



**Friendship Ark**  
HOMES & COMMUNITY SERVICES

**FAITH • FAMILY • FRIENDSHIP**

**Executive Director’s Note**

Spring is a busy season for us here at Friendship Ark. Our core members and staff are able to get outside and enjoy the parks and recreational spaces we missed through the winter. There are lots of community activities going on and we are planning for our 14<sup>th</sup> Annual 5K on the 4<sup>th</sup>.

April is the month that we work on Strategic Planning, which allows us to review all of the goals we accomplished last year, such as: opening the Westfield Home, expanding our use of technology to be more efficient, growing our volunteer and internship programs, creating partnerships, developing qualified staff by adding to our training program, and continuing to plan for the financial future of Friendship Ark. This last one continues to be a focus for our board. We are still wrapping up our capital campaign with about \$55,000 left to raise in order to pay off the mortgage for Westfield. We have made great progress on building our endowment and will continue this effort. As you can see, because of the investments made by all of our supporters, Friendship Ark’s future looks bright and we continue our mission of celebrating the uniqueness of adults with intellectual disabilities and helping our core members reach their fullest potential through faith, family, and friendship.

*By Jennifer Ellis, Executive Director*

**A New Way to Give - The RoundUp App**

Want to make a big difference with just a little pocket change?

Friendship Ark recently expanded our use of technology in our fundraising efforts by adding the RoundUp App. Now you can donate your change from purchases even when you use your credit or debit card to pay. You can download the app directly to your iPhone/Android or sign up by going to our website and clicking on



**Giving Back with Every Swipe**

**What:** Automatically donate the “change” from your credit card purchases.

**How:** iPhone/Android app or website. Setup takes ~45 seconds. Create an account, choose us your beneficiary, and link your credit or debit card. Then use your card as normal.

**Security:** Uses exactly the same encrypted technology and third party API as Venmo and Acorns to securely interact with financial information. Credentials are not stored.

**Benefit:** Allows you to make a sustaining impact for our mission every month without any effort, just by donating your change.

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**In this Issue**

Christmas Party	2
Live Nativity	
Cookies and Snowflakes	
St. Mary’s Circle Donation	
5K on the Fourth	3
Fall Benefit	
Guidestar Platinum Seal	
Altrusa Donation	
Shining Star Awards	4
DSP Professional of the Year	
A Night to Shine	
St. Patrick’s Day	5
Meals from the Heartland	
IACP Advocacy Day	
Visit to the Capitol	
Science Center of Iowa	
Wish List	6

## Friendship Ark Christmas Party

We held our annual Christmas Party for core members, their families, staff and board members in the auditorium of the Annex building where our office is located. The event included a delicious selection of appetizers, wonderful desserts, and a hot chocolate bar. Santa and Mrs. Claus came to visit and brought a special gift for anyone who wanted to come up to see them, and we all had a lot of fun showing off our ugliest Christmas sweaters for the Ugly Christmas Sweater contest. Mrs. Claus had quite the challenge in determining the winners. It was fun to come together and get to catch up with each other.



## Live Nativity



During advent, several core members visited the Live Nativity at Calvary United Methodist Church in Ames. We listened as an angel told the Christmas story, dressed in costume, interacted with and learned about the live animals in the manger scene, had our pictures taken and enjoyed snacks. Thank you to everyone at Calvary United Methodist Church for their warm welcome and the opportunity to participate in this one-of-a-kind experience.



## Cookies and Snowflakes

As a part of our Spiritual Life activities, our DayHab core members and staff baked snowflake cookies so we could take them to Northridge Village later in the week to spend time decorating them with the residents there. During our visit to Northridge Village we also created beautiful snowflake decorations from coffee filters. We would like to thank the Northridge Village Community for hosting this activity. We truly enjoyed the opportunity to visit and interact with the residents.



## Art Supply Donation from St. Mary's Circle

We received a donation of various art supplies to support the activities of our Art Club as well as creative activities for our DayHab program from the St. Mary's Circle at St. Cecilia Church this spring. Members of St. Mary's Circle took up a voluntary collection after a presentation about Friendship Ark to the group by FA Executive Director, Jennifer Ellis, in February.

We would like to thank the members of St. Mary's Circle for their kind donations and Sharon Weber for delivering them to our office. We look forward to the many ways we will be able to use the materials.



## 14th Annual 5K on the Fourth



Come and join us for our annual 4th of July run/walk at Ada Hayden park in Ames, Iowa. The event starts at 8 a.m. with a free kids fun run at 7:45 a.m. Our race is a fun, family friendly event to start off your holiday activities in Ames while supporting Friendship Ark. You may register by following the links on our website or Facebook page or by visiting [www.getmeregistered.com/fiveonthefourth](http://www.getmeregistered.com/fiveonthefourth)



## Fall Benefit

### *Save the Date*

Life gets busy, so add the date for our Fall Benefit to your calendar now. We will be gathering in support of Friendship Ark on Friday, October 5th, 2018 at the CPMI Event Center in Ames.

### *Become a Sponsor*

Consider becoming a business or private sponsor of our events. Several levels of sponsorship are available and sponsors will be recognized on event promotional materials. Contact our office at (515) 292-9556 or [friendshipark@friendshipark.org](mailto:friendshipark@friendshipark.org) for more information.

### *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](mailto:friendshipark@friendshipark.org). Donors will be listed on event materials.



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

## FA Earns Platinum Seal of Transparency on Guidestar

We are proud to announce that we have achieved the 2018 Seal of Transparency on Guidestar.

Guidestar's mission is to revolutionize philanthropy by providing information that advances transparency, enables users to make better decisions, and encourages charitable giving.

Visit our guidestar profile at [www.guidestar.org/profile/42-1489488](http://www.guidestar.org/profile/42-1489488) to learn more.



## Altrusa Donates Funds for Aquatic Wheelchair

In February, Jennifer Ellis, Executive Director of FA, was honored to accept a donation of \$500 from Altrusa International of Ames on behalf of our Advocacy Taskforce for the purchase of an aquatic wheelchair for the Furman Aquatic Center. The wheelchair will benefit our core members as well as anyone in the community that is wheelchair bound and would need to use it in order to enjoy the pool. The funds we received were a portion of the proceeds from Altrusa's 29th Annual Holiday Home Tour. We would like to thank Altrusa International of Ames for supporting us in enhancing the lives of individuals with disabilities.



## Shining Star Awards



In 2017 we implemented the Star Award for staff to recognize each other for doing good deeds and creating a positive work environment. Staff have a choice of receiving a small Star Award handout item or entering their name in a quarterly drawing for a bigger gift. Nominations are shared with all staff at the staff meetings following the end of the quarter.

Areas recognized by the Star Award are Friendship, Sincerity, Preparation, Action, Faith, Enthusiasm, Excellence, Compassion, Integrity, Tolerance, Respect, Honor, and Love & Trust.

Our winners of the drawing for bigger prizes for the first two quarters of the award program were Breanna Dubendorf and Chelsie Jacobson. Breanna won tickets to an Iowa State Football game and a cooler and Chelsie received a one-year family membership to Ames Racquet and Fitness. Our first quarter winner for 2018 was Anna Enabnit who won a 40-inch television set (pictured above).

There have been many nominations and we are proud of and thankful for all of our wonderful staff.

## Direct Support Professional of the Year

Friendship Ark Direct Support Staff, Hannah Gustafson, received the Direct Support Professional of the Year award at this year's Viva La Arc celebration hosted by the Arc of Story County. A number of our core members as well as Hannah's mom and her best friend attended the event to witness her receiving this well-deserved award and to help her celebrate.

Congratulations, Hannah, and thank you for being an amazing staff.



## A Night to Shine

In February we had the wonderful opportunity to participate in the Tim Tebow Foundation's A Night to Shine, a prom night experience for individuals with special needs. We enjoyed dressing up for the night and core members at one of our houses were treated to hair and make-up by PCI student volunteer Elizabeth Hinds before the event while others received the royal treatment once they arrived at the prom. Each core member had a prom "buddy" and we had a marvelous time visiting with our friends and making new ones, dancing, snacking, laughing, and meeting a few special visitors.



## St. Patrick's Day Scavenger Hunt



Charlie the lucky leprechaun lost his luck in Ames during the week of St. Patrick's Day. While visiting, he dropped all of his lucky coins along

the way. Our DayHab core members and staff had a fantastic time following rhyming clues all over town to help Charlie retrieve his coins. During our search for coins we visited Brookside Park, Reiman Gardens and Carr Park. After we found all of the coins we enjoyed a special treat of shamrock shakes as a reward for all of our hard work.



## Meals from the Heartland



We were surprised by how well we functioned as a team when packaging meals for Meals from the Heartland.

## IACP Advocacy Day at the Capitol

Executive Director, Jennifer Ellis, attended the Iowa Association of Community Providers Advocacy Day at the State Capitol on February 27th. She had the opportunity to speak to Representatives Beth Wessel-Kroeschell and Lisa Heddens as well as Senator Herman Quirmbach at the event.



Jennifer Ellis, Rep. Beth Wessel-Kroeschell, Rep. Lisa Heddens (l to r)

## A Core Member Visit to the Capitol



A group of DayHab core members decided to visit the capitol this winter, where they received an explanation of items being debated as well as a mini tour.

## Science Center of Iowa

One of our favorite places to visit during the cold winter months is the Science Center of Iowa in Des Moines. We love to explore the latest exhibits and see what we can learn and experience. The group below discovered dinosaurs, experimented with gigantic bubbles, and those of us who love the farm life even got to try their hand at milking a cow.





# Friendship Ark

HOMES & COMMUNITY SERVICES

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## Stay Informed by E-Mail

Contact us at [friendshipark@friendshipark.org](mailto: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 Johannis 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

- Steam Mop for Bare Floors (need two)
- Shop Vac
- Computer Tablets (for core members)
- Sound Bar, Blue Ray Player
- Grill (for our new house), Hot Plate
- Acoustic Guitar, Introductory Music Books
- Picnic Blanket in a Bag
- Styrofoam Cups, KCups (for core member activities)
- Volleyball
- Batteries (AA/AAA)
- Clear Tubs and Totes
- Children's Books, Puzzle Books, Work Books, Adult Coloring Books