Fontbonne’s Griffin Pantry, Serving the “Dear Neighbor” in Times of Need

Why start a food pantry on a college campus? Is there a real need for this at Fontbonne? And, if so, can’t they just go to a local food pantry nearby? When this project came up in last year’s FCC applications, members had many questions. Dr. Jamie Daugherty, Assistant Professor in the Family & Consumer Sciences Department, initiated the proposal, based on her doctoral research in 2017. She had focused on understanding food insecurity — in particular, understanding student use of food pantries. Actually, the first U.S. campus food pantry was established at Michigan State in 1997. Currently, there are metro food pantries at St. Louis U, UMSL, Forest Park and Meramec Community Colleges and at Concordia Seminary — and now at Fontbonne, as well. Other food pantries in the area really are not convenient to a student living on campus.

The need is real. As college costs rise, more students are left struggling to live on a shoestring budget. At Fontbonne, approximately one-third of the students are receiving Pell grants and, with the addition of the Fontbonne Promise initiative, some may need help supplementing what they and their families can provide — there’s no such thing as a scholarship for food. As any parent or teacher knows, students find it difficult to concentrate on their studies unless their basic needs have been met. They are unable to do their best when in survival mode.

Fontbonne’s Griffin Pantry is open to anyone on campus for six designated hours each week — Monday and Thursday from 10-noon and Wednesday from 2-4 pm. Everyone’s privacy is respected, and there’s no judgement. Clients are asked only for their names, and all records are password protected. Dr. Daugherty keeps a confidential record of how frequently people come for supplies.

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The goal of the current program is to serve 50 people by the end of the fiscal year; approximately 25 have been helped so far. It’s been a challenge, and there is enough stigma attached to receiving help with something as basic as food, that even deserving prospects may be reluctant to accept it, thinking someone else may need it more. The Griffin Pantry has been collaborating with Dietetics graduate students, various campus clubs and organizations and the Advancement Office to spread the word. The Pantry also received some local TV coverage on Channel 5 news, which led to valuable contacts within the community. The Griffin Pantry hopes to build alliances with other area food pantries, sharing resources, information and methods to grow the program.

FCC seed money started this project and, with perhaps 20% of the campus population having some form of limited access to quality nutritional food at times, the program hopes to continue. Donations of canned and boxed food and toiletries are welcomed; cash donations help, too. As supplies vary over time, a list of particular current needs can be obtained by emailing JDaugherty@fontbonne.edu.

Fontbonne’s Griffin Pantry certainly fits the Fontbonne and CSJ mission of helping the “Dear Neighbor.” FCC members can join this effort by bringing non-perishable food or toiletry items whenever they are on campus, especially when attending FCC-related activities like the coming “Coffee Talk,” roundtables and Annual Meeting. Items left at FCC events, or with FCC Liaison Wendi Valenti (Advancement Office) when pantry is not open, will be properly delivered — and greatly appreciated.

Will you go to PROM with FCC?

Remember the thrill of being asked to PROM, back in the day? Enjoy the grown-up excitement and personal satisfaction of attending the second annual Fontbonne PROM Scholarship Fundraising Gala — featuring as Event Emcee, professional singer Tish Haynes Keys, well-known from her success on NBC’s “The Voice.” To be seated with other FCC members, just contact Wendi Valenti by May 10 — (wvalenti@fontbonne.edu or 314-889-4712)
Several FCC members were present for Fontbonne’s March 30 “Coffee Talk” presentation by our own FCC member Dr. Jenna Voss, on the “Importance of Early Intervention in Childhood Hearing Loss.” Comments by young moms with children attending Fontbonne’s clinic added a personal note to Jenna’s professional expertise and emphasis on the significant difference early intervention can make. She noted the frequent support of FCC for hearing loss projects, which has clearly provided blessings to both impacted families and to Fontbonne’s student clinicians.

A second “Coffee Talk” presentation on Saturday morning, May 4, in the Starbuck’s Coffee Shop of Taylor Library, will feature Fontbonne Associate Professor Dr. Ben Moore, who launched the Bosnia Memory Project with funding provided by FCC’s very first award cycle in 2008. Various aspects of the Bosnia endeavor have received FCC funding through the years, and the compassionate outreach of the project is very dear to our FCC hearts. Dr. Moore will share touching and memorable stories of preserving records of Bosnian genocide survivors, and he will engage in conversation with us about significant outcomes that have been possible by FCC support — as well as major challenges still to be met. GREAT opportunity for potential new members to learn about some of FCC’s key awards! Come, bring a friend, visit with Dr. Moore over complimentary coffee and pastries at 9 am, and enjoy his presentation beginning at 9:30. FCC attendance and participation at this event reaffirms our support of the Fontbonne and CSJ mission to serve the dear neighbor without distinction.

Click HERE to register (no charge).

Best Time EVER for New Full Memberships and for Janet Zell Sponsorship Initiative

That friend, neighbor, former classmate or your BFF — the one who might be interested in FCC — NOW is an ideal time to invite her to be part of FCC’s Million Dollar Milestone!!! New members who join by the end of May can attend roundtable discussions and cast ballots in June. Also, keep in mind the Janet Zell Sponsorship Initiative, for those unable to contribute full membership dues. Contact FCC Chair Joan Kelly for further information.
Multiple Fontbonne Connections for New Member Jeanne Carmack

Jeanne Hochendel Carmack graduated from Fontbonne in 1968. Her connections to Fontbonne have grown considerably since then. Her sister, Barbara Lindsay is a ’72 graduate. One of Jeanne’s daughters, Janet Trimble, graduated in ’91 and also met her husband at Fontbonne; Jim Trimble graduated in ’89. Along the way, Jeanne became friends with Maribell Knickerbocker, Fontbonne grad and longtime FCC member, who often spoke with Jeanne about FCC. When Jeanne’s sister died 3 years ago, followed by Maribell’s passing not long afterwards, Jeanne knew she wanted to join FCC in loving tribute to both her sister and her friend. Having long heard about the various FCC projects, Jeanne now looks forward to getting to know her fellow FCC members — and being able to vote on this year’s applications!

Jeanne graduated with a BA in Education and taught for several years — first at Sacred Heart Academy in St. Charles, then in the preschool at St. Michael and St. George. She married her high school sweetheart, Terry Carmack, a mechanical engineer and estimator for big projects as diverse as generators for universities, the U. City Trolley and the new Southwest Airlines baggage claim. Jeanne held down the home front, raising their two daughters Janet and Anne. Now Jeanne is involved with Avian Rescue and is on their board. Working with birds as small as parakeets and as large as parrots, their mission is to find homes for pet birds whose owners can no longer keep them.

Jeanne celebrated her 50th reunion at Fontbonne last Fall and says Fontbonne will always have a special place in her heart.

New Member Ruth Ann Hostler Kerr, in Her Own Words…

The Class of 1964 was no different than any other. We married or continued higher education, became involved in our personal lives while the world was exploding around us. While facing the well-documented issues of the day, we took the core values Fontbonne taught us and translated them into our homes, community, Church and workplaces.

Therefore, my story of marrying a wonderful man I met at a Fontbonne mixer, moving to New Jersey where he was working at Bell Labs, having three wonderful children and teaching high school for 35 years is not unique. But, I like to think that my life was richer and more complete because Fontbonne launched me with a feeling of competence and mission.

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Ruth Ann Kerr, continued

In the ’60s, we were mentored by an extraordinary group of St. Joseph nuns who modeled leadership, courage, empowerment and compassion in addition to providing strong foundations in our academic endeavors.

It seems to me that Fontbonne has continued that tradition today. It is blessed with superb leadership as well as a gifted faculty, who work daily in the trenches, to translate its spirit and legacy to an ever-evolving world. Therefore, I think there can be no higher calling than to help foster Fontbonne’s mission, no matter how small my contribution may be. Fontbonne Community Connection is such an easy and satisfying way to do that.

This Year’s Roundtables & Voting Lead to FCC Million Dollar Milestone!

This year, as we approach our FCC Million Dollar Milestone, the roundtables and voting process are more exciting than ever! Roundtable attendance has always marked one of our highest levels of excitement, participation and involvement. At each of the four scheduled roundtable sessions this spring, members will review and clarify each of the 22 accepted applications, by participating in small discussion groups. This allows each attendee to be in a position to personally evaluate and rank the applications in the order she believes represents the best interest of Fontbonne University, its mission and goals.

The Newsletter calendar on page 6 lists time/dates/locations of the roundtable discussion sessions. In order to accommodate as many as possible, there are daytime, evening and weekend sessions, as well as a phone-in opportunity for our out-of-town members or those unable to make the on-campus roundtables. Members consistently report that these sessions give them greatly increased confidence and enthusiasm in their selections. Many attend as many roundtable dates as possible, as they find their understanding grows with each session of sharing in the fascinating and insightful perspectives of fellow FCC members.

In the next few weeks, members will receive emails with all necessary information for their review of applications (both full applications and summaries), as well as roundtable phone-in directives and voting instructions. We’re excited that this year’s voting will culminate in the achievement of our Million Dollar Milestone, in support of the academic hopes and dreams of faculty, staff and students!

Click HERE to register for Roundtables sessions of your choice.
Such a beautiful time of the year! Flowers blooming and new green growth everywhere, brings the full joy of spring. In this refreshing season, FCC also is experiencing new growth, in both local and out-of-town membership. Welcome to Jeanne Carmack ’68, in St. Louis, and to Ruth Ann Kerr ’64, in New Jersey. Thank you both for joining our FCC Giving Circle.

May is a great month for us to invite more new members to join, as their initial experience will include roundtable discussions, voting for awards and celebrating our amazing Million Dollar Milestone! In addition to traditional full membership, remember that FCC has opportunities from the Sponsorship Initiative program introduced in early 2019. Your support in growing the FCC allows our organization to continue its wonderful mission of GIVING.

It’s heartwarming to reflect on the previously awarded projects highlighted in this newsletter. The Griffin Pantry, Deaf Education programs and the Bosnia Memory Project each enrich the Fontbonne Community — and the Dear Neighbor, as well. Please consider bringing pantry items whenever you come to campus, to help ensure sufficient supplies there. Looking forward, I’m excited about the diversity of activities — Ben Moore’s May 4 “Coffee Talk,” FCC presence at the May 18 Fontbonne PROM Gala, Roundtable discussions and Voting in June — culminating with the July 11 Annual Breakfast Meeting and Awards Announcement (formal invitation to be emailed). The calendar to the right gives specific times/dates/locations for all FCC-related activities.

The coming roundtables, voting and Annual Meeting are the true HEART and SOUL of the FCC year and provide priceless opportunities for our most active participation, personal satisfaction and enrichment. This year, more than ever before, these compelling activities are charged with excitement, as we achieve and celebrate our Million Dollar Milestone! As always, thank you for your support of the FCC mission.

Joan

Joan Kelly, FCC Chair

**Coming Events**

| May, 2019 | FCC Members Review Applications
| 6 — Commencement |
| 21 — Roundtable Discussion, DSAC, 9-11 am |
| 30 — Roundtable Discussion, DSAC, 5:30-7:30 pm |
| June, 2019 | FCC Members Review Applications
| 5 — Roundtable Discussion (Virtual), 5:30-7:30 pm |
| 12 — EAC Meeting, AB 224, 8:45-11:00 am, |
| 15 — Roundtable Discussion, DSAC, 10-noon |
| 21 — FCC Members Voting Deadline, 5 pm |
| July, 2019 |
| 11 — Annual Meeting & Awards Announcement, Medaille, 8:30-11 am |
| TBA — EAC Year End Meeting, Stroble Rm/Library 9-11 am |
| August, 2019 |
| 7 — All Member Annual Planning Meeting, DSAC, 8:30-noon |
| 14 — EAC Meeting, 8:45-11:00 am, AB 224 |

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