



Friendship Ark

HOMES & COMMUNITY SERVICES

FAITH • FAMILY • FRIENDSHIP

Fall/Winter 2018
VOLUME 19, ISSUE 3

Bill's Story

Last spring we had an unexpected opening in one of our homes. As I began to review our waiting list, a particular applicant stood out to me. The information I had said this individual was named Bill and he was 58 years old, living with his elderly mother who had dementia. Because we have always had a waiting list for our group homes, when we have an opening we look at who on our waiting list might be a good fit for that opening as well as the urgency of their need for a place in one of our homes. This applicant had been on our waiting list for over 2 years, so I knew he either had already found placement or it was very likely his situation had gotten more urgent.



I reached out to the contact on the application and was connected to Bill's sister, Dawn. Dawn informed me that Bill was still living with his mother and that her dementia had progressed and they both were in desperate need of a different living situation. We quickly scheduled a time for me to meet with Bill and his family. It became apparent that Bill's sister Dawn was overwhelmed by the task of finding not only a safe place for her brother, but also for her mother, and needed help. We arranged for the family to come to our Westfield Home and meet the other core members living there. This would give Bill as well as his potential new housemates an opportunity to meet each other and choose if they wanted to live together. Bill fit in immediately and all were in agreement, Bill would join the Friendship Ark family and become the 5th core member at the Westfield Home.

Bill moved in on May 23rd, 2018. He loves his new home. His room is set up just how he wants it. He participates in Day Hab and gets to enjoy lots of opportunities he hasn't had for quite some time, as well as make lots of new friends. Bill is not only safe and healthy in his new home, but happy and thriving.



Bill with his friends.

Continued on Page 3

Published by Friendship Ark Homes & Community Services

Editor Martina Luppen

President Sarah Buck

Vice President Dr. Lou Scallon

Treasurer Kyle Briesse

Secretary Amber Deardorff

Board of Directors

Kyle Briesse

Sarah Buck

Al Carver

Amber Deardorff

Lisa Downs

Deb Fennelly

Lee Griffin

Dr. Pauline Miller

Nicole Rasmussen

Jon Sargent

Dr. Lou Scallon

Fr. Jim Secora

Rep. Beth Wessel-Kroeschell

In this Issue

Making Dreams Come True 2
Spreading Goodwill and Cheer
Shoe Drive

Bill's Story, Continued 3
Ways to Give to FA
In Loving Memory
Skill Development in Our
Homes

Shining Star Award 4
Fall Benefit

Loving Every Day 5
2018 Sponsors
Fall Fun
Festival of Trees and Lights

Wish List 6

Making Dreams Come True

Our staff love to help the core members live out their “Best Day Ever” and are always looking for opportunities to incorporate their interests and passions into the services we provide.



This core member had been asking to go to a football game ever since he moved into a Friendship Ark home and this fall we were able to make his dream come true. He was very excited to cheer on his favorite team and wear yellow in remembrance of Celia Barquin Arozamena. It was a beautiful day and we were honored to be present for the memorial ceremony honoring Celia. We had a wonderful time taking in the atmosphere of a game day experience.

For a core member with a love for older and unique vehicles, our Day Hab team facilitated a visit to American Dream Machines in Des Moines.

The entire group had a fantastic time admiring all of the beautiful cars and trucks and everyone was talking about the experience for the rest of the day.



Spreading Goodwill and Cheer



Always on the look-out for ways we can have a positive impact on our community, we signed up for several time slots to be bell ringers for the Salvation Army. The core members had a great time ringing the bells and interacting with the people passing by, those who gave and those who provided encouragement with a gentle word or a smile.

Shoe Drive

Here's a very different opportunity to support Friendship Ark and all of the wonderful activities our core members get to participate in. Our Day Hab program is conducting a shoe drive (new or gently used shoes). The shoe drive is a fundraising opportunity for Friendship Ark and the shoes will benefit people in emerging countries in Africa and Central America. Shoes can be dropped off at our office or if needed we can schedule a pick-up. Our core members and staff have been distributing fliers in Ames and surrounding towns and we have already sorted and bagged 500 pairs of shoes.



Bill's Story, Continued

Bill's sister was also able to find a wonderful nursing facility for their mother. Dawn said, "I couldn't be happier with where both Bill and Mom are. It's such a relief to know they are both happy and safe."

The support you give to Friendship Ark makes an impact not only on the lives of our core members, but also on their families and the community they join. Thank you for making an investment in Friendship Ark and an impact in someone like Bill, his sister, Dawn, and their mother. You truly do make a difference!

By Jennifer Ellis, Executive Director



Bill, Dawn, and her husband, Dan.

Ways to Give to Friendship Ark

There are many options for supporting Friendship Ark. Your donation will enable us to continue our mission and meet the needs of adults with intellectual disabilities and make it possible for us to help our core members reach their fullest potential. Some of the items your donations help to fund are:

Transportation Expenses, Westfield Mortgage Payoff, Flooring Replacement at the California House, Quality Improvement/Training and Additional Services/Core Member Activities

- Donate online at www.friendshipark.org
- Donate your spare change through the Round Up App; you can find a link to this at www.friendshipark.org
- Donate or hold a social media fundraiser on Facebook. Find us at Friendship Ark Homes and Community Services
- Leave a legacy by including us in your Estate Plans. Let us know by completing the form on the back page.
- Complete the form on the back page and mail in your donation.

In Loving Memory



*Dustin
December 2, 1993 - August 6, 2018*

Your footprints will forever be on our hearts.

Skill Development in Our Homes

Menu planning, grocery shopping, and meal preparation are just some of the daily living skills our staff work on with the core members. Here, a core member and staff are cooking the evening meal for the home as well as preparing a lunch to take along to Day Hab the next day.



Shining Star Award



In 2017 we implemented the Shining Star Award for staff to recognize each other for doing good deeds and creating a positive work environment. Nominated staff have their name entered into a quarterly drawing for a bigger gift item and the nominations are shared with all staff at the staff meetings following the end of the quarter.

Areas recognized by the Star Award are Friendship, Sincerity, Preparation, Action, Faith, Enthusiasm, Excellence, Compassion, Integrity, Tolerance, Respect, Honor, and Love & Trust.

Our third quarter winner, Laura Capps, received a picnic cart and cooler. The gift will add some convenience to Laura's outdoor adventures going forward. Congratulations Laura!

There have been many nominations and we are proud of and thankful for all of our wonderful staff.

Fall Benefit

On Friday, October 19th, we gathered at the Radisson Hotel in Ames for Friendship Ark's Fall Benefit, our annual major fundraiser. The social hour included appetizers, drinks, and music by Miles Morgan. At the conclusion of the social hour Father Jim Secora led us in prayer which was followed by a testimonial from core member parent Dave Strawn who shared about what sets Friendship Ark apart from other providers. The evening also included a silent auction as well as a spirited and well supported live auction. The core members enjoyed offering art work they created for a free will donation. We would like to thank everyone who contributed to the success of the evening, especially the Board of Directors, our Event Sponsors, our Auction Item Donors, and everyone who attended and/or donated to our cause. With your help we will continue our mission to meet the needs of adults with intellectual disabilities in an environment of faith, family and friendship.



Loving Every Day

Whether it's a visit to a local park or playground, dressing up for Halloween together, a trip to see horses, or a host of other fun activities, our staff strive to make each and every day special for our core members.



Fall Fun



Crunchy leaves and crisp air made for the perfect outdoor sensory experience this fall.

Thank You to Our 2018 Sponsors

Sponsorships help to make it possible for us to continue to offer two great fundraising events each year: our 5K on the 4th of July and our Fall Benefit. Proceeds from these events allow us to continue to meet our mission by enhancing the services we offer or expanding to offer new services. We would like to thank the individuals, businesses and organizations below for their support.

Ames Convention and Visitors Bureau

Bill and Deb Fennelly

Les and Pauline Miller

First National Bank

Jon Sargent

Greater Iowa Credit Union

Lou and Cosette Scallon

Heuss Printing

Wilson Toyota

Mary Greeley Medical Center

Wolfe Eye Clinic

McFarland Clinic

Festival of Trees and Lights

Our Day Hab groups started the season off by visiting the Festival of Trees and Lights in Des Moines. We enjoyed casting our vote for our favorite trees and taking pictures with the trees we voted for and we even got to visit with Santa and tell him all about our wishes for Christmas.





130 S Sheldon Ave, Suite 203
Ames, Iowa 50014
P 515.292.9556
friendshipark@friendshipark.org

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Ames, IA
50010
Permit 293



Stay Informed by E-Mail

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

Make a Donation

____ Yes, I/we would like to help Friendship Ark continue to serve persons with intellectual disabilities in a faith-based 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 ☐ New House
- ☐ Core Member Outings ☐ Transportation Fund
- ☐ Rose/Lois Johannis Educational Fund (Staff Training and Education)
- ☐ I would like to learn more about making a planned gift.
- ☐ Friendship Ark is a part of my estate planning.

You may use your credit card to make a one time or recurring monthly gift by going to our website and clicking the "Donate" button.



Like us on Facebook! This newsletter provides limited space for us to share all of the exciting things happening at Friendship Ark. Visit and like our Facebook page for more stories, news and pictures.

Wish List

- Grill
- Acoustic Guitar, Introductory Music Books
- Styrofoam Cups, KCups (for core member activities)
- Batteries (AA/AAA)
- Clear Tubs and Totes
- New or gently used patio furniture
- Two blue ray players
- Roku or Amazon Firestick