

DISCIPLES CARE NETWORK, INC.

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YOU HAVE COUSINS YOU DON'T KNOW!

Cousins in ministry throughout the country are serving persons with various social and health needs on your behalf and in the name of Jesus and the Christian Church. Most are not known outside their immediate geographical area. The purpose of Disciples Care Network (DCN) is to create and maintain a network of human services agencies in covenant with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). As a loose-knit association of care providers, DCN seeks to (1) inform the whole church of the "...good works and acts of charity." being provided to more than 37,000 persons annually, and (2) provide support, training and consultation for care providers to accomplish and maintain excellence in care and services.

DCN started with a group of eighteen care providers meeting at the 2005 General Assembly in Portland. Since then, 82 agencies have agreed to be listed in the DCN brochure/resource directory. The 2007 General Assembly in Fort Worth approved the resolution accepting Disciples Care Network as a "Recognized Organization" of the church.

DCN hosted a breakfast at the General Assembly in Fort Worth, where 52 persons did strategic planning for the Network. Implementing priorities from that planning led to:
a website: www.disciplescarenetwork.org, a membership sliding fee scale, incorporation and bylaws and a training session at the DCN annual meeting.

At the DCN annual meeting, January 20-21, 2008, a half-day workshop on building relationships with boards was provided. In addition to DCN agency representatives the workshop was open to others. One UCC staff member took advantage of that learning opportunity.

Disciples Care Network is grateful to the National Benevolent Association board for a generous start-up grant for the organizational phase of the Network. In doing so, NBA declined having any NBA staff on the DCN steering committee, so that the Network could organize without influence by NBA.

DCN looks forward to participation in a Task Force to organize for mission as proposed by Section I and approved by the General Board in April 2007 (General Board Business Item GB-07-0547). Most of the 82 agencies involved with DCN have never had seats at the table discussing the organization and recognition of social and health service delivery within the Christian Church and are ready to have representatives participate in the process.

As requested by members of General Board Section I, DCN is in the process of gathering information to be prepared to publish a list of agencies by the programs offered in addition to listing by state.

DCN is in consultation with DHM regarding services to congregations providing social services as a part of their ministries.

In calls to care providers, one HUD manager was grateful for DCN. She and her board have felt distanced from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). She said, "I didn't think the church knew we were still here."

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

At the DCN Annual Meeting in Tampa, January 20-21, 2008 the following persons were elected to the Board of Directors.

Kirk Alliman, President, Christian Care Communities, Louisville, KY ('10)

Erin Boehner, Interim Development Director, Kansas Christian Home, Newton, KS ('11)

Ken Burger, Executive Director, The Summit, Lynchburg, VA ('10)

Sue Cherney, Executive Director, Southern Christian Services for Children & Youth, Jackson, MS ('09)

Bob Cooper, President, Tennyson Center for Children at Colorado Christian Home, Denver, CO ('10)

Kay Ellis, President, Juliette Fowler Homes, Dallas, TX ('10)

Wanda Gottschalk, Chief Development Officer, Child Saving Institute, Omaha, NE ('11)

David Lundeen, CEO, Cleveland Christian Home, Cleveland, OH ('09)

C. Mark Palmer, CEO, Woodhaven, Columbia, MO ('11)

Don Stump, President, Christian Church Homes of Northern California, Oakland, CA ('09)

Karen Wardlaw, Administrator, Disciple Homes, Gladewater, TX ('11)

2008 CORPORATE OFFICERS

Kay Ellis, President

Bob Cooper, Vice President

Ken Burger, Secretary/Treasurer

2009 annual meeting will be in San Antonio January 25 and 26, 2009, immediately following the Disciples Development Conference. YOU are invited to join us.

There is much yet to do to reach the potential of the Network. Many in the pews say they never heard of most of the DCN ministries. Most of the providers feel their work is unnoticed and unappreciated by the whole church. It is our privilege to serve the whole Church in trying to fill these gaps in understanding. Visit the DCN website www.disciplescarenetwork.org! *Get to know some of your cousins in ministry!*