

Volunteers needed for Chimo

EDITOR'S NOTE: Chimo is a Fredericton based charitable organization. They are looking for volunteers to operate their crisis response and referral centre. John Ainsworth of Chimo tells the story.

By JOHN AINSWORTH

Chimo helps those who need it,

and now needs some help.

"Meaningful", a word we use to describe relationships, work and even life is such a simple word, after all, it interprets as, full of meaning - any dictionary will verify that.

Now, I'm sure anybody would venture a definition of "meaning" without having to consult a dictionary.

The meaning of "meaning", just think about it for a moment.

Now, maybe you'll want to clarify it with the dictionary, so it's off flipping through those flimsy pages.

Well, you'll find such words as aim, purpose, end and significance used to define meaning.

So now we have full of aim, purpose - etc., and if you ever

check out their explicit definitions you'll find them to be cyclic - each word is defined by using the other ones as definitions of itself.

However, the dictionary does make one thing perfectly clear about the word "meaningful" and that is, that it's an adjective.

It's an adjective which we've come to understand not because of its dictionary definition but through experience. Experience teaches us the qualities that it implies. Qualities such as: concern, consideration, Christian charity and personal satisfaction or self-enlightenment and a sense of accomplishment.

It's an adjective which describes Chimo, Fredericton's crisis response and referral centre and the qualities of its members.

Chimo is for people who, through experience, have learned the need to be and who possess the attributes of being concerned, considerate and Christianly charitable and who seek the personal satisfaction that comes from helping other people. Unfortunately, that doesn't describe everybody.

Chimo is a community service organization that provides people with a place to resolve their problems. It is a place that provides people, like you, with a channel to make life much more meaningful, to do some of those Christian deeds that we are so often preached to about, and to make our, your, community a better place to live in.

If you don't think Chimo serves any worthwhile function in this community then let me lay a few statistics on you.

Chimo handles a few hundred calls a week. Approximately seven hundred requests for succor with family, marital and individual problems a month are managed. Several thousand peoples' problems with alcohol and drugs, with depression and loneliness, with transportation and sitters, with family and finances, with physical and mental health, are assisted a year by them.

Since its conception back in October of 1971, Chimo has proven its need in the community. This non-profit, United Way agency, undoubtedly assisted thousands of members of this communities; providing numerous needed ser-

vices. It's a sounding and solving board for peoples' problems as well as an information centre. Counselling on financial, family and marital matters or on any emotional crisis are looked after by this organization's resource people. They also supply such services as; drivers for the disabled and elderly, readers for the blind, conversationalist for the lonely, sitters, meals and accommodations in emergency situations, speakers on various subjects and many more useful forms of assistance. Information on various subjects is readily available from Chimo. When people don't know who to turn to, when people need the name, addresses, phone numbers of specialized agencies they have Chimo to furnish them with the information. The community needs Chimo and Chimo needs the people of this community to help them out.

Chimo, which is open for calls from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm every day of the year, needs individuals to serve as telephone volunteers and resource people.

The telephone volunteers assist by doing referrals to the appropriate agency and resource person, by providing the requested information or by providing an empathetic ear for people's problems.

Resources people, whether practical aid or professional, are specialists who will, when requested and needed by the caller, assist them either by phoning or on invitation, by visiting them.

Telephone volunteers are trained by experienced Chimo members. Four workshops, on October 12, 14, 19 and 20, of three hours each from 7:30 pm - 10:30 pm and three shifts at the center with an experienced volunteer provide the basic training.

Interested persons are asked to attend a pre-training orientation session. This gives the training committee and the new recruit an opportunity to informally talk about Chimo - its services and what is required of its members.

The first training session will delve, in depth, into Chimo's structure and philosophy and will give the new volunteer a chance to pose questions on its general aims and attitudes.

The second session will train prospective members in the art of attentive listening and in the use of Chimo's community directory - the main source for making appropriate referrals.

The next training meeting is designed to prepare them for crisis response situations.

The fourth one will be used to outline general office procedures.

Training at the four main sessions is conducted by separating the trainees into small groups. Each of which will be supervised by at least group leader, who will explain procedures, listening techniques and the use of Chimo's community service directory.

If you feel you have the necessary attributes and are interested in helping Chimo help others, give Chimo a call at 455-9464. They are accepting recruits until the end of September.

Helping others can be frustrating and thankless, yet it is a personally satisfying experience.

If you need help or can help Chimo call them.

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UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP

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Children's Program

Charles Lamb said: "I am determined my children shall be brought up in their father's religion - if they can find out what it is."

Up to 4 years of age - nursery class and babysitting available. 5-7 years of age - Beacon Press curriculum of the "Haunting House" kit. 8-12 years of age - Beacon Press curriculum "Why do Bad Things Happen?" How different religions deal with human suffering. Teenage Fellowship - workshops, group discussions, and trips - will meet one evening a week.

The general aims of our religious education were described by William Ellery Channing, internationally revered Unitarian preacher and scholar of the last century:

"The great end in religious instruction . . . is not to stamp our minds irresistably on the young, but to stir up their own; "not to make them see with our eyes, but to look inquiringly and steadily with their own; "not to impose religion upon them in the form of arbitrary rules, which rest on no foundation but our word and will, but to awaken the conscience, the moral discernment, so that they may discern and approve for themselves what is everlastingly right and good . . ."

We invite you and you children to explore religion with us. Volunteers who are comfortable with this approach are welcome to help.

Adult Fellowship

Do you want to be free to wonder about - even doubt - the existence of God, the nature of God, the effectiveness of prayer, the value of the Bible, the possibility of immortality, and still be religious. Where can you find a church that calls no honest doubt "heresy" and where heretics are welcome?

Unitarians cherish wide differences of religious opinion and belief within their ranks, yet there is a sustaining bond of union on such matters as Serious concern with religious living. Belief in the importance of individual thinking. Respect for the personalities and convictions of others. Faith in human dignity and potentiality. Confidence in the true harmony of science and religion. Faith in the principle of love. Quest for a broad and encompassing religion: spiritual yet universal.

This fall the adult fellowship will pursue a number of program themes including: religious alternatives to fundamentalism, the worlds of the minorities around us, human sexuality and facing death (led by children).

We will also have our seasonal celebrations: Harvest songs and poetry, communion, the winter solstice, the art of Bertolt Brecht, etc. A recorder group is being formed.

You are welcome to join with us.

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