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**“This year the nation’s prisons will release more than 630,000 people—the largest prison exodus in history.”**

*(TIME Magazine, January 21, 2002)*

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# AMICUS, INC. 2002 Annual Report

**July 1, 2001 – June 30, 2002**

A Time of:  
**A Time of:**  
Transitions  
**Transitions**

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**PARTNERS BUILDING NEW LIVES**

# Message from the President

October 9, 2002

Dear Friends,

This annual report tells a story about the many lives that were touched by AMICUS this year. You who support AMICUS with your time and financial resources are at the heart of this story.

At this time last year the future seemed uncertain for all of us. The global issues that confronted all Americans were our first concern; and as with so many non-profits, we at AMICUS worried that there would not be enough charitable support to go around. While we prayed for peace we also prayed that our friends would not forget the importance of continuing services to those in need in our community. We tightened our belt a little bit more and were humbled by the response to our requests for support. We found that you know how important you are to us, and while we know you responded to the national crisis too, you didn't leave AMICUS behind. We ended the year with a very small surplus of income over expenses and we served a record number of people with the help of our talented staff and our continuing and new volunteers. Thank you all for caring and for continuing your support.

Whether you support AMICUS because of one specific population we serve, or because you believe that it is important to offer assistance to all people who are facing the challenges of making the transition from prison to community, you are supporting people who are working hard to change habits, ways of thinking about life, relationships and lifestyles in order to lead a healthier life. It is hard to make basic changes in our lives. Have you ever tried to quit smoking, lose ten pounds, or cut back on drinking? If you have tried, in these ways, or others, to improve your lifestyle and health, you know that change requires hard work, discipline, encouragement and rewards. For inmates and ex-offenders, making healthy changes during the stress of transition requires hard work, discipline and lots of hope for oneself. The rewards are self-respect, community respect, and a safer community. AMICUS provides the hope, encouragement, resources and community respect that offenders need to sustain this courageous effort.

Your support this year has inspired the staff, Board of Directors and me and it has given us the hope we need to renew our passionate commitment to the AMICUS mission. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Louise Wolfgramm  
President

## *AGENCY PROFILE & MISSION*

AMICUS is a Minnesota not-for-profit organization with 36 years of experience in building positive and constructive relationships between inmates, ex-offenders and the community. Working with 131 referring and collaborative organizations, AMICUS annually serves over 2,850 inmates and ex-offenders. Approximately 190 volunteers are involved in AMICUS programs and 275 institutional and individual donors provided financial support of AMICUS programs during the last fiscal year.

***AMICUS' mission is to partner with offenders and communities to build successful lives and create safer neighborhoods using restorative justice practices, positive relationship-building, and individualized transition services.***

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## *PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS*

**ONE-TO-ONE** provides motivated inmates with a positive and affirming relationship with a trained volunteer. Volunteers of the same sex are matched with inmates at the state correctional facilities at Stillwater, Oak Park Heights, Lino Lakes and Shakopee. Specially trained AMICUS volunteers also visit inmates in segregation and in the infirmary at the Minnesota Correctional Facility (MCF) -Oak Park Heights.

**RECONNECT** provides re-entry services that help inmates prepare for release and gives ex-offenders much-needed resources in their search for jobs, housing, clothing, family services and more. We also participate in weekly support classes as part of TRAC (a transitional program at MCF-Lino Lakes) to help inmates explore and build male spirituality, positive male identity, community roles, and independent living skills.

**MEN OF RAFIKI** offers pre-release classes and support to African-American males (juvenile and adult) based at MCF-Lino Lakes, Rush City and Red Wing. It helps them explore the spirit of African-American manhood, learn what it means to be a healthy, productive member of a community, and develop the attitudes and skills needed to live an independent and honorable life.

**SISTERS HELPING SISTERS** provides transition planning and follow-through assistance to African-American women offenders at the Shakopee facility, supporting them both before and after release as they develop a new outlook, new confidence, and a positive and healthy lifestyle.

**GIRLS' RESTORATIVE JUSTICE** program, in partnership with Minnesota Department of Corrections and Woodland Hills, help serious and chronic juvenile offenders heal relationships with family and victims, plan for successful transition back into the community, and build strong circles of support.

# PROGRAM UPDATES and OUTCOMES

## ONE-TO-ONE



Imagine trying to return to a world that you've been isolated from for years. Imagine that you have been living in a place that decides when, where, and with whom you will live, eat, work, and play but you then are abruptly thrust back into a society that expects you to be knowledgeable and responsible for all decisions, great and small. The ONE-TO-ONE program grew out of the idea that inmates need to maintain contact with the community so that when they are released – and 97% of them are released – the inmate can be comfortable and confident about their transition back into the community.

Our ONE-TO-ONE volunteers are a very special group of people, willing to work with a population that many other people would actively avoid. Coordinating this group of volunteers is a talented new employee who in less than a year has produced the following outputs:

- ✓ Developed and conducted a new orientation/training curriculum for prospective volunteers.
- ✓ Surveyed, by mail, all volunteers and inmates about their matches.
- ✓ Interviewed 28 prospective volunteers and 35 interested inmates.
- ✓ Matched / rematched 43 inmates and volunteers.
- ✓ Conducted monthly Support & Supervision meetings – offering both lunch and evening meeting times.
- ✓ Facilitated well-attended monthly Connections meetings with motivated inmates at Stillwater.
- ✓ Kept abreast of changes at the institutions and notified volunteers, as needed.

Currently, there are 86 outstanding volunteers who are active in the ONE-TO-ONE program with inmates and ex-offenders. There are over 70 inmates waiting for a volunteer; about half of whom are new to the program this year.

During the past year, a group of volunteers and staff have worked on a volunteer recruitment project focusing on a number of faith communities. We have already had seven opportunities to speak in front of congregations or church groups and place a call for volunteers in faith newsletters or bulletins. We hope to continue to expand our outreach in this area and form key partnerships with a few motivated faith groups interested in helping us fulfill our mission.

**"Inmates have always been released from prison...but the current situation is different. The numbers dwarf anything known before, the needs of released inmates are greater; and corrections has retained few rehabilitation programs."**

*U.S. Dept. of Justice  
Sentencing &  
Corrections No.9*



## RECONNECT



There is a real disconnect between life inside prison and life on the “outs”. When an inmate’s release date comes, he or she needs to find affordable, safe housing, a living-wage job, transportation, appropriate chemical dependency and/or mental health treatment, and many other basic needs. In other words, ex-offenders need to *reconnect* with the community. But this usually takes planning, knowledge and a friendly, helping hand. The AMICUS RECONNECT program provides pre- and post-release transition services as well as referrals to other service agencies, companies and individuals who can help ex-offenders to meet these basic needs.

The RECONNECT program served 2,580 inmates and ex-offenders during the past year. Most of these clients are recently released offenders who visit the AMICUS offices in downtown Minneapolis. To help them plan for transition, the RECONNECT program director also conducts classes and pre-release planning sessions for inmates in the correctional facilities at Lino Lakes, Faribault, Shakopee, Rush City, Willow River and Moose Lake.

Because of the brevity of each contact, it is usually difficult to know how most of the RECONNECT clients fare in the long-term. However, AMICUS understands that success cannot always be measured in numbers – sometimes what really counts is acceptance and hope and being treated with dignity and respect. The following comment from a RECONNECT client says it best:

***“This program is a blessing, many people are in need of a friendly face, a smile, direction, and encouragement. AMICUS truly uplifts spirits!!! THANK YOU...”***

L. Holden 5/30/02

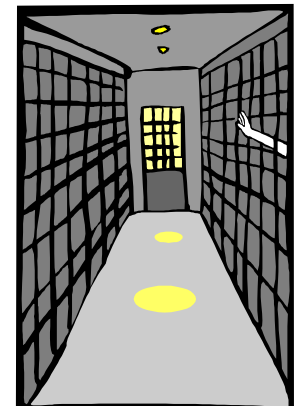
Spending on prisons was the fastest growing budget item in nearly every state in the 1990s but there are actually fewer prison rehabilitation programs. This means fewer inmates leave prison having addressed their work, education, and substance abuse issues.

*U.S. Dept. of Justice  
Sentencing &  
Corrections No. 9*

## MEN OF RAFIKI:



Racial and ethnic disparities in the rate of imprisonment have always existed in the United States, but since the 1990s, the situation has grown steadily worse. In the case of African-American male offenders, the needs and barriers to a successful transition back into the community are particularly acute. The MEN OF RAFIKI program grew out of the recognition by AMICUS and the Minneapolis Urban League of the need for a culturally-specific transitional program that would specifically address the barriers faced by African-Americans offenders returning to society.



Since the inception of the program over six years ago, there have been fifteen graduating classes of African-American inmates at MCF-Lino Lakes and AMICUS is proud to announce that, at the specific request of the Warden, the MEN OF RAFIKI program has been expanded to the Rush City correctional institution. In addition, beginning in fiscal 2003, the RAFIKI curriculum has been adapted for a new program called YOUTH BECOMING MEN OF RAFIKI for the African-American juvenile offenders at MCF-Red Wing.

Four complete 13-week sessions were held during fiscal 2002, with 37 men graduating and total class attendance of more than 130 (including participants from prior sessions who are encouraged to return).

Using data from the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA), the recidivism rate for the 77 RAFIKI graduates released in the last three years was only 13% compared to the rate reported by the state of approximately 45%.

When asked in a class evaluation survey: "Do you feel this session has had a positive effect on you personally?" a recent Rush City graduate wrote: *"Always, gentlemen. Rafiki lights or fuels a fire within me. It gives me a burning desire to do right or positive and I wish I could spread it to all my young brothers."*

### SISTERS HELPING SISTERS:



Nationally, there are now nearly seven times as many women in prison as there were in 1980 and African-American women are being incarcerated at a rate eight times that of white women (The Sentencing Project). In addition to the many barriers faced by all inmates attempting to transition back into society, African-American women have special needs, both as women and as African-Americans. Many of the women in the SISTERS HELPING SISTERS program have multiple issues. 100% have chemical dependency issues. Other challenges faced by these women when they are released include safe, affordable housing; good parenting skills; educational and employment opportunities; mental health issues; unhealthy or abusive relationships; institutionalization – the list goes on and on.

The first matching of SISTERS HELPING SISTERS' clients and mentors occurred in August 1997. These clients were released in November and December of 1997. Through 2002, a total of 239 women have participated in the SISTERS program – of which, 62 women joined the program during the last fiscal year. In November 2001, a recidivism study on the 177 women in the program at that time was performed.

**"Increasingly, America's prisons are being used to warehouse people suffering the effects of racial and economic inequality, mental illness, addiction and abuse. They are poor and disproportionately people of color..."**

*Open Society  
Institute  
Criminal Justice  
Initiative 5/6/02*

**"The degree to which women's and girl's gender and cultural needs are recognized and met... can either interrupt or perpetuate the intergenerational cycle of crime, poverty, chemical dependency, and abuse.**

*Minnesota Action  
Plan For  
Female Offenders  
(Feb. 2002)*

In total, 11 or 6.6% of the clients who had been released in the prior 4 years had new charges during the previous 12 months or were fugitives facing the possibility of new charges. Since the inception of the SISTERS program, the cumulative recidivism rate for the 177 women totals 22% which compares very favorably to the 3-year adult female recidivism rate reported by the state of close to 40%.

During fiscal 2002, the SISTERS HELPING SISTERS program director held 269 one-on-one pre-release planning sessions at MCF-Shakopee; conducted 398 post-release casework meetings; and continued to develop / maintain strong ties to community resources and collaborations with other agencies.



## Boys at Red Wing

Fiscal 2002 continued to be a year of change for the transition team at MCF-Red Wing and for the programming offered by AMICUS to the youth. It was agreed by AMICUS and the DOC that we could best serve the juveniles by concentrating our services on long-term aftercare, including time after furlough when the youth is no longer under Red Wing jurisdiction.

For the 8 months of programming offered under the fiscal 2002 contract, 31 MCF-Red Wing juveniles participated in the AMICUS Restorative Justice program, which provided Circles of Support, mentoring and individualized transition / aftercare services. As described in the MEN OF RAFIKI program area above, in fiscal 2003 a new AMICUS program called YOUTH BECOMING MEN OF RAFIKI will be offered to the African-American juvenile offenders at MCF-Red Wing. Using a modified version of the adult curriculum, the RAFIKI Coordinator will facilitate group sessions and provide intensive pre- and post-release mentoring to African-American youth.

"Specialized treatment in the institution is likely to be of little long-lasting value if it is not relevant to pressing concerns in the daily lives of juveniles in the community..."

*U.S. Dept. of Justice - OJJDP Juvenile Justice Bulletin July 1999*

## Girls' Restorative Justice

For decades, girls who have broken the law have entered a juvenile justice system that was designed to help someone else. The report "Justice by Gender" issued jointly by the American and National Bar Associations points out that most of the limited programs that currently exist for girls are modeled after programs that serve males and often fail to meet girls' unique developmental and emotional

"Over the past two decades we have witnessed an exponential rise in the number of girls in detention facilities, jails and prisons... while juvenile crime rates have steadily decreased since peaking in 1994."

*Justice by Gender, May 2001*

needs (May 2001). Research demonstrates that services to delinquent girls need to be relationship-based; however, many programs focus on control and the girl's behavioral problems rather than on their underlying depression, isolation, relationship issues and early trauma. The AMICUS Girls' Restorative Justice program was developed using gender-specific research and "best practices".

For the past two years, girls committed to the Minnesota Commissioner of Corrections have had the opportunity to participate in an innovative transitional program run by AMICUS in partnership with Woodland Hills and the Minnesota Department of Corrections Planning for Female Offenders (PFO) unit. This is not your basic neighborhood restorative justice program. Paula Schaefer, the Director of the PFO Unit at the Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC), states "this Restorative Justice program for girls is one of the most innovative, cost effective and meaningful programs of its kind not only in Minnesota but also in the nation" and that this "outstanding program model can and ought to be replicated in the community for girls on probation."



The following are relevant statistics, activities and outputs for this program:

- Girls served: 22 since inception of program
- 35 circles held during the current fiscal year, including 5 victim offender mediations and 4 healing circles
- Girls have weekly group sessions with the AMICUS Trauma Counselor dealing with issues such as abuse, safety, anger management, healthy relationships, etc.
- Girls have weekly one-on-ones with the AMICUS Restorative Justice Coordinator and with the Trauma Counselor
- Ongoing restorative justice training provided by AMICUS for Woodland Hills staff and management.

No one can deny that these girls are "tough cases." Most have rotated in and out of placements and treatments for years without success, and their offenses and their barriers are daunting. However, the circle process, tightly integrated with trauma counseling and residential facility programming, has proven to be uniquely promising in its ability to help these girls transition successfully. The AMICUS program genuinely provides that kind of transition experience to girls.

*A poem by a 14 year old  
incarcerated girl*

*Justice by Gender, May 2001*

**“ Life it seems to drift away  
Drifting further every day  
Getting lost within myself  
Nothing matters, no one else**

**I have lost the will to live  
Simply nothing more to give  
There is nothing more for  
me  
Need the end to set me free**

**Emptiness is filling me  
To a point of agony  
Drifting further changing  
dawn  
I was me but now I'm  
gone...”**

## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

### AUDITED FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

	<b>FY 2002</b>	<b>FY 2001</b>	<b>FY 2000</b>
<b>REVENUES</b>	\$ 540,640	\$ 553,734	\$ 665,203
<b>EXPENSES</b>	539,781	651,881	777,287
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	859	(98,147)	(112,084)
<b>NET ASSETS:</b>			
<b>Unrestricted</b>	155,347	107,515	104,091
<b>Temporarily/Permanently Restricted</b>	39,338	86,311	187,882

### FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES - FY 2002:

	<b>One to One</b>	<b>Recon-nect</b>	<b>Men of Rafiki</b>	<b>Sisters Helping Sisters</b>	<b>Boys at RW</b>	<b>Girls' R.J.</b>	<b>Public Educ.</b>	<b>Admin</b>	<b>Fund Raisng</b>	<b>Total</b>
Salaries, Taxes & Benefits	34,033	51,595	19,920	43,755	57,055	86,188	10,687	19,484	32,447	355,164
Office Expenses	12,677	14,565	4,039	12,026	14,294	13,401	7,976	10,234	8,598	97,810
Professional / Contract Fees	741	1,632	6,493	822	1,890	2,450	429	2,165	718	17,340
Meetings, Training & Travel	1,924	663	563	3,306	3,571	5,735	29	1,027	95	16,913
Other Expenses	3,873	13,672	853	4,393	4,330	6,399	2,709	6,234	10,091	52,554
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>53,248</b>	<b>82,127</b>	<b>31,868</b>	<b>64,302</b>	<b>81,140</b>	<b>114,173</b>	<b>21,830</b>	<b>39,144</b>	<b>51,949</b>	<b>539,781</b>
% of Total	9.9%	15.2%	5.9%	11.9%	15.0%	21.2%	4.0%	7.3%	9.6%	100%

# AMICUS Donors

July 1, 2001 - June 30, 2002

Our honor roll for the fiscal year 2001-2002.

Donors who have made gifts after June 30, 2002 will be listed on next year's honor roll.

Thanks to all our donors for your vision and generosity to support offenders building new lives.

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*If we have omitted or misspelled your name, we sincerely apologize. Please contact us so that we can correct our records and thank you for your gift.*

**We value all our donors!**

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## Public Education

Public education about ex-offender, community integration issues and how AMICUS makes a difference continued to be an integral part of our work during fiscal 2001-2002:

- ❑ President Louise Wolfgramm, in association with the Minnesota DOC Planning for Females Offender unit, presented to the American Probation and Parole Association on “*A Perfect Fit: Let’s Get Smart About Intervening in Girls’ Lives.*”
- ❑ President Wolfgramm with 6 ex-offenders participated in “*Successful Transitions from Prison to Community*” at the Chamber of Commerce Minneapolis Leadership program.
- ❑ Susan Nelson, Volunteer Coordinator, was a panel speaker at a conference on Prison Reform at Macalester College.
- ❑ President Wolfgramm and an AMICUS ONE-TO-ONE volunteer were prominently featured in a KARE 11 TV special about Minnesota inmates transitioning from prison.
- ❑ AMICUS staff and 7 members of the Church Outreach Committee made presentations to seven different faith groups regarding AMICUS and volunteering.
- ❑ The AMICUS Speaker’s Bureau, with 7 trained members, made 9 presentations at local Rotary Clubs, Lions Clubs, and other civic group meetings.
- ❑ AMICUS produced 3 agency newsletters and 5 president reports that were distributed to over 1,400 members of our database.

If you would be interested in having an experienced speaker present information about AMICUS and its programs at a meeting or conference, please call us at (612) 348-8570.

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## AMICUS Staff

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THE FUNDAMENTALS OF AMICUS VOLUNTEERING:

**WHO: You!**

**WHAT: Be a friend to an offender as an AMICUS volunteer.**

**HOW: Through letters, companionship, and monthly visits to your AMICUS (friend).**

**WHY: Because everyone needs a friend.**

**Because people need caring and a listening ear to change.**

**Because over 70 motivated inmates are waiting for an AMICUS.**

**Because becoming an AMICUS volunteer is one of the most rewarding decisions you will ever make.**

AMICUS depends on the generous help and time of many individuals and groups. Extensive training and staff support is available to volunteers. For more information or to talk with someone about volunteer or donor opportunities at AMICUS, please call us at (612) 348-8570 or complete the form provided below.



**YES, I would like to support AMICUS in its important mission!**

\$500     \$200     \$75     \$25     \$ \_\_\_\_\_

My employer will match this gift. (Company name: \_\_\_\_\_)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in volunteer opportunities.

Please contact me about making a bequest or other planned gift.

Checks payable to: AMICUS  
100 North Sixth Street, Suite 529B  
Minneapolis, MN 55403-1503

Contributions are tax-deductible as specified by law.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!**

If you have any questions regarding this report, please feel free to contact Louise Wolfgramm, AMICUS President at (612) 348-8570 (11) or Deb Feeny, Director of Finance and Planning at (612) 348-8570 (13). To request a copy of the Audited Financial Statements or the IRS 990 for fiscal 2002, call Ruth at (612) 348-8570 (10).