



Friendship Ark
HOMES & COMMUNITY SERVICES

Summer 2019
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FAITH • FAMILY • FRIENDSHIP

Celebrating 20 Years



A few months ago, one of our founders, Joe Johanns, stopped in to the Friendship Ark office to visit. He brought along a folder with some historical documents that he and Lois had saved over the years. One of them was the timeline to the left which was created to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of Friendship Ark in 2009.

As you can see, those involved with Friendship Ark at the time were pretty spot on with what the future would hold for the next 10 years. While the Coolidge Home was closed in 2014, the members living there moved into the newly built Johanns Home. Two additional homes, the California Home (2011) and the Valline Home (2013), were built prior to the Johanns/Coolidge transition. We completed our 5th home, the Westfield Home, in 2017 and are planning to break ground for the 6th home in 2020.

In addition to the growth in our homes, we also started the Day Hab Program and individualized Supported Community Living Program in 2015.

As we celebrate the 20th Anniversary of Friendship Ark and all who have been a part of the accomplishments or impacted

by the services, I begin to wonder what the next 10 or 20 years has in store for us. More homes? New services? One thing is for sure, things will change, but our core members will always be the heart of Friendship Ark. Thank you for being a part of the Friendship Ark Family!

Jennifer Ellis, Executive Director

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FA Annual Fall Benefit - Save the Date



Join us from 6-9 p.m. on November 8th, 2019, at the Radisson Hotel in Ames as we gather for our Annual Fall Benefit in support of Friendship Ark and the services we provide. Watch for your invitation in the mail or check our Facebook page or website for updates and registration information.

Come and meet some new people or reserve a table and bring a group of your friends. You'll hear about the difference our services make in the lives of those we serve and learn about current happenings and future plans for Friendship Ark. You'll get to visit with our core members, our staff and all of the other wonderful attendees at the event, bid on exciting live and silent auction items (you can take care of some of that Christmas shopping while supporting Friendship Ark), and enjoy some fantastic food. See you in November!



Donate a Live or Silent Auction Item

If you or someone you know would like to contribute a unique item or experience for our live and silent auctions to benefit Friendship Ark and help us in raising funds to continue our mission of meeting the needs of adults with intellectual disabilities, please contact our office at (515) 292-9556 or friendshipark@friendshipark.org. Donors will be recognized on event materials.

Donations to Friendship Ark are tax-deductible under current IRS regulations.

15th Annual 5k on the Fourth



Fortunately, a little rain - or in this case, a lot of rain the day before the race - didn't keep our resilient supporters from showing up for our annual 4th of July walk/run at Ada Hayden Park. Thanks to everyone who came out! How many races can claim a "catfish crossing" as a part of the race course? The extra challenge made the event a memorable one. Scroll through the album on our Facebook page to see what we're talking about.

Thanks to our Event Sponsors for 2019

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 and developmental disabilities in an environment of faith, family and friendship. We are thankful for their support!



Lou and Cosette Scallon

Corey and Amy Schmidt



We LOVE Volunteers



Michelle DeMarie has been giving of her time to volunteer with one of our core members. The core member truly enjoys the one-on-one attention Michelle can give her and they have formed a great friendship. Recently, the two of them met up at our 5 on the 4th Race and completed the shorter “walk with a core member” route together. Below, Michelle shares about her volunteer experience with Friendship Ark. If you, too, would be interested in volunteering with us contact us at 515-292-9556 or friendshipark@friendshipark.org.

Why do you volunteer? I have always had a passion for serving individuals such as my friend; and am very grateful that I have the opportunity to spend time with her. We choose our activities together and find things in common that we enjoy such as baking, crafts, going to movies and out to dinner. The staff at Friendship Ark is such a dedicated and passionate group of people whom I have the deepest respect for, but they have a lot of members to assist which doesn't lend to the ability for lots of individualized activities, so I volunteer in order to provide one-on-one attention that is incredibly beneficial. My goal is to make sure my friend knows that she has someone outside of her "regular" circle who truly cares about her and introduce her to experiences she may not have had the opportunity for otherwise. It is not just about her though - my interactions and experiences with her are very rewarding for me. There is no better feeling than knowing that you are truly making a difference by helping to enrich another person's life.

What have you learned? What I typically consider a small "thing" can mean much more to my friend than I realize - she truly enjoys our time together, and I understand from staff as well as her mother how much she looks forward to my visits (as do I). Most months we spend an hour or so together; which doesn't seem all that long, but realizing what an impact that time has on her means the world to me.

What has been your best experience? There are so many; but I think one of my favorite experiences was around Christmas time when we made hand painted ornaments for her family and friends at California house. She was so excited to have her own thumbprints on the ornaments and small gifts to give everyone.

What has been the hardest? Sometimes scheduling our visits can be a little challenging between her schedule and mine; but we have always managed to work it out so we get together at least once per month.



Advocacy Movie Screening

We partnered with The Arc of Story County this summer to present a free screening of the movie “Intelligent Lives” to the greater Ames community at the Ames City Auditorium. This movie has been called “a catalyst to transform the label of intellectual disability from a life sentence of isolation into a life of possibility for the most systematically segregated people in America.”

New Board Members

The end of our fiscal year has rolled around and with that we have Board Members who's terms have come to an end. We would like to thank Al Carver, Lisa Downs, Lee Griffin and Dr. Lou Scallon for their service and dedication to Friendship Ark.

We would also like to extend a warm welcome to our new Board Members Jim Black, Jane Halliburton and Nicole Pape. You may learn more about them on our website at www.friendshipark.org/board-of-directors.

FA Participates in ISU/United Way Protégé Program

For several years now, Friendship Ark has participated in the ISU/United Way Protégé Program. Each spring semester, the Student Activities Center and the United Way of Story County co-sponsor the Non-Profit Protégé Program. Undergraduate ISU students have the opportunity to walk in the shoes of an administrator of a local non-profit organization. Each protégé attends weekly meetings with their mentor throughout the spring semester. Protégés have opportunities to attend board meetings, experience staff and committee meetings, visit with potential financial donors, and witness the action packed world of being a non-profit leader.

This is not an internship experience; rather, it is an opportunity for students to directly shadow a non-profit administrator. The purpose of this program is to give students interested in exploring the non-profit world a firsthand experience in the field.

Our spring 2019 protégé, Montse Ponce, liked her experience enough that she turned it into an internship for summer and fall of this year. Here's what she had to say about her time in the Protégé Program:

"I decided to be part of the Non-Profit Protégé Program because I recently became interested in non-profits. I wanted to learn how they work, got funding and how the people that work in them felt about them. Friendship Ark answered my questions and more. It showed me that working for a non-profit is hard but rewarding; the main reason why someone comes in every day is because they feel a real connection to the purpose of the company. In the case of Friendship Ark, the reason why everyone has a drive towards the same goal is the core members. The core members are the soul of the company because they build the community. Friendship Ark showed me that a company that connects with their members and workers can thrive to be a family."



FA Executive Director, Jennifer Ellis (l), meeting with ISU protégé Montse (r).

FA Staff Receives Award from IACP

FA Day Habilitation Supervisor, Natalie Seibold, received the Frontline Supervisor Community Builder award from the Iowa Association of Community Providers at their annual convention this spring. Natalie is most deserving of this award. She works with endless enthusiasm and tireless energy to identify opportunities for our core members to be involved in their community while building relationships with other organizations and businesses in the area. Congratulations, Natalie! We are so very proud of you.



Calvary United Methodist Church Hosts Summer Picnic for FA



The members of Calvary United Methodist Church in Ames hosted the Friendship Ark Annual Picnic this year. Although the lights went out, a great time was had by all. Calvary United Methodist Church provided the sandwiches and chips and attendees brought sides to share. Joel Campbell gave the blessing before everyone enjoyed the picnic lunch and fellowship. Thanks to Calvary United Methodist Church for welcoming us!

A Summer with FA

The core members took every opportunity to explore Ames and the surrounding communities this summer. Here are just a few of the things we experienced:



Donuts in the Park with the Ames PD



Iowa State Fair



Lost Island Water Park



Howell's Greenhouse and Pumpkin Patch



Big Boy Steam Engine in Boone

A Favorite Activity



One of the Day Hab groups' favorite activities this summer was to attend some I-Cubs baseball games. We had a lot of fun!

Our Core Members Have a Big Heart

We are thankful to be a part of a community with so many opportunities for the core members to get involved by serving and giving back.

So far this year, we have been able to:

- Package meals at Meals for the Heartland
- Contribute two decorated bird houses to the Arts in the Parks Birdhouse Competition
- Make May Baskets with the United Way's Young Leaders Society and distribute them
- Clean up Daley Park
- Participate in Stash the Trash
- Plant and maintain a flower bed at Daley Park
- Plant flowers and spread mulch on Main Street
- Plant and water flowers in flower boxes at Northridge Village and have coffee with residents
- Collect food donations for the United Way Food Drive
- Help man the Story City Carousel
- Help prepare and serve meals at area schools as a part of United Way's summer program
- Distribute fliers for Rummage Rampage



Raised flower boxes at Northridge Village



Story City Carousel



Flower bed at Daley Park



United Way of Story County Food Drive



Friendship Ark

HOMES & COMMUNITY SERVICES

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Wish List

- Batteries (AA/AAA)
- Air Fryer
- Roku or Amazon Firestick
- New Rolling Shower Chair

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