



Friendship Ark Homes

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The Friendship Ark Homes Newsletter

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A New Way

Moses led the Israelites through the desert to a new place and a new beginning. They were fearful, but trusted. They let worry get the best of them at times, but they persevered. Through prayer and faith in God, they survived their long journey to a new life.

That may describe what many of us go through in our own life. A personal example, is that this holiday season is the first one in my life that I won't spend the time with my parents. They've both passed away this past year. I will have to figure out a new way of showing gratitude, a new way of celebrating the birth of Jesus. Over the past 12 months, I have had times of fear, worry and doubt. But through the care from others, prayer, and my relationship with God, I have trusted. I am learning a new way of living as a Christian.

Our core members experience new beginnings as well. Frequently, an event happens in their life that is very unsettling. It can be a change in housemates, a change in staff, a change in their health, their workplace, etc. Sound familiar? Those things can happen to anyone. But for our core members, change can be extremely difficult to adjust to. Our staff comfort them, offer them a familiar activity, remind them they are loved. They do this patiently and consistently. Through Christian practices, our core members are guided through change, to a new way of living. They too, trust, persevere and learn.

God leads each of us through our own deserts, to a new life. This Thanksgiving and Christmas, let us remember all that we've been given, and be grateful. Amen!

By Mary Beth Oostenbrug, Executive Director

Service Award



Natalie Seibold recently celebrated her 5-year anniversary of employment at Friendship Ark Homes. Natalie is shown with her Anniversary Certificate. We greatly appreciate all that Natalie has shared of herself at Friendship Ark Homes.

News from our Homes



Morganne and staff Erica worked on a fall art project together.

Morganne has really been enjoying her many volunteer opportunities. She is volunteering in a church, at a day care, walking dogs, at a clothing closet, and a few more. Cody is enjoying his time out in the community and at MELC. He is always ready for an outing and will bring you his shoes and coat if he is ready before you are. Nick is enjoying the fall, and the sounds of the Ames High Marching Band while he sits on his deck. He also likes riding the bus to and from MELC. Heather just got a new job at Pizza Ranch and is very excited about it. She also enjoys bowling and just finished the volleyball season. She is very supportive of all of her team mates.

Matt is busy working two afternoons each week. He has a new Best Buddy and they have been spending a lot of time going to parks and on walks. Matt is also busy with school and is in his Senior year at Ames High. Missy enjoys helping in the nursery at church and goes to Aktion Club every month. She also has a new Best Buddy. Craig has been watching the farmers harvest the fields. There is a lot of traffic at California and Craig loves to watch the cars, the dogs being walked and the joggers, go by the house. Clark loves rocking in his living room chair, watching his housemates' activities. He likes going to Day Camp and on his ice cream outings. He really enjoyed the Halloween dance. Anna has been busy going to Genesis two days a week and Day Camp on Wednesdays. She has been going on outings to the Animal Shelter and the dog park.

The weather may be getting colder, but that hasn't slowed down the Kansas core members at all. Their activities over the past months have included visiting an apple orchard, a dance, Best Buddies events, a safety session taught by the fire department, and many more. Adam participated in equestrian therapy again this fall since he enjoyed it so much last time. Camille has been attending the ISU women's basketball games cheering on her favorite team. Diana has kept busy by volunteering and participating in choir at her church. Megan had a great time attending the ARC Halloween Dance dressed as a hippie with her housemates. Steve has enjoyed time with staff and trips to the dog park. The Kansas core members are looking forward to the holiday season and the many activities they have planned for the winter.

Reports contributed by our House Coordinators



Core members and staff enjoyed a visit from a furry friend this fall.

New Core Member



Heather Gilbert moved into the Coolidge home in August. She moved to Ames from Woodward. Heather had been employed at API in Des Moines and has recently begun working at Pizza Ranch in Ames. Heather enjoys exercising, shopping, fishing, cooking and crocheting, among many other hobbies. Heather loves living in Ames, and we are happy that Heather has joined us!

New Board Members

Dean Howarth, Pauline Miller and Rev. Jonathan Page have joined the Friendship Ark Homes Board of Directors in recent months. Please see the "Board" link on the "Our People" page of our website at www.friendshipark.org for pictures and more information about them and their backgrounds.

Capital Campaign

Our Capital Campaign is coming to an end. The Campaign has gone very well. You have been wonderfully supportive of our mission and plans for future growth. From Campaign pledges, our plans were to:

- Build the California home
- Purchase a lot to build a future home
- Retire the Coolidge mortgage

At this time, we have accomplished the first two goals and we hope to retire the mortgage in early 2012. Our plans are to build a 4th home when the total pledges have been received. *What awesome results!*

We have a Waiting List of persons who could fill that 4th home. So when you get a reminder letter in the mail about your pledge, please be sure to send it in. Thank you for helping us serve current core members, future core members, and for making dreams come true for their families. You are amazing disciples.

Lots Purchased



That's right, we've purchased two adjoining lots on Tennessee Street! When you drive past them, you will see the sign that reads, "Future Site of Friendship Ark Homes." We are getting excited to build a 4th home and serve five new core members.

Fall Celebration

On Friday, Sept. 23rd, we held our Fall Celebration at Prairie Moon Winery. The format was a little different this year. It was our way of saying, "Thank you" to our Capital Campaign Leadership Donors. The evening was great fun. Wines were delicious, hors d'oeuvres by Ken Dunn were fabulous and music by SoundTrack was beautiful. A special treat was listening to Coach Fred Hoiberg talk about the importance of community. Morganne's parents spoke about what Friendship Ark Homes has meant to them, causing us all to reflect. The evening concluded with the unveiling of Jo Myers-Walker's amazing artwork, which was created to recognize the Leadership Donors. Thank you to everyone who supported us and helped make it a great evening!



Holiday Bake Sale

There's still time to place your order! The Friendship Ark Homes annual Bake Sale is taking final orders for Holiday goodies on December 3rd, 9-noon, at downtown Fareway. Orders will be ready for pick-up on December 21st, 4-7 p.m. at the Friendship Ark Homes office, 130 S. Sheldon Ave., Ste. 203. Order forms are found on our website www.friendshipark.org. Send forms and money to our office by December 3rd.



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Wish List

- New Upright Freezer
- Printer/Copier/Fax Machine or Staples gift card for purchase of one.



Stay informed by E-Mail

Contact us at friendshipark@friendshipark.org to request our newsletter by e-mail. We will not share your e-mail information with any outside entity.

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: _____

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Please apply my/our donation to the following:

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Capital Campaign

Endowment Fund

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