



# Friendship Ark Homes

Volume 12, Issue 3

August 2011

## The Friendship Ark Homes Newsletter

Published four times a year by Friendship Ark Homes.

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### Inside this issue:

News from our Homes	2
4-H Volunteers	2
The Knights in Shining Armor	2
Capital Campaign	3
Great Fun on the 4th of July	3
We Are Moved	3
New Core Member	3
Ribbon Cutting	3
Service Awards	4

## Thanksgiving in July

I am overwhelmed with gratitude. On July 16<sup>th</sup>, the Duff core members moved into the newly built California home. Five days later, a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony was held, followed by a House Blessing service. Those are major events to be grateful for. Our hearts are filled with joy as we begin our new life at the California home.



*House Blessing*

I can't list everyone who helped make these events happen. But I'll try to "summarize".

It began with Erb and Marge Hunziker, who donated the property to us in 2009. This spring, HCS Builders constructed the home in just 3 ½ months. Many subcontractors reduced their costs for materials and labor. Bill and Karen Bergan have worked hard on our Capital Campaign, part of which is being used to pay the balance on the California home. The staff worked long hours to pack, move, settle and maintain as much normalcy in the lives of our core members as possible. The Knights of Columbus and the ISU College of Ag and Life Sciences moved our household belongings. Parents, Board members, welcoming neighbors, Chamber of Commerce members and others attended the Ribbon Cutting and House Blessing. So many people have joined with us! It's been such a blessing.

But I'm not forgetting the most important guide throughout this journey. God led us to this point and continues to be with us in our new home. I believe He led the people named above to walk with us. With the events that have taken place and everyone who's accompanied us, I can only begin by praising God. For all these things, we give thanks. Amen!

*By Mary Beth Oostenbrug, Executive Director*

## Fall Celebration

Come celebrate with us! We're holding our annual event at Prairie Moon Winery on September 23, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. However, this year's venue is different. Instead of conducting an auction, we will recognize Campaign Leadership Donors. And, our guest speaker is **Coach Fred Hoiberg!** We'll unveil commemorative artwork created by Jo Myers-Walker. Don't worry, some great things remain the same - music by SoundTrac, wine tasting, and hors d'oeuvres. Join us for a triumphant and fun evening! Admission fee is \$50 and you may RSVP by calling us at 292-9556.

## News from our Homes

California House - One of Matt's favorite summer activities is swimming at the pool. He enjoyed spending time with his family for his birthday and having his Senior pictures taken. Matt has also started a new job, which he will continue throughout the school year. Missy stayed busy with work. She goes to CLP and MELC. Craig likes to spend time watching all of the activity around the new house. He loves his new room and has moved all of his treasured John Deere possessions into it. Clark has settled into the new house as well. He still enjoys van rides and going to get ice cream. Clark likes it when the other houses come to the California House for Sunday worship. Anna goes to Genesis on Tuesdays and Thursdays. She also participates in day camp on Wednesdays. Core members and staff are getting used to having a new house. All of the core members seem to be very happy in their new home.

Kansas House has been staying busy this summer! Brett moved out at the end of May, and we welcomed Steve as the newest member of the Kansas House at the beginning of June. Steve has enjoyed community outings as well as spending time with his housemates. Adam had the opportunity to participate in equestrian therapy and continues to enjoy walks around the neighborhood when weather permits. Camille, Diana and Megan have had fun going to the pool on those hot summer days. All of the core members have had fun this summer and look forward to staying busy with lots of activities this fall.

Things have been very busy at the Coolidge House this summer! Victoria moved out of the house on the 27<sup>th</sup> of July. We have since welcomed a new core member to our home, Heather. Nicholas has recently begun going to MELC two days a week. He seems to enjoy his time there. He still loves being outside as much as possible and went swimming at the aquatic center with staff a few times. Nick also enjoys his time spent at day camp. Nick and Morganne have finished up their time with horse therapy. Morganne stays busy volunteering and taking advantage of many community opportunities throughout the week. Cody has been enjoying a variety of community outings as well. He also attends day camp with his housemates. Heather has been busy with all of her new activities. She is employed four days a week. She also enjoys day camp on Wednesdays. Heather has spent some time fishing with staff, which she really enjoys.

*Reports contributed by our House Coordinators*

## 4-H Volunteers



In June, several volunteers from 4-H spent the morning with our core members. They all enjoyed playing yard games, cooking, and just spending time together. Thank you to the youth and their leaders for making the day a fun one!

## The Knights in Shining Armor

The Knights of Columbus have volunteered for us again by hauling junk from the Duff house to the Resource Recovery Plant. They generously gave their time and effort on two different occasions. First, in early June, then after the Duff core members moved out of the house in August. Thank you very much Knights!

## Capital Campaign

Our Campaign is progressing very nicely! Many people have been very generous. However, we still have a ways to go to reach our goal of \$600,000. We need your support, if you haven't already. Please say "yes" to our letters and calls, so that we can serve more core members! If you haven't been contacted and wish to support our Campaign, please contact our office at (515) 292-9556 or [friendshipark@friendshipark.org](mailto:friendshipark@friendshipark.org).

## Great Fun on the 4th of July

Our Annual July 4<sup>th</sup> race, aka 5! on the 4<sup>th</sup>!, had 170 participants at Ada Hayden Lake. The race began at 8:00 a.m., and we enjoyed perfect weather. Many people helped by volunteering, sponsoring and donating prizes. Some runners got into the spirit of the holiday by dressing for the day. And, of course, the core members were on hand to present the awards. Thank you to everyone who helped.



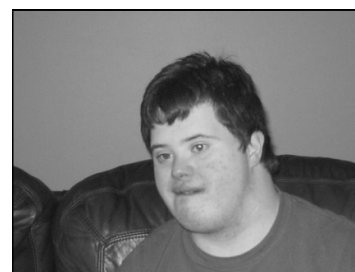
## We Are Moved



The Duff core members moved into their new digs at 1305 California Avenue on August 16<sup>th</sup>. The move went very smoothly, despite very hot, humid weather. Groups from the Knights of Columbus and the ISU College of Ag and Life Sciences moved us. Heuss Printing loaned us their truck. Everyone enjoyed lunch together afterward. Thank you movers, for your hard work!

## New Core Member

Steve Schoenrock moved into the Kansas House in June. Steve had lived at home with his parents, Bev and Ray until now. He is the youngest of five kids and grew up with lots of his nieces and nephews around. He is a loving guy who laughs often and can do unexpected things! He likes DVDs, especially "He Man" and enjoys music. We're grateful Steve is with us!



## Ribbon Cutting



A Ribbon Cutting Ceremony was held on August 21<sup>st</sup> at the California home. The Chamber of Commerce provided the ribbon and bows, but the real "work" was done by the core members, who held it while Mary Beth Oostenbrug, Executive Director, cut the ribbon. A House Blessing, led by Mary Beth, was held following the Ribbon Cutting. An Open House was attended by about 100 persons, who also toured the new home. Thank you to all who attended and made the day a special one.



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**Service Awards**

Mary Kapustka and Chelsea Apland were each recognized for five years of service at Friendship Ark Homes. They were presented with Certificates of Service. Thank you, Mary and Chelsea, and congratulations to both of you!

*Sharing your gifts and talents is a blessing to us all.  
 "Well done, good and faithful servant."*

*Matthew 25:23*



**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 e-mail information with any outside entity.

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