



Friendship Ark Homes

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The Friendship Ark Homes Newsletter

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Weaving

The family of Friendship Ark Homes is made up of many people who possess various gifts - core members, staff, families, board members, supporters and many others, who pray for us. Each member of the family has something different to offer. Together, our gifts are woven into fabric called Friendship Ark Homes.

God declared, "I have cared for you and you are my people". He created a covenant with His people. Everyone involved in Friendship Ark Homes, is in covenant with God, serving God's people. We show this by sharing our talents, gifts and service. In doing so, we form a broader, wider, stronger base of Christian life at Friendship Ark Homes. It's like a mat woven out of pieces of fabric, it's sturdy and stable. This stability benefits everyone, especially the core members, and it aids in their progression toward independence.

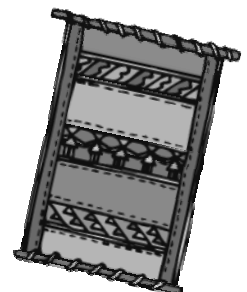
Chaffee Scardamalia, author of *Weaving our Lives: Lessons from the Loom*, is a master weaver. (*The two parts of weaving are the warp and the weft. Using a loom, the "equipment" used to bring the pieces together, they form fabric.*) Scardamalia defines the warp of our past, and suggests we soften and blend it with the weft of our choices of today. She gently encourages us to weave time, space, ritual, mistakes, forgiveness, and loss, into the warp, the foundation of our lives.

One definition of weaving is "... a textile craft in which two distinct sets of yarn or threads are interlaced to form a fabric or cloth." When we combine our unique talents and faith to form the fabric of Friendship Ark Homes, we see the beauty that is made from that combination. We are better together, than alone.

A Navaho tradition when weaving a rug, is to deliberately weave a thread into the rug that looks like a mistake. That "mistake" keeps the rug from being perfect and serves as a path for Spirit to enter. Each of us is imperfect. We work with our core members to help them become better at something, but we don't expect perfection from them, nor should we from ourselves. I believe the Spirit is present in the Friendship Ark Homes family.

As we weave ourselves together, let us celebrate our differences, our imperfections, and the beauty that comes from blending them. Let us remember our covenant with God, to use ourselves, our imperfect selves, in service, woven together as a family. Amen.

By Mary Beth Oostenbrug, Executive Director



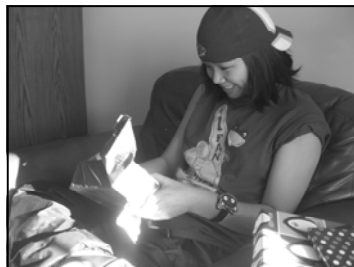
News from our Homes

Cody has been as friendly and social with his housemates, friends from other homes and staff as always. He's been spending time watching movies old and new in his bedroom with his super soft new blanket to keep him secure. Nick has been enjoying his winter, going out to eat each week, but he's ready for spring. He has been engaging in "noise contests" with staff - taking turns slapping the table, his leg, staff's leg or just plain old yelling. Victoria has been attending MELC and has been busy with Sign Choir and taking center stage at Cheerleading. She has adjusted her schedule and will now be attending Day Camp on Wednesdays with Nick and Cody. Morganne has been working hard in school and at the Pet Spa and helps staff with getting the groceries. She has been having a great time with her friends both in her home and out in the community.

Even a blizzard and cold weather didn't keep the Kansas core members from a fun winter. All of the core members enjoyed spending time with their families over the Christmas holiday. They also had fun at the Kansas Christmas Party during the month of January. Brett and Camille have enjoyed attending the Iowa State University Men's and Women's basketball games. Diana, Camille and Adam have also participated in the ARC winter sports. Megan has enjoyed going swimming at an indoor pool throughout the winter. The Kansas core members are excited for all the snow to melt and for spring to arrive!



Each of our homes hosted a Christmas party inviting families and staff to celebrate the season together. Here Camille and Adam find joy in opening their gifts, and Morganne delights in the presence of one of the youngest visitors to her house, House Coordinator Andy's daughter Lily.



Duff has been working at staying warm the past few months! Matt has been busy with school and going to new job sites. He is looking forward to starting a job search. Missy has been involved with bowling and basketball practice. This month she will be going to Des Moines for a basketball tournament held through The Arc of Story County. Craig and Missy have been going to the First United Methodist Church this year. Missy looks forward to volunteering in the nursery. Craig has been passing the cold days by crocheting. He also enjoys drinking his coffee and watching the snow plows go by the house! Anna and Clark continue to go to the Kansas House for Day Camp twice a week and go out to eat with the Coolidge guys on Tuesdays. Craig also celebrated his 65th birthday in February. The Duff House is looking forward to the end of cold weather and the arrival of spring!

Reports contributed by our House Coordinators

Calli Sanders Joins Friendship Ark Homes Board of Directors

Calli Sanders joined the Friendship Ark Homes Board of Directors in January 2011. Calli is the Senior Associate Director of Athletics at ISU. She worked in similar positions at the University of Alabama and Montana State, before joining ISU in 2003. Calli also worked as Associate Dean of Students at the University of Maine and served as Adjunct Training Faculty for Pre-Doctoral Internships. She also worked for the Director of Major Gifts at the Special Olympics International in D.C. Calli has volunteered as a Member of the President's Council on Disabilities and was Co-Chair for the Ames High Post-Prom Committee. Welcome, Calli!



Bake Sale



Our annual bake/craft sale was a big success, despite a snowstorm! Held on Friday and Saturday, December 10-11, our core members baked, prepared and created many goodies and crafts, which they sold. Our proceeds will go toward a special outing this summer. Thank you to everyone who helped to make this a success! Here, Laura, Diana, Camille and Natalie have fun while Christa shops.

Did you know?

Did you know that you can donate a used car to Friendship Ark Homes? Even if your old car isn't appropriate for our use, as long as the car operates, we can sell it and use the money toward the purchase of a new van. Our van fund is growing! If you wish to donate your car, simply call our office (292-9556) for details. We appreciate your help in providing safe, reliable transportation for our core members!

Staff Service of Five Years

Paul Lundy, Live-Out Assistant, has worked with our core members for five years. Paul recently received an award and gift, for his service. Thank you, Paul!



Staff Satisfaction Surveys

Data from parent/guardian surveys for 2010 has been gathered and analyzed. Results show that of the surveys completed, 100% are satisfied/highly satisfied with services being provided to their loved one, by Friendship Ark Homes. These surveys are conducted annually and are required by state regulations. We are proud to announce these results, after serving for over 10 years. Thank you to those who completed surveys. You've helped us look at how we can improve!



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Stay informed by E-Mail

We invite you to share your e-mail contact information with us so that we may keep you informed about upcoming events at Friendship Ark Homes. You may also choose to support our agency by requesting to receive our newsletter by e-mail. Doing so will significantly reduce printing and mailing expenses. Please send your e-mail address and electronic newsletter request to us at friendshipark@friendshipark.org. We will not share your e-mail information with any outside entity.

Wish List - Thank you for considering these wish list items.

We greatly appreciate recycled items, however, for safety and liability reasons only new appliances can be accepted.

- Two new sets of cookware (or individual saucepans and skillets with lids)
- New large frying skillet with lid
- New kitchen utensils
- Dish towels
- Pot holders
- Kitchen knives

Yes, I/we would like to help Friendship Ark Homes continue to serve persons with intellectual disabilities in a Christian 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
- Van Fund
- Rose/Lois Johanns Educational Fund (Staff Training and Education)