



Friendship Ark
HOMES & COMMUNITY SERVICES

FAITH • FAMILY • FRIENDSHIP

In the Spirit of Giving



This artwork, which was cast from the hands of core members and staff of Friendship Ark as centerpieces for the tables at our annual Fall Benefit, is a perfect representation of the generous giving that takes place in and around Friendship Ark all year long.

Our 5 (soon to be 6) homes were made possible because of the amazing gifts of all kinds (small, large and in kind) from donors who believe in the mission of Friendship Ark to help our core members reach their fullest potential through faith, family and friendship. When we join together, we can do big things!

We receive gifts of time and talents from community members reaching out to our core members, touching us in so many different ways. People love on our core members by giving and creating needed and helpful items, volunteering to be involved with the Friendship Ark family, as well as including us in events and activities. We are ever so thankful for the many ways our community has embraced us.

At the same time, our core members love to give back to the community. We work with a number of local non-profits such as United Way of Story County, Meals from the Heartland, The Volunteer Center of Story County and the Story City Carousel, retirement communities such as Northridge Village, and others to lend a hand. The core members also have hearts full of compassion for other people, often being quick to offer a smile and a hug to anyone who may need it, and they delight in doing things for others.



If this season of *giving* has you motivated to get involved, there are many opportunities for you to find the best match to do so. You can give of your time and talents, become an event sponsor, participate in a Friendship Ark fundraising event, or make a donation in a variety of ways (see page 3 or our Wish List on page 6). We look forward to 2020 and all of the blessings it may have in store for Friendship Ark and all of our core members. Thank you for caring about adults with intellectual disabilities in Ames and Story County.

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A Life of Giving through Resources, Time, and Talents

I first became involved with Friendship Ark when I overheard Friendship Ark's founder, Joe Johanns, talking about the home that they were planning to purchase and renovate on South Duff Avenue in Ames. I told Joe that I would love to help with the re-model. I worked with the other volunteers to convert the garage into two additional bedrooms and a bathroom. It was a joyful time, a time when I was fully aware that my occupation of home builder was being sanctified and used for the glory of God to provide a home for some very special people like our son Adam. That house would become the first Friendship Ark Home.

Mary and I immediately recognized the value that Friendship Ark could have for our son Adam and for our family. We designed a home specifically to serve the special needs of five core members, purchased two lots on Kansas Drive and built a new home there. Our son, Adam, and four other core members would call it home.

As time went on, and the needs of Friendship Ark and the families they serve continued to grow, we found great joy in building more and more homes. Next spring, we will build our sixth new home just west of the Ames Middle School. As with all the other homes, we will build it with the help of some dedicated volunteers, many in-kind donations from the sub-contractors, and the donations from our amazing Friendship Ark supporters.



Deacon Alan and Mary Christy

It's all hands on deck when this family is involved with building a Friendship Ark Home. In the picture to the right, Alan and Mary's son, Adam, helps sweep the floor as construction clean-up is wrapping up for one of our recently built homes.



Friendship Ark Homes has become one of the crown jewels of Ames as it models Christian values throughout the organization. It has a professional board of directors who offer their skills to make Friendship Ark an amazing success story. The office staff all give witness to the passion they have for the welfare of our core members as they live out their faith at work day after day. The caregivers offer their very lives as they navigate the many individual needs of the very special people who depend on their care in each one of our homes. Finally, it is core members, like our Adam, who minister to all of us just by accepting our love for them and loving us back in return. They are the ultimate ministers of Friendship Ark Homes, as they make us all better Christians by teaching us all to love unconditionally. In the Kingdom of God, there can be no greater ministry than this.

Contributed by Deacon Alan and Mary Christy

Ponchos for Core Members



We were blessed with a donation from 3 Sisters Non-Profit this fall as they delivered ponchos they created for two of our core members who are wheelchair-bound. 3 Sisters Non-Profit makes and donates these ponchos with the goal of providing safety, comfort and warmth. Each item is created and customized for the recipient, adjusting the design so the material doesn't get caught in wheels. We thank 3 Sisters for using their passion to help our core members. Their donation will keep everyone warm and cozy during the upcoming winter months.

Small Change, Big Results - The RoundUp App

You may have seen an article on the RoundUp App in previous newsletters or in a Facebook post, but I wanted to share the difference this little App is making for Friendship Ark and the potential impact it could have. We partnered with the RoundUp App in 2018. Since then, we have only had 4 individuals download the app and select Friendship Ark as the recipient of their spare change, and yet, those 4 individuals have donated over \$700 throughout 2019. One individual has set her account to donate \$5/month, but that adds up to a \$60 annual donation for Friendship Ark. Others don't have a capped amount and average between \$15-30/month in spare change donations. As one of those donors, I can assure you, I don't even notice how much I'm donating. I just use my credit card like I normally would and the RoundUp App keeps track of my spare change and sends the monthly amount to Friendship Ark. It's that easy, but as you can see, the spare change adds up. Imagine what we could do if 10 more people signed up? Are you willing to donate your spare change to make a difference in the life of another? Please consider downloading the RoundUp App today! The link to sign up can be found in the top right corner of our website, www.friendshipark.org.



By Jennifer Ellis, Executive Director

Leave a Legacy through Planned Giving

This time of year is often referred to as the Season of Giving. It's the time of year when many of us are counting our blessings and wanting to share those blessing with others. As you consider the ways in which you would like to give this holiday season, please consider a gift that will last well into the future.

There are many ways in which you can leave a lasting gift to Friendship Ark. You might consider a planned gift by adding Friendship Ark to your will, or estate, or as a beneficiary on your insurance policy. There are additional options such as donating stocks or mutual funds, an IRA Rollover, or setting up a Charitable Gift Annuity or Trust. Giving to a not-for-profit may have tax advantages for you and/or your family and we can connect you with the resources to make that happen.

If you would like more information on how to provide a lasting gift or if you have already included Friendship Ark in your plans, please contact us and let us know. An investment in Friendship Ark is an investment in the lives of our core members!

Happy Holidays



From the Friendship Ark family to yours.

Live Nativity

Thank you to Calvary United Methodist Church for including us in their Live Nativity. The core members enjoyed dressing up to help tell the story of Christmas.



Additional Event Sponsor



Our Event Sponsors help to make it possible for us to hold the 5 on the 4th Race and the Fall Benefit each year, raising funds that help us to continue to be able to serve adults with intellectual disabilities in an environment of faith, family and friendship. We are thankful for their support!

Story County Community Foundation Donation



In November, Friendship Ark was honored to receive a \$5,000 grant from the Story County Community Foundation for “Community Inclusion through Day Hab.” Our core members have amazing opportunities to participate in their community through our Day Habilitation program and these funds will help to offset expenses for supplies, transportation, and admission fees. Look up our Facebook page to see all of the exciting adventures our core members are able to take advantage of. Thank you Story County Community Foundation.

The Story County Community Foundation (SCCF) facilitates and promotes private giving through the establishment of endowments, acts as a resource for nonprofit endowment building, and awards grants for the betterment of Story County.

Pictured from left to right, Sunni Kamp, SCCF Executive Director, Shelby Gibson, FA DayHab Site Supervisor, Jennifer Ellis, FA Executive Director and Patti Cotter, SCCF Board Member.

2019 Fall Benefit

On Friday, November 8th, we gathered to celebrate our 20th anniversary at the Radisson Hotel in Ames during Friendship Ark's Fall Benefit, our annual major fundraiser. The social hour included a pasta dinner, drinks, anniversary cupcakes and music by Ananya Mitra. At the conclusion of the social hour, Father Jim Secora led us in prayer which was followed by a testimonial from core member parents Kim and Jerry Robinson who shared about how Friendship Ark has made a difference in the life of their son. The evening also included a silent auction as well as an exciting and well supported live auction. The core members enjoyed offering art work they created for a free will donation. We would like to thank everyone who contributed to the success of the evening, especially the Board of Directors, our Event Sponsors, our Auction Item Donors, and everyone who attended and/or donated to our cause. With your help we will continue our mission to meet the needs of adults with intellectual disabilities in an environment of faith, family and friendship.



Workplace Olympics

Our direct care staff work hard to ensure that the core members are well cared for and relentlessly coach and cheer them on to reach their goals, often pouring all of their love and energy into seeing our core members succeed. To celebrate the staff of Friendship Ark during Direct Support Professionals Appreciation Week, we hosted a day of Workplace Olympics with mixed teams made up of core members and staff competing in the disciplines of chair races, paper hockey, toilet bowl throw and trivia. After we cheered loudly for each other as we participated in the events, we enjoyed walking tacos, cookies, and a little time to play Wii Sports. The best part of the day, however, was the medal presentation to the winning teams. Seeing the core members' smiles as they received their medals was priceless!



A Gift of Fidget Quilts



Several core members received the gift of a fidget quilt made by the Ames Quilt Guild. Guild member Kathy Glatz and her husband, Chuck, who have themselves been faithful supporters of

Friendship Ark through the years, delivered the quilts to our office. Thank you for giving these fun creations, the core members will benefit greatly from having them available to use.

Visit to Raspberry Hill B&B

The core members enjoyed an outing to Raspberry Hill B&B this fall. We had a wonderful time interacting with a donkey, a horse and a dog named Lacy, went on a hay rack ride, had lunch at a beautiful picnic area, fed the fish in the Koi pond, and picked pears from a pear tree!



Bell Ringing for the Salvation Army



A new tradition of giving back we started last year is ringing the bells for the Salvation Army. The core members love to tell everyone "Merry Christmas" while ringing the bell.

The Inside Scoop on Volunteering

Seth Phillips and his therapy dog, Fred, volunteer with us once a week and the core members have grown rather fond of both of them. We asked Seth to answer a few questions for us to give you an idea of what a volunteer opportunity with Friendship Ark can be like.

Why do you volunteer?

It's just a fun thing to do and I happen to have the perfect dog for the job. It's time out of the week that I don't have to worry about everyday stresses and get to have fun with the core members.

What have you learned?

I've learned how important the human-animal bond can be. I knew it helped me out, but I've been with Fred for a while. To see him form connections with other people in such a short time is pretty special. Especially people who have been afraid/hesitant of animals in the past.

What has been your best experience?

Every week brings something new and fun. I don't know if I can say I have a favorite, but being pushed by core members in the wheelchair has been pretty fun.

What has been the hardest?

The time commitment. Being in vet school I can sometimes overestimate my time and so I have to juggle things around. I wish I could spend 40 hours a week with Friendship Ark, but with school that's obviously not possible. I try my hardest to go at least an hour a week as well as an hour at another place we volunteer at.

Seth added: "I just wanted to thank Natalie Seibold for reaching out to us and inviting us in. This is definitely one of the highlights of the week for both Fred and I and we look forward to doing it as long as we're around."

Update:

Seth has formed a close bond with many of the core members and has recently accepted a part-time, paid position with Friendship Ark. Welcome to the team, Seth (center of picture)!





Friendship Ark

HOMES & COMMUNITY SERVICES

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Contact us at friendshipark@friendshipark.org to request our newsletter by e-mail. We will not share your email information with any outside entity.

Make a Donation

____ Yes, I/we would like to help Friendship Ark continue to serve persons with intellectual disabilities in a faith-based family home environment! Amount donated: _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____

Please apply my/our donation to the following:

- General Operations Endowment Fund New House
- Core Member Outings Transportation Fund
- Rose/Lois Johanns Educational Fund (Staff Training and Education)
- I would like to learn more about making a planned gift.
- Friendship Ark is a part of my estate planning.

You may use your credit card to make a one time or recurring monthly gift by going to our website and clicking the "Donate" button.



Like us on Facebook! This newsletter provides limited space for us to share all of the exciting things happening at Friendship Ark. Visit and like our Facebook page for more stories, news and pictures.

Wish List

- Games (Scene It, Skip-Bo, Yahtzee Score Cards, Bingo, Connect 4, Matching Games)
- Exercise Trampoline with Handles
- Puzzles (500 piece or less)
- New Bath Towels and Wash Cloths
- Curtain Rods
- Ink Pads and Rubber Stamps
- Yoga Mats
- Beach Towels, Pool Toys and Water Balloons
- Fishing Poles and Bobbers
- Nightstand and Lamp
- Someone to refinish a dining room table
- New pots, pans, measuring cups and spoons, baking pans