

# Connecting Points

Volume 7 ♦ Issue 1

Quarterly Newsletter of Family Connection  
Winter 2003



January, 2003. How many of us held the 21st century in just a bit of awe? Here we are, living like we have, no flying cars, no robot maids, no vacations to the moon! We've all made it through another Holidaiy Season and welcomed another new year. Our work here goes on, we see the need grow every day.

Many times in our lives, the personal and professional cross. This happened to me during the past Christmas Season. My brother, Philip, passed away on December 23rd. His obituary was in the paper on Christmas Day. When I took that time off to deal with painful personal issues, many friends and volunteers helped fill the void. Life will never be the same for me. I knew my brother for 46 years, a long time to just not have that person in your life anymore. Thank you for all the wonderful heartfelt expressions of sympathy shared. Your prayers were felt. I know he is trying on angel wings now, to see if they can find one big enough for his heart.



Dorothy Richards

On the other end of the spectrum, our son and his girlfriend of about five years, got eloped to Las Vegas and were married on New Year's Eve day. All our children are officially grown, married and scattered! Two have graduated college and the third is going now. I feel it's a job well done.

Now on to strictly business notes. We have had a busy 2002. Our visitor numbers have just about doubled since Dec. 2001, we have Children's Connection groups at two schools, with two more coming soon. We have done much repair and maintenance to the Hospitality House and everything is looking very warm and welcoming!

With all the needs we have managed to meet this past year, our coffers have paid the price. We have received some very nice local monty. But, our budget shortfall is disconcerting. In these times of economic stress, we realize every business and non-profit is looking for ways to make ends meet. We have many angels out there that

have been and continue to support us throughout the year. Let's all prayerfully consider this ministry and what it means to us, to the guests we serve, the children and the community of Sioux Falls. As many as 75% of the inmates in the prison stay in Sioux Falls upon release. Keeping the family support strong during the incarceration reduces the chance of recidivism (recommitting), and produces healthier, safer Sioux Falls neighborhoods.

May your 2003 be blessed with love, joy, and fulfillment.

Dorothy Richards  
Executive Director



**E**ach new year begins with hopes and dreams, the best of intentions, and the ruffle of wings.

## Our Ongoing Mission...

To provide temporary shelter, emergency supplies, services and support to the families of inmates in an ongoing effort to facilitate visitation, and strengthen the family bond.

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# Connecting Points

## Board Points

This newsletter we are going to talk about the Board's accountability and responsibility. We will be working with the Family Connection Bylaws. In the Summer of 2002, several Board members worked on updating the Bylaws. The revised policies are available at the Family Connection office for anyone a copy.

We are fortunate to have some very active Board members. A few of the administration duties they use their time for:

Mary Montoya has been very active with public relations, decision making and coverage at the house. She has also worked on the bylaws update, goes to the prison for orientation and helps with the bookkeeping.

Bonnie Gregerson, Vice-chair, Maureen Schultz and Mike Powers are active on the fund raising committee.

Connie Matsuda, our treasurer, spends many happy(?) hours working on the financial business.

Nancy Thomas takes the time to go to the prison for orientation, and worked with Mary DeJong on the children's Christmas program.

Clancy Matsuda and Steve Lee were the core leadership in the updating of the bylaws.

Leonard Johnson is a very active maintenance chair. When he finds out about a fix-it need, he fixes it!

Leroy Iseminger has been actively running around the region talking up a storm about Family Connection.

Maureen Schultz has agreed to be our secretary for another year.

Mary Ann Giebink, has advised us on the bylaws and written two leases.

Terry Welk, our newest Board member, has shown an interest in attending the orientation at the prison and working with the children in Children's Connection.

Kudos to you all! It is reassuring to know the executive director doesn't have to go it alone, there is always a Board member to count on.

We are in the process of recruiting two new Board members. We hope they will be as eager to be actively involved as the ones we have!



## Some Dates to Remember



February 22nd-  
Saturday, "Time to Give Festival" at the Empire Mall from 10am-6pm. We need booth tenders for that day. If you would like to help, please call 357-0777.

April 27th-May 3rd-  
National Volunteer Week. A BIG Thank You to all our very angelic volunteers!

July 19th-  
Saturday, "Human Race". We will be a part of this citywide fundraiser again this year. In 2002 we came in second, let's see what we can do this year!

Meet Alden Medicine Horn. He is our new House Assistant. Alden is originally from Lake Andes. Alden works from 11am-3pm. He is a great one to have around as a "jack of all trades"! Stop by to meet and visit with him anytime.



## The Angel Program

This is an annual program providing items to the Hospitality House on a monthly basis.



A sample of the schedule would be:

- Month 1:** Cleaning products  
disinfectant cleaner,  
window cleaner, furniture  
polish, toilet bowl cleaner,  
sink & tub cleanser
- Month 2:** Office supplies  
7" envelopes, stamps,  
colored copy paper,  
address labels,
- Month 3:** Household needs  
trash bags, rubber gloves,  
air freshener, liquid soap
- Month 4:** Snacks  
homemade goodies
- Month 5:** Household needs  
after shower spray,  
shampoo, deodorant,  
toothpaste
- Month 6:** Office supplies  
stamps, 7" envelopes,  
address labels,
- Month 7:** Paper products  
kleenex, paper cups, plates
- Month 8:** Kitchen  
bread, milk, juice, fruit &  
vegetables
- Month 9:** Family Support  
\$30 to house one family for  
one night
- Month 10:** Household needs  
dish soap, laundry soap,  
fabric softener, stain  
remover
- Month 11:** Office supplies  
stamps, 7" envelopes,  
notepads,
- Month 12:** Christmas goodies  
We like to have "thank  
you" goody bags for  
special angels.

Use this schedule, or create your own!  
This is a 12-month commitment to  
Family Connection ministry. If inter-  
ested please call Dorothy at 357-0777.

## Hospitality Director's Points

Greetings from Family Connection! We've just come off a busy holiday season. The weather has more than cooperated with us and has allowed for safe travel for our guests.

We had a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner at the Hospitality House that served three families, each family contributed to the meal and even though some of the guests had just met by the end of the meal new friendships were formed. We also hosted a news reporter in the morning and had a feature story later that day on KDLT news.

During Christmas we had a very successful toy giveaway for the families that we serve in town and our out of town guests. Many children who may not have received a gift otherwise went

home with presents and other Christmas goodies.

This past season I have been able to see some wonderful family reunions with the release of incarcerated loved ones. This past week I was lucky enough to see the reunion of a brother and sister after a 33 year sentence. It's nice to witness these reunions and think that in some small way we helped make the visits more comfortable.



Jennifer Koepsell

Jennifer Koepsell  
Hospitality Director



A guest arrived  
on a Friday afternoon.  
As she knocked and opened the door  
she called out: "I'm home."

### Family Connection Staff

Dorothy Richards ..... Executive Director  
Jennifer Koepsell ..... Hospitality Director  
Mary DeYoung ..... Children's Connection Dir.  
Alden Medicine Horn ..... House Assistant

### Board of Directors

President ..... Mary Montoya  
Vice President ..... Bonnie Gregerson  
Secretary ..... Maureen Schultz  
Treasurer ..... Connie Matsuda  
Members ..... Leroy Iseminger  
..... Leonard Johnson  
..... Steve Lee  
..... Mike Powers  
..... Ronda Stensland  
..... Nancy Thomas  
..... Terry Welk

### Advisory Board

Dave Christensen  
Del & Bernice Duncan  
Bishop Norm Eitheim  
Mike Flynn  
Rev. Roger & Ruth Fredrikson  
Phyllis Fromelt

Glenn & Phyllis Jorgenson  
Kelby Krabbenhoft  
Bonnie Larsen  
Ann Marie Rossing  
Herm & Maizie Solem  
Mary Lou Steib  
Monte Walz



This space is for our guests from all over the globe to share recipes with each other. Thank you to all who have submitted recipes and looking forward to more!

#### Veggie Pizza

- 1/3 cup lowfat spaghetti sauce
- 1 Italian pizza shell
- 1/4 cup thinly sliced zucchini
- 1/4 cup thinly sliced yellow squash
- 1/4 cup thinly sliced red onion
- 1/4 cup thinly sliced white mushrooms
- 1/4 cup broccoli florets
- 1/4 cup thinly sliced red bell pepper
- 1/2 cup shredded mozzarella cheese
- 2 tsp. Romano cheese

Spray non-stick pan with olive oil spray. Add all veggies and saute until tender crisp. Spread sauce on shell, arrange veggies on sauce and top with cheeses. Bake 4-8 minutes in 400° oven. Let stand 5 minutes before cutting. 211 calories per serving. Serves 6.

Kim BE  
Wisconsin

What though my winged hours of bliss  
have been like angel visits, few and far  
between. -Campbell

## Children's Connection Points...

Children's Connection activities have been heating up since November, when I began my tenure as Director. With the help of school counselors, we have begun support groups for children at two Sioux Falls elementary schools; and we are looking to add a third elementary school and a middle school in the near future.

The goals of these groups are to:

- Provide a safe environment for children with incarcerated parents to express concerns and feelings.
- Develop positive self-esteem and coping skills.
- Decrease the sense of shame and isolation these young people experience.
- Provide experiences that help children make positive choices and avoid behaviors that are unproductive or damaging.

It has been my experience that these children are bright, interested and loveable; and I'm very happy to be a part of serving them.

During the Christmas holidays, we were happy to receive from Royal River Casino in Flandreau a carload of Christmas gifts for children. In addition, other agencies and churches provided a variety of gifts, which we were able to pass on to the families that we serve. We invited families to stop by the Family Connection Hospitality House on December 20 for an evening of Christmas

cheer. We had Christmas cookies to frost and eat and Christmas crafts for the children. While the children were under the guidance of our capable volunteers, parents were upstairs selecting and wrapping Christmas gifts. The children were also able to select a gift from under the tree to give to their parent or guardian. We were happy to meet and get to know these resourceful families; and I want to thank the volunteers who made the evening fun and satisfying.

Another part of my activities has been to go on a monthly basis to the prison to meet with men who are soon to be out on parole. I discuss the impact that imprisonment has on families in general and children in particular. I also discuss things that they may want to remember in relating to their children both while they are in prison and when they get out. Statistics show us that strong family connections are predictive of being more likely to stay out of prison in the future; and when possible, we want to continue to keep that family bond intact.

I'd like to thank the Family Connection Board, staff and volunteers for their support and helpfulness. I'm happy to be a part of this ministry.

Mary DeJong  
Director, Children's Connection



Camperships are available! The time is now!  
Camp time will be here before you know it!



Let's help as many children as possible enjoy the camp experience!

If you know any children that qualify for our programs and want to go to camp, please call 357-0777.

## ~ Wish List ~

### Kitchen Items

Fresh vegetables & fruits  
Individually wrapped snacks  
Juice & cold drinks  
Hamburger  
Sharp knives

### Housewares

Swiffer mop  
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

### 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.

## From a Guest's Heart...

We received a letter from a woman whose son was incarcerated the first part of December. She was looking for answers. Here is an excerpt from her letter.

"Thank you for calling...my plans were to be with my son for Christmas but it didn't work out at my work...so I hope you can help us with a place to stay after Christmas...

I've never been to Sioux Falls or to the penitentiary so I have no idea where I'm coming to...I guess we'll get to Sioux Falls around 6pm. If we can stay at the Family Connection on these dates... This is all new to me so I'll be lost this 1st visit. I've never been to a penitentiary (just seen them on tv) so I'm kinda scared. I'm hoping you can tell me how to get there.

Once again, I want to thank you for giving me and my family a place to stay. I haven't met you yet but I feel I know someone now in Sioux Falls and that takes away some of the "stress" I'm feeling.

\*To Jennifer and the staff at Family Connection, Merry Christmas and God Bless you."

*Family Connection wants to thank all the angelic support we receive to make visits like this possible.*



We received some very touching Christmas cards this year with kind words added. One card reads: "There are those who open their hearts to others...who give of themselves, who make all the difference." ...It's Christmas, and I just want you to know how wonderful it is having someone like you in my life." We would like to share some of these with you.

"Thank you for bridging together the miles and states away seem a whole lot closer.

M.B.

"Thinking of you at this time of year. I thought it would be nice to send a card from MA."

B.A.

"Everytime I look at my husband, I think of all the wonderful people who helped me feel like my life was less like a nightmare. I miss you. Thank you!"

R.L.

"Thank you for all you do for my family. Every year my family stays there and you open your home to them freely and warmly. My mom always feels like she is at home at your house-thank you and God Bless all of you who make it possible for a safe and happy stay!"

D.W.

Many thanks for all the kindness shown to me and my family. We all have something to be thankful about this year. Happy holidays and God Bless all of you.

M.C.



The Younkers Benefit Sale on November 16th brought us \$  
The Quilt Sale on December 6-7 netted us \$660.

Thank you everyone for your support!



10 We invite your group to hold your meeting or gathering at the Family Connection Hospitality House. Call 605-357-0777 for reservations.



## Angelic Opportunities

### Holiday Coverage

We need volunteers to come in on Holidays to help make the guests feel welcome.

### Display Tables

We need angels to sit at the display table at conferences & volunteer fairs. Flexible shifts available. Next opportunity is Saturday, February 22nd at the "Time to Give Festival" located at the Empire Mall from 10am-6pm.

### Office Help

We need volunteers to help out with basic office procedures. Filing, data input, answer phone, newsletter & other mailings.

If you have a special interest you would like to share with us, let us know. I'm sure we can use your talents!

Please call 357-0777 for more information or to take advantage of these angelic opportunities!



Riding on the wings of angels  
you can see your life from a distance  
and put into perspective the small  
and unimportant concerns  
that hold you down.

10 We have speakers available for church or civic group meetings,

10 We have a videotaped walk-through of the Hospitality House,

10 We have printed material about Family Connection and our programs available to the public,

# Connecting Points

## Gifts/Grants

Please remember us in your Wills and Trusts

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

### Individuals

Anderson, Dean & Marilyn  
Andrus, Milan, Stephen & Eulalia Katherine  
Anonymous  
Anderson, Dorothy  
Baney, Calvin & Nina  
Basche, Doug & Rebecca  
Bauer, Barry & Judith  
Bell, Magdalen  
Bieber, dale & Mardella  
Bjerke, Jenneth & Nilda  
Blake, Jerry & Susan  
Buckwalter, Phyllis  
Banek, Elizabeth  
Braithwaite, Richard  
Campbell, Kimberly  
Caselli, Robert & Delila  
Cimburek, Charley or Patricia  
Crandell, John & Nancy E.  
Dimick, Floyd & Karen  
Dirckson, Michael & Pamela  
Donohue, Dan & Laura  
Drake, Marilyn  
Dixon, Ned & Lola  
Ekeland, Norman & Muriel  
Erickson, Raymond & Phyllis  
Ericson, Ginny  
Fossum, Richard & Arlene  
Graff, Curtis & Sally  
Halverson, Kenneth & Mary Alice  
Heidenson, Richard & Audrey  
Hippe, Stanley or Rudy  
Hoffman, Wendell & Holly  
Holm, Joanie  
Homan, Tim & Pamela  
Hagen, Bruce & Beth  
Heege, Robert & Grace  
Hill, Willard & Betty  
Hoxsie, Dagmar  
Hurley, Tim  
Hyland, Lowell & Norma  
JJaqua, Drs. Richard & Mary Jo  
Johnson, Nancy  
Joyce, Jr. Mr & Mrs James  
Jensen, Dorothy  
Jensen, Elizabeth  
Johnson, Orville & Belva  
Knudson, David & Deanna  
Knutson, Louis & Audrey  
Krumm, Hildegard S.  
Larson, Dorothy  
Leonard, Greg  
Larson Katherine  
Larson, LeRoy & Jorene  
Lemon, Ruth  
Lemons, Thomas & Dorothy  
Lewis, Allen Revocable Trust



McKercher, Dr. Scott & Laurita  
Meinhohans, Arden & Norma  
Miliken, Doris  
Moberly, Thelma  
Mortenson, Brian  
Miller, Mrs. Robert J.  
Montoya, Mary  
Muth, Wayne or Karen  
Nearhood, Harold  
Neugebauer, Lloyd & Janice  
O'Dea, Doris  
Oliver, Robert & Angela  
Olsen, Arthur & Ruth  
Olson, Michael & Deborah  
Parry, Rodney & Ruth  
Plooster, Peggy  
Pat & Bob Ludlow Foundation  
Powers, Michael C.  
Richards, Ronald & Dorothy  
Ronning, Doreen & Melvin  
Rossing, Dr. David & Ann Ma  
Rye, Kermit & Doris  
Ritz, Beryl  
Salmela, Steve & Connie  
Schafer, Dr. & Mrs. C.T.  
Schock, Al  
Stenes, Anetta  
Smidt, Rolene  
Smith, Connie  
Soye, Andrew & Sandra  
Stensland, Dr. Vernon & Ronda  
Stundahl, Verna  
Sullivan, Marian  
Schuerman, Kathy  
Thomas, Dr. David & Nancy  
Thompson, Keith & Gloria  
Tieszen, Jeanne J.  
Tilberg, Mrs. Randall  
Tripp, Marvin & Marilyn  
Waff, Dorothy  
Warner, Harold & Carol  
Wentzel, Rev. Rex & Carol  
Yarrow, Arlan & Carol  
Zylstra, Sharon



### Organizations

Aabram Lutheran Church Women  
American Lutheran Church Women  
Ascension Lutheran Church Women  
Badger Lutheran Women of ELCA  
Benton Couples Club- Benton Lutheran Church  
Bergen WELCA  
Bethany Lutheran WELCA  
Canton Lutheran Church  
Crestwood Women - Sx Falls  
Faith Women of the ELCA  
First Baptist Church

First Lutheran Church - Mitchell  
First Lutheran Church -Sx Falls  
First Lutheran WELCA - Volga  
First Lutheran WELCA-Britton  
First Lutheran WELCA-Sherman  
First Presbyterian Church  
First United Methodis Church - Montrose  
First United Methodist Church-Sx Falls  
Grace Lutheran WELCA  
Grace Circle - Rosholt  
Grace Lutheran Church - Sisseton  
Grand Valley WELCA  
Harry Weeks Aid  
Highland Church Women  
Hudson Luthean Church Women  
Hayti WELCA  
Hilltop United Methodist Women  
Hope Lutheran WELCA  
Holmes Enterprises  
Immanuel Lutheran Church  
Immanuel Women ELCA -Kimball  
Lake Campbell Lutheran Church  
Local 7500 Retirees  
New Hope WELCA  
Norway Lutheran Church Women  
Oldham Women of the ELCA  
Our Savior's WELCA - Wessington Springs  
Our Saviors Lutheran - Flandreau  
Our Saviors Lutheran Church - Patience Ci  
Renner Lutheran Church  
Royal River Casino  
Salem Lutheran Church  
Scandinavia WELCA  
Springdale Lutheran WELCA  
St. John's Women of ELCA  
St. Joseph WELCA  
St. Paul Lutheran WELCA  
St. Vincent de Paul  
Trinity Women of the ELCA  
Trinity Lutheran Church - Arlington  
Trondhjem WMF  
United Methodist Women of Ethan  
United Methodist - Sioux Falls  
West Nidaros Women ELCA  
Willow Creek WELCA  
Woods, Fuller Shultz  
Zion Women of the ELCA  
Zoar Mission Circle

### Grants

Elmen Enterprises  
John & Francis Beck Trust

### In-Kind by Individual

Barbara Waff  
Roberta Callahan  
Harold & Berdine Boster



## A Sadness Shared...

My brother, Philip Bell was an angel here on earth. He was born August 12, 1956. He died suddenly of a heart attack on December 23, 2002.

Philip was what the world calls "handicapped". He had a disease called schizophrenia, and a low I.Q. He attended Sioux Vocational School and was a client of Fifth Street Connection. When he got his own apartment, he was very proud. He made friends easily. We thought, when he wasn't with a family member, he was home watching tv, enjoying his cigarette and coffee. But, as we learned at the prayer service, he had many friends and an active life. These friends told us about the day bus trips

he would take to different casinos around...Royal River, Winna Vegas, Jackpot Junction. Places many of us have never visited! They told us about the fun times at McDonald's and Grand Fun Alley with his friends' children.

When we cleaned out his apartment, we stopped for a break in the bar in the basement. The people there all knew him and as I was leaving, one after another came up to me saying "You're Phil's sister?" then take my hand and offer their condolences. I was happy at that moment. Happy he had a life that touched so many people. Happy that he had a life full of friends and laughter.

The passage chosen for his funeral was the one where Jesus tells of "doing this to the least of my brethren". For two reasons, society considered him one of the "least", but also, he had no "least of these" in his life. It just never occurred to him to judge anybody.

I will miss him. We will all miss him. He was a kind man. He loved his family and his nieces & nephews very much, as much as we loved him. He had some very dear friends. I know, when each new year comes and I hear the angels' wings rustle, it will be him, watching over us.

Dorothy Richards  
Executive Director

con't from page 6  
Mister Mandskor  
Bridget Defends  
Eunice Sweeney  
Matt Tobin  
Rhonda Stensland  
Judy Bour  
Jean Muhs  
Mary Lunde  
Elaine Burma  
Helen L. Johnson  
Jan Workman  
Suzette Whiteshirt  
Andrew and Sandra Soye  
Helen McGuire

Hurley Methodist Church  
Rosholt Lutheran Ladies  
Grace Lutheran Church  
Canton Lutheran Church  
American Lutheran Church  
Our Saviors Lutheran Church  
St. Vincent De Paul  
Veblen Seniors Citizen  
Trinity WELCA  
West Nidaros Lutheran  
Hurley Methodist Church  
Rosholt Lutheran Church  
NABS Employer Of NABS  
St. Michaels Parish  
Christian Missionary Alliance Church  
Our Saviour Lutheran Church  
Holy Spirit Church

St. Therese Parish  
Royal River Casino  
Karl's TV & Appliance  
ST. Mark's Lutheran Church  
Augustana Church Girl Scouts  
Salvation Army

### Memorials

Philip Bell  
given by Dorothy Richards



### Consider making a memorial donation

When you wish to make a charitable donation in a loved one's memory, please remember the Family Connection House.

### In-Kind by Organization

### 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!

Please check the appropriate boxes for more information:

- I would like information about the Angel Program
- I would like a speaker for our group or service club
- I would like to tour the house
- I am interested in sharing my talents with Family Connection



*Family Connection*  
 PO Box 100  
 Sioux Falls, SD 57101

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"Keeping families together while they are apart."



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

Check Us Out on the Internet!  
[www.augie.edu/related/FamilyConnection](http://www.augie.edu/related/FamilyConnection)

\*\*Note new web page address!\*\*

Our e-mail Address is:  
[familyconnect@hotmail.com](mailto:familyconnect@hotmail.com)



**H**appy  
**V**alentine's  
**D**ay

to all our  
 angels  
 out there!



*Family Connection*  
 "Keeping families together while they are apart"