

and general information can be obtained by calling their toll-free number 1-800-639-3316 or 453-5518 which is also the FAX number. The organization's first goal is to establish a home base in Middlebury.

Fred and Diana realize that they have their work cut out for them. The organization is incorporated. The founding board of directors still has some vacancies, and interested people are invited to make enquiries. A preliminary network of caregivers has been established throughout the state with a reputation for their approach to wellness both physical and spiritual and who presently include people with HIV/AIDS in their practice. Enquiries from practitioners who would like to participate are welcome

Fred and Diana stress that they will not be in competition with such established AIDS service organizations as Vermont C.A.R.E.S. or the Brattleboro AIDS Project in terms of the kinds of services they intend to offer. The particular niche that *FRIENDS* will fill is not presently filled by existing organizations. They also do not envision applying for money from state or federal governments.

What's next on the agenda? Fundraising and the development of a corps of volunteers, both of which are basic items. Projected start-up costs are \$75-80K for 1993, and a figure of \$150K for 1994. These figures include money

to refurbish quarters in Middlebury, and to purchase a van to transport people to and from meetings, events and medical appointments.

The fundraising is already on track. Based on a New York model, Fred and Diana have scheduled *The Night of a Thousand Friends* for Friday, October 29. Invitations will be sent to a party at Shelburne Farms with a minimum donation of \$50 per person or \$75 per couple. If these amounts are beyond your budget, then you can structure a party in your own home, invite friends to come, and ask them to contribute at least \$10 per person. *FRIENDS* will even provide the invitations for you to send. Since it is Halloween weekend, it won't be hard to think of a party theme.

Fred and Diana are genuinely pleased with the response so far to *FRIENDS VERMONT*. From professional people engaged in wellness and spiritual awareness to the catering firm supplying food for the opening fundraiser and the generosity of Shelburne Farms itself, the reactions have been overwhelmingly understanding and helpful. Both Fred and Diana feel that this is a dream come true. They have spent much time and effort throughout this year bringing their dream to reality, and they beam with quiet pride that their work is already paying off, that a family of friends is gathering to give them support and help as they go about helping others. ▼

Statement of Purpose
The purpose of *Out in the Mountains* is to serve as a voice for lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and our supporters in Vermont. We wish the newspaper to be a source of information, support and affirmation. We also see *OITM* as a vehicle for celebration of the goodness and diversity of the lesbian, gay, and bisexual communities.

Editorial Policy
We will consider for publication any material which broadens our understanding of our lifestyles and of each other. Views and opinions appearing in the paper do not necessarily represent those of the staff. This paper cannot and will not endorse any candidates and actions of public officials on issues of importance to lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals.

We will not publish any material which is overtly racist, sexist, anti-Semitic, ageist, classist, or homophobic.

All materials submitted must be signed so we can contact the author should we need to consider editorial revisions. However, within the pages of the newspaper, articles may appear anonymously, upon request, and strict confidentiality will be observed.

We welcome and encourage all readers to submit materials for publication and to share your comments, criticisms, and positive feelings with us. This paper is here for you. The deadline for submitting material for each issue is the 1st of the month prior to publication.

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