

Press Release, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Friendship Ark Homes broke ground today on their new home, at 1305 California Avenue. Five core members (clients) will live in the home when it opens later this summer. Friendship Ark Homes serves adults with intellectual disabilities by providing daily living skill development and 24 hour supervision. Their mission is to celebrate each core members' uniqueness and help them reach their fullest physical, emotional and spiritual potential through nurturing love and respect within a faith community.

Friendship Ark Homes was founded in 1999 by Joe and Lois Johanns. It is modeled after the L'Arche community philosophy, which is Christian-based. Friendship Ark Homes now owns three homes, serving 14 core members. Medicaid and donations from the community fund them. A volunteer board of directors governs Friendship Ark Homes and Mary Beth Oostenbrug is the Executive Director.

The California property was donated by Erb and Marge Hunziker. The home is being built by HCS, with subcontractors generously reducing their costs to make this home possible. Construction will be completed by August 1.

To support Friendship Ark Homes' growth, a Capital Campaign has kicked off, with a multi-point focus: 1) Constructing and furnishing the California home, 2) Retiring mortgage on another Friendship Ark Home located on Coolidge Street, 3) purchasing another lot, and 4) building a fourth home to serve five new core members. Friendship Ark Homes has a waiting list of potential core members that continues to grow. To contribute to the Capital Campaign, contact the Friendship Ark Homes office at 292-9556.

Below, ground breakers are left to right:

Ken Israel, Board Pres., Alan Christy of HCS, Bill Bergan, Capital Campaign Chair, Mary Beth Oostenbrug, Exec. Dir., and Core Members Matt, Craig, Missy, Nick, Anna, and Cody, along with their staff.

