

ADNet

Anabaptist Disabilities Network

Annual Report

Fiscal Year February 2004-January 2005



The ADNet Board of Directors honored the founders of the Network at a special dinner prior to its meeting in Goshen, Indiana on February 25-26, 2005. The back row includes all present and former Administrative Team members: (L-R) Mary Graber, Sherry Wenger, Cindy Warner Baker, Paul Leichty, Joyce Pankratz, Sheila Stopher Yoder, and Phyllis Smith. Board members present were (middle row) Karen Bender, Hesston, Kansas; and (front row) John Heyerly, Vice-President, from Chenoa, Illinois; Jim Smith, President, from Goshen, Indiana, and Wilfred Martens, Fresno, California. Ruth Detweiler, Secretary, from Akron, Pennsylvania and Milt Stoltzfus, Treasurer, from Ephrata, Pennsylvania were unable to be present.

ADNet Board of Directors

H. James Smith, President
John Heyerly, Vice-President
Ruth Detweiler, Secretary
Milt Stoltzfus, Treasurer
Karen Bender
Wilfred Martens

ADNet Administrative Team (ADTeam)

Paul D. Leichty, Director
Mary Graber
Phyllis Smith

Report of the President of the Board of Directors

In recent weeks, Stephen R. Covey's book, *The 8th Habit, From Effectiveness to Greatness* has been fascinating material to read. Covey builds on his classic work *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, by suggesting an additional attribute of effective people, "*find your voice and inspire others to find theirs.*" ADNet's ministry and mission to congregations, families, and persons impacted by various disabilities are reflected in this worthy attribute of finding ADNet's voice as a new organization and inspiring others to find their voice.



Certainly, we owe a huge debt of gratitude to the original group of effective leaders (Cindy Baker, Paul Leichty, Joyce Pankratz, Sherry Wenger, and Sheila Yoder), that had the passion and vision to give voice to ADNet in the early days of formation. In 2004, ADNet's Board of Directors continued to articulate and form new direction and vision for ADNet as the original group of leaders shifted the mantle of leadership. As of this writing, Cindy, Joyce, Sherry and Sheila have stepped back from ADNet's leadership positions to supportive roles of ADNet's ministry. Many heartfelt thanks to each for their sacrificial service to ADNet, the broader church community, families and individuals who have been inspired to find their voice.

In recent months, the task of the newly formed Executive Committee has focused on ways to improve the effectiveness of ADNet's ministry by fulfilling the course of action given by the Board of Directors. I have enjoyed the opportunity to work with John Heyerly, Vice President, Paul Leichty, Network Director, and ADNet Team members Sherry Wenger and Sheila Yoder. Together, this group has proposed a plan for Board consideration, to strengthen ADNet's voice in the broader church and inspire the voice of others for the next three years. Also, this leadership team has labored to deliver budget options that are both realistic and supportive of visionary plans for the next fiscal year.

Perhaps one of ADNet's most significant voices of 2004, was the Board's selection of Paul Leichty as Network Director. This decision ensures the future of ADNet's mission to advocate, network, and empower others for ministry to those with disabilities. Paul offers unparalleled commitment to excellence in every aspect of ADNet's ministry. It has been a pleasure and privilege to serve alongside Paul these past few months. I challenge each of us to continue to remember Paul and his family as he gives voice to the ministry of ADNet and compassionately inspires others to find their voice.

The greatness of ADNet's voice will happen as a financially stable ministry and through the enhancement of our networking capabilities with institutions providing similar ministry within our faith communities. Our financial stability will be solidified as we consistently reach into faith communities with ADNet's ministry and empower those touched by disabilities. ADNet's vision for creative networking among church-wide institutions will promote a common mission of inspiring the voice of many in our faith communities. A financially stable ADNet ministry and creative institutional partnerships will improve our effectiveness as advocates of Christ's love and empower others to find a greater voice for themselves.

"Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and mutual edification." Romans 14:19

President of the Board of Directors,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "H. James Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

H. James Smith

ADNet Annual Report, 2004-2005

Director's Annual Report, 2004-05



2004 was a historic year for ADNet. A national Board of Directors was commissioned and had its first meeting at Berkey Avenue Mennonite Church in Goshen, Indiana on January 16-17, 2004, setting the stage for the first full fiscal year of ADNet's existence, beginning on February 1, 2004. Subsequent meetings of the Board were held in May in Goshen and in July in Laurelville, Pennsylvania where the Board increased from the original five members to seven. The first teleconference meeting of the Board took place November 4, 2004.

With the establishment of the Board came also a transition among the original founders of ADNet, now referred to as the "ADTeam." I want to express my profound gratitude for the tremendous volunteer efforts of Cindy Warner Baker, Joyce Pankratz, Sherry Wenger, and Sheila Stopher Yoder in beginning ADNet. All four are moving on to other endeavors but will remain connected to the Network.

With the evolving changes in the ADTeam, the Board, at its July meeting, saw the necessity of stable salaried leadership for ADNet. I was honored to be asked to fulfill the half-time role of Director starting September 1, 2004. I now work Monday through Friday mornings in the ADNet office located at College Mennonite Church on the campus of Goshen College. In the fall, Mary Graber and Phyllis Smith, joined the ADTeam. It is my privilege to be working with such a wonderful group of Board and staff volunteers!

As a national network, ADNet makes use of every means possible to connect with its constituency. In addition to the telephone and postal mail, ADNet communicates through email, a website, and a toll-free voicemail and fax line. During this past year, two ADNet displays have circulated to at least 15 events and ADNet members have given a number of presentations. A separate sheet, "ADNet Points of Contact" gives further details. Special recognition goes to the Schowalter Foundation of Newton, Kansas for a grant that enabled us to publish three editions of our *Dialogue* newsletter and to maintain and expand our website.

ADNet is very blessed to keep overhead expenses low. Volunteers and timely donations of equipment help make this possible. ADNet benefits from the generosity of College Mennonite Church and its Peace Center for the use of its office. Using this space and the related equipment and services has been of tremendous benefit to ADNet's work. ADNet also acknowledges the gift of two new computers this past year from Mennonite Mutual Aid (MMA).

As Director, I spend a significant amount of time in communication-related activities ranging from keeping the Board informed to networking with congregations and church-related agencies to updating the website. With much of the decrease in volunteer hours coming in relationship to writing and editing for the *Dialogue* newsletter and *ADNotes* quarterly newsheet, ADNet needs to expand its network of persons for these tasks. Database-related work will also be a significant need in 2005 in order to continue to build a true national network.

I believe that ADNet is on the verge of building exciting new partnerships with church agencies, congregations, and families as we pursue the goal of "supporting families and equipping the church" for communities that are inclusive of persons with mental illness and disabilities of all kinds. I appreciate the prayers and support of so many as ADNet continues to move forward into 2005!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul D. Leichthy". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and legible.

Paul D. Leichthy, Network Director

ADNet in 2004

- **89 contacts logged.**
 - About 40 contacts came from individuals and families, the rest were from congregations and church-related agencies.
 - Contacts came from 22 states, with over half from Pennsylvania, Indiana, and California.
 - Most contacts were for materials or general information; specific concerns mentioned more than once were mental illness, developmental disabilities, accessibility, and deafness.
- **Dialogue: Conversations about mental illness and disabilities** was published 3 times with an average circulation of around 1300.
- **ADNotes** was published 4 times via an email list, currently at 434 email addresses.
- **ADNet Online** – The home page of ADNet’s website tallied over 8,000 hits since May 21, 2004.
- **Church and Sunday School presentations** – 7 programs in 3 different churches.
- **Table Display** appeared in at least 16 conference, congregational, and workshop settings.

Brief Financial Report, Fiscal Year 2004-05 (February 1, 2004-January 31, 2005)

ADNet Income and Expense Statement

2/1/2004 Through 1/31/2005

INCOME

Contributions	
Churches	\$3,443.10
Conferences	25.00
Organizations	50.00
Businesses	250.00
Personal	12,431.41
Grants	
Mennonite Mutual Aid	10,000.00
Schowalter	5,000.00
Other	4,000.00
Presentations & Honoraria	100.00
Sale of Resources	736.99
Interest Earned	17.60
TOTAL INCOME	\$36,054.10

EXPENSES

Board meetings	1,919.14
Conferences	2,079.25
Communications	
ADNet Online	250.00
Dialogue	3,498.16
Consultant fees	
Consultant Staff 2/1-8/31	14,260.00
Other	300.00
Staff	
Director 9/1-1/31	
Salary	9,085.40
Benefits	1,406.13
Taxes	695.00
Professional Fees	250.05
Office Supplies and Fees	1,531.40
Display fees & maintenance	373.95
Publicity	1,070.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	36,718.48
TOTAL REVENUE (DEFICIT)	(664.38)

ADNet Balance Sheet

As of 1/31/2005

ASSETS

Cash and Bank Accounts	\$3,271.23
TOTAL ASSETS	\$3,271.23

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

LIABILITIES	\$0.00
EQUITY	\$3,271.23
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$3,271.23