



# Friendship Ark Homes

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## The Friendship Ark Homes Newsletter

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## The California House

Jesus said, "I will show you what someone is like who comes to me, hears my words, and acts on them. That one is like a man building a house, who dug deeply and laid the foundation on rock; when a flood arose, the river burst against that house but could not shake it, because it had been well built." - Luke 6:47-48

These words were shared by Pastor Whit Malone, Board Member, at the ground breaking ceremony of our newest home. On April 4, we gathered at 1305 California Avenue, to break ground on a new dwelling for core members. The site, the workers, all who support this building project, were blessed.

Together, we prayed that this new beginning gives glory to God.

Right: Ken Israel, Board President, Alan Christy, HCS Builders, Bill Bergan, Mary Beth Oostenbrug, Matt, Craig, Missy, Nick, Anna, Cody and staff.



This isn't just any new house being built. It's a special place. It will be called "home" to our Duff core members, when they move in August. But it's not only about the core members. It is to be a place where our staff, board members, Spiritual Life Committee members, families, all who visit, will share in the blessings of the Holy Spirit. This is what we at Friendship Ark Homes believe. We "live out" Christianity in as many ways as we can. Prayers spoken, tears shed, laughter belled, hugs given and hearts touched, will continue to take place in this new, sacred space. From April 4, 2011, until long into the future, the scripture shared and prayers lifted, will be the foundation of this new home. It's premature for me to express my gratitude to all who have brought us to this point in time. There is much more to come. HCS is building this home of the spirit, but they are being helped by many sub-contractors who are discounting their products and services. You will hear more about their generosity later.

Our Capital Campaign is in full progress, led by Bill and Karen Bergan. We are reaching out to faithful, generous supporters who will help us not only build this home, but another future home, and retire the mortgage on the Coolidge home. That's a big undertaking, but together, with God's help, I know we will reach our goal. The Friendship Ark Homes family is full of the Holy Spirit! For more information about our Campaign, please call our office at (515) 292-9556. We are excited to build this home on the foundation of your support. Thank you!

"Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household,...with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone...And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives..." Ephesians 2:19-20, 22

By Mary Beth Oostenbrug, Executive Director

## News from our Homes

Matt is finishing up school for the year and is seeking a summer job or volunteer opportunities to keep him busy throughout the summer - as well as spending lots of time at the aquatic center! Missy continues to be a busy bee participating in several Special Olympics activities. She competed in the state meet in Marshalltown where she won first place in two races. Missy and Matt will both be participating in the Special Olympics Summer Games in Ames at the end of May. Craig is excited that his favorite gardening season is approaching! He likes to drive by the California House every week to see the progress being made. Craig has been enjoying his last spring at Duff and has been watching all of the cars drive by on the highway - and counting the red ones. Anna has also been keeping herself busy the past couple of months. She competed in the state track meet as well as the softball toss in Marshalltown. Anna will be participating in the Special Olympics softball toss at the end of May. She and Craig will have the opportunity to attend equestrian therapy later this month. Clark has been anticipating this warm weather and has been itching to wear his summer clothes! He has been visiting the other FAH houses. Clark is also enjoying going for van rides past the new California house, and of course going out for ice cream afterwards. Core members & staff of the Duff House are looking forward to the completion of the new house and moving in in August!



Morganne loved dressing up for a dance this spring, but those heels can be kind of tricky.



Nick participated in equestrian therapy, an opportunity made possible through grant money awarded to Friendship Ark Homes. (See article on page 3.)



Matt and staff member Mark enjoy connecting at a monthly core member gathering.

The Kansas House core members are definitely enjoying the nice warm weather. Megan, Camille and Adam have gone on numerous walks around the neighborhood. They have also enjoyed going for picnics at community parks. Brett has been spending time with his family during the farm planting season. Camille, Adam, and Diana have been practicing for Summer Special Olympics events that will occur at the end of May. All of the core members are very excited for the pool to open, so they can spend even more time in the sun!

At the Coolidge House warmer weather means more opportunities to get out into the wider Ames community and do some of our favorite activities like going to the park, swimming, picnics and having ice cream with friends. Victoria has done an excellent job of taking care of the flowers outside of the house this spring and also assisted with planting tomato and cucumber seeds. Nick appears to love the warmer weather and spends as much time outside as possible. He participated in equestrian therapy this spring, and appears to find horse riding very relaxing. Cody welcomes any opportunity to get out of the house and go on van rides, out to eat, or spend time at the park. This season marks a milestone for Morganne. On May 22nd, she graduated from Ames High School, and celebrated with a party at Coolidge House afterwards. Morganne is looking forward to continuing her volunteer work and will be exploring many new opportunities as a high school graduate.

*Reports contributed by our House Coordinators*

## Farmers' Market

Friendship Ark Homes will be selling goods at the downtown Farmers' Market, beginning Saturday, June 4. Come say hello to the core members and peruse their items for sale. Plans are to sell craft items, homemade baked goods and produce from our gardens. We will be at the depot every Saturday throughout the summer. We hope to see you there!



## Grant Awarded for Equestrian Therapy

Last fall, Friendship Ark Homes was awarded grant money from the Alliant Energy Foundation. The money is being used this spring by our core members. Five core members are participating in One Heart Equestrian Therapy, in Roland. So far, our core members love it, as shown in the photo of Nick on page 2. Each core member is receiving six sessions. **Thank you Alliant Energy Foundation, for enhancing the lives of our core members!**

## 5! on the 4th!

A new name, but still a fun event! Join us, at our annual race around Ada Hayden Lake on July 4th, at 8:00 a.m. Start the holiday with a fun, outdoor activity that raises money for Friendship Ark Homes. Register at [www.getmeregistered.com](http://www.getmeregistered.com). You may also register at the Ada Hayden shelter, on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1-3 p.m., or July 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 a.m. Join the race! Many great prizes! Greet the core members! See our website for additional information.



## Grant Awarded for Laptops



Friendship Ark Homes was recently awarded a grant from the Story County Community Foundation that allowed us to purchase three new laptop computers. Our Supervisors use them in our office, at each home, as well as when they provide training for staff in various settings. This portability makes our use of time and space much more efficient. **Thank you very much Story County Community Foundation!**

## We're on Facebook

Friendship Ark Homes is on Facebook! Look at our photo story of how the California home is progressing. We hope to be able to share stories and photos of core members, staff, families, and volunteers as they happen. You will see the exciting things that take place in the lives of everyone at Friendship Ark Homes. Go to Facebook and search for Friendship Ark Homes. We hope you "Like" us!



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**Wish List**

Our biggest wish is new living room furniture for the California house. These photos show the sofa, loveseat and easy chair that have been selected. The other pieces chosen are two end tables. We'd love to move to our new home and have new, matching furniture in our shared space. Please help as you are able, by sending contributions to our office, earmarked "California Furniture". The total cost is approximately \$2500. We hope you'll visit us at California!



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: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please apply my/our donation to the following:

- General Operations
- Endowment Fund
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- Rose/Lois Johanns Educational Fund  
(Staff Training and Education)
- California Furniture