

# Monthly Ministry Motivator

e-newsletter from the BeFriender Ministry National Office

August 2008

## Foundations for BeFriender Ministry

### WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

#### 2008

**Sept. 9-12**  
Aviano Airbase (Italy)

**Sept. 15-18**  
Golden Valley, MN

**Sept. 29-Oct. 2**  
Pullman, WA

**Oct. 27-30**  
North Liberty, IA

**Nov. 10-13**  
Brookfield, WI

**Nov. 10-13**  
Louisville, KY

#### 2009

**Jan. 12-15**  
Albuquerque, NM

**Jan. 26-29**  
Golden Valley, MN

**Feb. 9-12**  
Fargo, ND

[More information:](#)  
Details including fees and  
deadlines

#### Who attends Foundations?

*New programs:* A team of  
leaders (2 to 5) attends  
the workshop. Discounts  
are available for multiple  
registrants.

*Existing programs:*  
Additional program  
leaders are trained as a  
program grows or when  
there is turnover in the  
leadership team.  
Discounts may apply for  
active programs.

#### Quick links

## A message to you from the Executive Co-Directors

Dear Joanne,

This month we introduce the **Question of the Month**. Each month I will ask a question to which you can respond by e-mail. We will include a representative sampling of the responses in the next issue. Your responses can be a source of ideas for BeFriender Ministry programs and help us identify areas where you might need additional support from the national office.



### August question

For whom are the BeFrienders in your group providing a listening presence? What have you identified as priority areas (for example, members who are hospitalized, new members, military families)?

Send your thoughts to me by e-mail, then look for the responses in the next Monthly Ministry Motivator.

*Barb Schwery* [barb@befrienderministry.org](mailto:barb@befrienderministry.org)  
Executive Co-Director and Program Manager

You might experience a bit of déjà vu as you read this month's e-newsletter. We are re-running information about new services, newsletter features, and products that you might have missed last month due to vacation or other well-deserved summer fun!

If there are program leaders in your group who are not receiving the e-newsletter, please forward it to them. They can sign up for the newsletter via the last link in the left column or by filling out an [online form](#) on our website. Please call us if you have questions about any of the new services we have described.

*Joanne Hansen* ([joanne@befrienderministry.org](mailto:joanne@befrienderministry.org))  
Executive Co-Director and Operations Manager

## Workshops in your area

**Pullman, WA**  
**Golden Valley, MN**  
**North Liberty, IA**

The "Foundations" workshop is ecumenical. In the next several months, at various locations around the country, the workshop is being hosted by Lutheran (ELCA), Unitarian Universalist, and United Church of Christ churches, as well as Catholic churches and dioceses.

### Pullman, WA Registration deadline is September 8



The Pullman (WA) United Church of Christ is serving as a first-time host for the workshop "Foundations for BeFriender Ministry" on September 29 - October 2, 2008. This also is the first time the "Foundations" workshop has been offered in the Pacific Northwest.

Workshop schedule  
Register for Foundations  
Order materials

1-866-468-8708 (toll free)  
952-767-0244



## OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday  
9 a.m. - 4 p.m. CDT

Friday - Sunday  
Closed



The deadline for registration is Monday, September 8. Register via the [online form](#), or call our toll free number, 1-866-468-8708.

We are grateful to the Pullman United Church of Christ pastors, Rev. Kristine Zakarison and Rev. Chip Laird, for hosting the workshop. We also extend our thanks to the entire team at the church for their preparation for the workshop: Helen Belt, MaryAnn Boehmke, Nancy Gillard, Tricia Grantham, Ronda McLean, Monique Slipher, Beth Waddel, and Jim Wills.



Washington State Univ. - Pullman

## Golden Valley, MN Deadline extended to September 8

The fall workshop in the Twin Cities is scheduled for September 15-18. Calvary Lutheran Church in Golden Valley is once again providing their wonderful space for the workshop. We are so grateful to program leader and parish nurse Annette Langdon and to congregational care assistant Georgie Waulk for all they do to provide the space for BeFriender Ministry workshops.

The deadline for registration and payment has been extended to Monday, September 8. The fees for registrations after September 8 will be \$699 for the first registrant and \$549 for other registrants from the same church.

## North Liberty, IA Registration deadline is October 6

The October 27-30 workshop originally scheduled in Iowa City, IA, has been moved to North Liberty, just 9 miles away. Holy Trinity Church is providing the facilities. Holy Trinity is a new mission church in the Southeast Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. We send a hearty thanks to Pastor Tim Smith for opening the church's doors to us. More [details](#) are available on our website.



## Featured products Get ready for fall training

### Training materials

If your BeFriender candidate training is scheduled to begin in September, now is the time to order materials. In addition to [Candidate Workbooks](#), additional items are available to enhance the training experience: Reminder Cards, Bookmarks, Posters (set of 4), and the Pastoral Care Video. Go to the website for an [online order form](#). *Please allow at least 2 weeks for delivery.*

### Tree rings: End of summer special

More and more program leaders are providing tree rings (instead of candles) in the "Sense of Call" session in candidate training. Each tree ring is unique, and the type of wood varies. The tree rings are approximately 6 to 8 inches in diameter. They included folding brass stand provides sturdy support. Tree rings are **\$14** (regularly \$18) **through September 18.**

Tree rings also are a special gift to give to someone who is experiencing a



\$14 (reg. \$18)  
through Sept. 18



significant event or transition in life. A gift card explaining the meaning of the tree ring is available for an additional 50¢.

## Spotlight

[YOUR NAME HERE]



Each month in "Spotlight," we will publish a story of a BeFriender group, program leader, or BeFriender. Other BeFriender Ministry programs can learn from your experiences and celebrate with you or pray for you and your group in times of transition. We invite you to tell us your story. Some ideas include:

- Anniversary celebrations of your BeFriender group
- News or achievements from within your BeFriender group or your leadership team
- Honoring a retiring BeFriender
- Training, general program, or leadership ideas that you have found helpful
- Stories of befriending
- Ways of recognizing BeFrienders
- Insights you've gained from BeFriender Ministry

Tell us about any significant event, achievement, or idea that you would like to share. You can send an e-mail us at [info@befrienderministry.org](mailto:info@befrienderministry.org). If you would like to tell your story but prefer not to write it down, you can call our office to orally tell your story, and we will put it into writing.

## Inspirations

### On teaching and learning

"Teaching is more than imparting knowledge, it is inspiring change. Learning is more than absorbing facts, it is acquiring understanding."

*William Arthur Ward*  
American author, pastor, teacher

"The art of teaching is the art of assisting discovery."

*Mark van Doren*  
American write and educator

## Earn credit for referrals

### Earn up to \$650 credit for registrations

Word-of mouth referrals always have been strong for BeFriender Ministry. In gratitude, we now have a program that will allow active BeFriender Ministry programs to earn credit for making referrals. Your church will earn \$50 credit for each church or other organization that starts a new program based on your referral. You will receive a voucher, which you can apply to a "Foundations" registration for a new program leader for your leadership team. Your program can earn up to \$650 credit every two years, and each voucher is good for two years. For more information see [Referrals](#) on our website.

### Volunteer hosts can earn rebates

A rebate program for volunteer hosts also is being introduced. Workshop

hosts can earn up to \$650 in rebates. A \$50 rebate is issued to the host for each church or organization that, based on the host's referral, sends participants to the host's workshop in order to start a new program. [Volunteer Host Rebate](#) on our website outlines the details.

### Be a "Publicity Partner"

Is there a workshop being held in your area (including the Saint Paul-Minneapolis area)? If you are willing to put **posters** on neighborhood bulletin boards, you can request posters for placement in locations other than your own church. Some suggested locations are:

- Community bulletin boards in coffee shops or other public locations
- Meeting facilities for groups of clergy or associations of parish nurses, pastoral ministers, or chaplains
- Training or conference facilities used for ministry- or church-related programming

You can go to our [website](#) to request up to 5 posters at a time. For each poster that you display, you will receive 1 note card and envelope.

If you would like to distribute **flyers and registration forms**, we can e-mail the file to you in PDF format. You can forward the file or print copies to hand out.

## Volunteer opportunities

### For the national office

While we are short-staffed, we can use the help of volunteers more than ever. You can volunteer from any location. We hope you will consider the following opportunities. Anyone who contributes three hours or more of volunteer time will receive a **free tote bag**. If you can't contribute that much time, you will receive a **free gift** ... your choice of a travel candle, multi-message pen, postcard-size magnet, or 10 note cards.



### From your own home

We need individuals to do **research on the Internet** to find key contacts at denominational governing bodies in several cities.



### At the national office

We have several projects at our office in Bloomington, MN, that involve **assembly of materials**. The assembly projects are appropriate for any age. Consider volunteering with your children or grandchildren or using this as a service project for a student or confirmand. For a recent graduate it can be valuable office experience.

New members for our **Board of Directors** are needed to replace those whose terms have expired. Are you interested or know someone who might be? We are particularly looking for individuals with experience and expertise in marketing, nonprofit law, and fundraising.

### Contact us

More information about current [volunteer opportunities](#) is available on our website. If you are interested in any of the opportunities, send an e-mail to [joanne@befrienderministry.org](mailto:joanne@befrienderministry.org) or call toll free 1-866-468-8708 (952-767-0244 in the Saint Paul-Minneapolis area). Barb and Joanne will be very grateful!

## In gratitude

### Many involved in hosting the workshop in Richmond

The Catholic Diocese of Richmond hosted a workshop at their beautiful new Pastoral Center on August 5-8.

Thank you to the **Diocesan staff** at the center for their warm welcome and hospitality.



We are grateful the **BeFriender Ministry Advisory Committee** in Richmond -- in particular, members **Margaret Johnson, Paula Ropelewski, Peggy Graham, and Janis McInnis** -- for their support and assistance preparing for the workshop.

**Dennis Beeman** has served for many years as our contact and workshop host at the diocese. We want to take this opportunity to thank Dennis for his years of support for BeFriender Ministry. Our thoughts and prayers are with Dennis as he transitions to a new position.

## New service for program leaders Training Network

We have launched an Web-based networking service for program leaders who are interested in conducting BeFriender candidate training jointly with another church. You can complete and submit the [online form](#) to have your contact information listed. For more information and to complete the form go to the Training Network.



## CONTACT US

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