagpole, courtesy of Ronda Stensland and the sidewalks are being replaced. Many wonderful things are happening here! Stop by and see them all.

Flag raising ceremony with trusty volunteer, Leonard Johnson and Dorothy.
Connecting Points

Gifts/Grants

Blessed are the givers...and grateful are the receivers

**Individuals**
- Anonymous
- Laurie Apple
- LuRay or Loretta Asbenson
- Richard Braithwaite
- David & Cathy Brechtelsbauer
- John & Nancy E Crandell
- Ned & Lola Dixon
- Norman or Clarice Eitrheim
- Mary Finck
- Lucy Fryxell
- Bonnie Gregerson
- Kenneth Iseminger
- Leroy & Orpha Iseminger
- Signie Johnson
- Virgil A. Johnson
- Helen G. Johnston
- David & Deanna Knudson
- Shirley Koepsell
- Paul Lansky
- Constance Ann Larson
- Dorothy Larson
- Ruth Lemon
- Ed & Rose Ligtenberg
- Clancy & Connie Matsuda
- Msgr. John McEneaney
- Leonard Johnson & Mary Montoya
- Wayne or Karen Muth
- Harold Nearhood
- Dr. & Mrs. C.T Schafer
- Leroy Stadem
- Dr. Vernon & Ronda Stensland
- Dennis and Rita Stevens
- Dr. David & Nancy Thomas
- Keith & Gloria Thompson
- Jeannine Tieszen
- Kathleen & Ralph Tingley

**Organizations**
- Lewis Drug
- Association of Christian Churches
- Church of the Epiphany
- Church of the Nazarene
- Faith Women of the ELCA
- Fidelis Alpha
- First Baptist Church
- First Presbyterian Church
- First United Methodist Church-Sx Falls
- Grace Lutheran Church-Sisseton
- Grace Lutheran Church Women-Wtwn
- Immanuel Lutheran Church
- Lords & Ladies
- North Preston Lutheran Church
- Our Redeemer WELCA
- Our Savior’s Church - Joseph Circle
- Our Saviors Lutheran - Patience Circle
- Pioneer Lutheran Church
- River Park Foundation
- Salem Ev. Lutheran Church
- Sioux Falls Council of Auxiliaries
- South Dakota Synod
- South Sioux Kiwanis
- St. Vincent de Paul
- Storla Lutheran WELCA
- Swedona Covenant Church
- Tabor Lutheran Church Women
- United Methodist Women-Iroquois
- Wesley United Methodist Church-MA

**Grants**
- WalMart
- SF Area Community Foundation
- Austin Family Foundation
- CitiCorp
- Midcontinent Foundation
- Sioux Falls Kiwanis Club
- AID Association for Lutherans

**In-Kind by Individuals**
- Marcia Votau
- Pam Hille
- Hildegard Krumm
- Helen McGuire
- Arlan Yarrow
- Dorothy A. Johnson
- Amanda Richards
- Yoshi Sato
- Chet Opland
- Barb Walker
- Maureen Schultz
- Dorothy Romain
- Roger Vant Hul
- Orpha Iseminger
- Samantha Baucom
- Judy and Linda Hallstrom
- Laura Hall Humman
- Dr. Vernon & Ronda Stensland
- Carol Yarrow
- Rich Hanson
- Opal Rogness
- Dave Kesow
- Shane Holtman
- Doug Clarke
- Gene Tjarks
- Mary Ryrholm
- Floyd Anderson
- Joeln Peterson
- Laurie Apple
- Sharon Zylstra
- Joan Van Buskink
- Barbara Peterson
- Barbara Walker
- Del Duncan
- Doug Weber
- Mike Flynn
- Leonard Johnson
- Ditminson
- Magdalene Bell
- Dick Sunde
- Bonnie Gregerson
- Roberta and Hailey Callahan
- Tracy Braithwaite
- Suzanne Fischer
- LaVerle Stevens
- Joyce Holles
- Pastor Karen Garrison
- Mary Barbee
- Mike and Connie Waldner
- Bridget Defender
- Eunice Sweeney

**In-Kind by Organization**
- Clare Becker
- St. Vincent de Paul
- Beaver Valley Lutheran-Hope Circle
- St. Vincent de Paul, St. Lambert’s Church
- Garretson-American Legion Aux.
- Lutheran Manor
- St. Paul Lutheran Ladies, Clark, SD
- A Dakotas Celebration
- RSVP: Jan
- Augustana Lutheran Church
- North Preston Lutheran
- St. John’s Women ELCA
- Good Samaritan Village
- Storla Lutheran WELCA
- Dennis Graber DDS
- Dennis Ballard DDS
- Children’s Dental Clinic
- Our Redeemer Lutheran Quilters
- Our Redeemer Lutheran Mary Circle
- First Free Methodist Church Ladies
- Assisted Living Trail Ridge
- St. Vincent de Paul Thrift-Mary Beth
- Children’s Medical Library
- Preferred Printing
- Lake Campbell Lutheran Church
- Heartland Paper Co.
Children Connection’s Points

Mary DeYoung has replaced Kara Williams as the Children Connection’s Director. Please welcome Mary with warmth. She will be working with the children’s groups in the schools. This is an important part of our ministry, and we will keep Mary and the Children’s Connection in our prayers.

Dorothy Richards
Executive Director

Memorials

Robert Galland
Given by Margaret Galland

Alvina Iseminger
Given by Mary Montoya & Leonard Johnson

Alvina Iseminger
Given by Wayne Koepsell

Alvina Iseminger
Given by Leroy Stadem

Wally Cook
Given by Leroy Iseminger

Lillian Tuntland
Given by Leroy Iseminger

Jeanette Paugh
Given by Leroy Iseminger

Harley Eastman
Given by Leroy Iseminger

Sharon Huber
Given by Leroy Iseminger

Christine Harp
Given by Leroy Iseminger

Bob Galland
Given by Leroy Iseminger

Clarence Larson
Given by Leroy Iseminger

Maynard Molstad
Given by Leroy Iseminger

Birthdays

Arnold Gilbertson
Given by Leroy Iseminger

Alf Tollefson
Given by Leroy Iseminger

Pastor Leroy Iseminger lost his mother, Alvina Iseminger in August.

Mary Ann Giebink lost her father, Robert Galland in August.

Pastor Leroy and Mary Ann, you and your families are in our prayers and thoughts during this difficult time. May God bring you through with a richer faith and understanding of his love.

The Board & Staff of Family Connection

Our Sympathies

A smile is rest to the weary, delight to the discouraged, sunshine to the sad, and nature’s best antidote for trouble.

My Tax Deductible Gift:

Name: ____________________________

Address: ____________________________

Street City State Zip

Gift Enclosed: $ ________ I will pledge: $ ________

Please return this pledge card or place your donation in the envelope provided.

Thank you!

If there is an error in your mailing label or if you know of someone who would like our newsletter, please let us know!
Helping families stay together while they are apart.

Check Us Out on the Internet! Our e-mail Address is: http://inst.augie.edu/church/FamilyConnection/ familyconnect@hotmail.com

“Do not forget to entertain strangers for by so doing, many have entertained angels unawares” Hebrews 13:2

The Board & Staff of Family Connection
"Keeping Families Together While They Are Apart"

wishes you and yours a very Merry and Blessed Christmas!

This will be the last Connection Points until 2003. Thank you for your continuing support.