



# Friendship Ark

HOMES & COMMUNITY SERVICES

## THE NEXT CHAPTER



Turn the page to learn what we have planned and why this step is important for building a strong future for quality services for individuals living with intellectual and developmental disabilities in our community and how you can help.



FAITH • FAMILY • FRIENDSHIP

## Our First Home



## Our 9th Home



## What's Next



A new, dedicated office building and recreation hub.



**Our 10<sup>th</sup> home – we broke ground this fall and will welcome new core members in the spring of 2026.**

Renderings by: **10rFOLD**  
ARCHITECTURE • ENGINEERING





*Friendship Ark-itects  
bridges to inclusiveness  
since 2000.*

## **Capital Campaign**

**Join us as we set out  
to build a future  
where everyone feels  
like they belong.**

### **Building Hope in Ames — Together**

When we thought about putting down roots in Ames, our vision was clear: this journey wasn't just for us—it was for our core members, our dedicated staff, and the community we proudly serve. ***Now, we're thrilled to invite you to be a part of something transformative—a new Not-for-Profit Center that will embody collaboration, accessibility, growth and inclusion.***

### **A Collaborative Space**

Our new space will bring together several incredible organizations on one campus—The Arc of Story County, Overflow Thrift Store, The Well, and of course Friendship Ark—creating a powerful community hub where missions align and impact multiplies.

### **Accessibility for All**

Our current building poses challenges for those using wheelchairs. Our new center will be fully accessible, one level, and located directly on a CyRide route—ensuring that every core member, especially those relying on us as their representative payee, can reach us safely and independently.

### **Nature-Inspired Refuge**

The building's design draws inspiration from the natural world, offering a sense of peace to everyone who walks through the doors. We envision a place of restoration, a sanctuary of belonging.

### **Room to Grow**

With expanded space come greater possibilities—more programming, more partnerships, more lives changed.

### **Celebrate with Us—On Our Donor Wall**

In the heart of our new facility, an Ark donor wall will honor the generous individuals and organizations that made this dream possible. Your support fuels every step we take. We cannot do this without you.

### **The Recreation Center**

We plan to build a dynamic rec center featuring a gym, a full kitchen, and public meeting spaces available to rent. This won't just be a venue—it will be a launchpad for skill-building, connection, and empowerment for our core members.



**ARK-itects**

## **Capital Campaign**

**There is great excitement among the family and friends of Friendship Ark as we embark on the journey of constructing our new office and recreation space—a place that will sustain our mission today and expand our impact for tomorrow.**

**We're thrilled to share this excitement with you through the**

***Voices of Friendship Ark***

**Find out what they love about Friendship Ark, ♥**



**why this project is important to them, and why your support matters.**



## A WORD FROM OUR CEO

*Jennifer Ellis*

"I joined Friendship Ark in November 2014 as the Executive Director, but from the very beginning, it's been so much more than a job. It's my calling. Every day, I wake up with a deep sense of purpose and responsibility — not just to lead, but to safeguard the future of this incredible organization and the people who make it so special.

Over the past nearly 11 years, we've grown in ways I could have only dreamed of — expanding our reach, deepening our impact, and always staying true to the high standards of care and compassion that define us. Through it all, our mission has remained unwavering: to celebrate our core members' uniqueness by providing homes and community services and helping them reach their full potential through faith, family, and friendship.

**This new office space is more than bricks and mortar — it's a symbol of our commitment. A permanent, fully accessible home where our staff can thrive, collaborate, and continue delivering the exceptional support our core members deserve.** Just as we work tirelessly to ensure our core members have safe, loving homes, our team deserves a space that reflects the heart and excellence they bring to their work every single day.

But this isn't just a place for staff. It's a place for families, for core members, and for our broader community — a welcoming hub where people can find connection, resources, and hope. I truly believe this new space will be a beacon for Friendship Ark's future, and I'm honored to be a part of this journey."



## OUR CORE MEMBERS



♥  
"I like that staff help me clean and that they make sure my meat is cooked to a safe temperature."



"I am very excited about the gym and that I will be able to visit the office independently via CyRide."

*Mike*



♥  
"I love the staff."



"I am looking forward to it being one level and a bigger space for everything and everyone. I will like and utilize the calming garden the most. I would really like to help maintain it as well."

*Jessica*



♥  
"I love all the relationships I have with other core members and staff."



"I can visit more people and staff I don't get to see often. I will like and utilize the rec space the most and visiting the office to socialize and hang out with friends and staff."

*Courtney*



♥  
"The thing I like about being with Friendship Ark is having someone who helps me with my goals and having someone who I can talk to. Also, being with Friendship Ark is helping me find different ways to communicate with others and coping with some of my challenges."



"I like the new office being on a CyRide route and that I will be able to ride my bike to the new Friendship Ark office safely. I like the idea of recreation and kitchen space because we can do more events together."

*Julia*



"Being a "family" with faith at the center was extremely appealing to us. We decided this was the organization we wanted for Adam. He moved into his

house in January 2004 along with three young women. The rest is history.

Excellent leadership on the part of staff and board has allowed the organization to grow to what it is today. We believe this is the best place for Adam to be and continue to work to ensure other families have the same opportunity."

## CORE MEMBER PARENTS



"The new recreation center/programming hub will allow the staff to be even more efficient and effective in providing services to the core members. It will be wonderful to have a place where the core members can go to "hang out" and shoot hoops or whatever else the facility is designed for. Not having to constantly be looking for space to rent for Special Olympics training and other activities will save money and strengthen our existing partnership with The Arc. The programming hub will allow for even more collaboration which will only enhance the existing services for the core members and likely will allow for more to be added."

*Alan and Mary Christy*



"Friendship Ark has changed our lives in ways I can hardly describe. My son doesn't just live there - he belongs there. He's not just cared for - he's truly loved. He's seen, valued, supported and celebrated by staff who go above and beyond every single day. He has a home where he's surrounded by friends. He's part of the community. And most importantly - he's happy!! He always tells me he doesn't want to come home - because to him, he IS home. And for me? I get to enjoy being his mom and not just his caregiver. That's a gift I can never repay!"



"Your support is not just changing lives. It is helping people like Joshua live with dignity, joy and purpose. From the bottom of my heart, Thank You!"

*Gretchen Baldwin*

## CORE MEMBER PARENTS



"Dignity. Confidence. Growth. Community. These are some of the words my wife and I use to describe the positive, life changing benefits our son Stephen has come to realize from the services provided by Friendship Ark.

Operating under a "limited supervision" model encouraging self-reliance, Stephen has gained new skills, become more independent and self-confident, and proudly sees himself as an adult outside the direct shadow of his parents. He's also become so involved in activities that my wife and I joke we have to plan several weeks in advance just to get on his calendar. He is one happy guy living life large. And we love it!"



"The recently announced plans to build out a new recreation center and planning hub will be another major positive step for this community of people wanting to live full and meaningful lives. Once these facilities are completed, real people with real needs will not only be better served but will also enjoy a tangible expression of their worth and acceptance in our community."

*Henry and Gayla Grayum*



"Friendship Ark is a special community that means a lot to our family. Joel is a part of a community that is welcoming and very supportive of all its core members. I thank God and so many others who have contributed in any way in the last twenty-five years to the growth of Friendship Ark."

"In addition, the number of homes available is impressive. Now a new recreation programming hub means more for those living in the Friendship Ark agency. I know it will be good for my son, Joel, in many ways – as well as other core members."

*Joe Johanns, Parent and  
Founder of Friendship Ark*





A WORD FROM OUR  
BOARD PRESIDENT

*Melissa Muschick*

"I've always cared deeply about helping others but seeing firsthand how Friendship Ark empowers each person to live fully has given that care new meaning.

The hub is not a "nice-to-have", it's necessary to keep up with real needs. Plus, it is a statement of values. **It says "Friends matter. Lives matter. We invest in belonging, in dignity, in community."** It will help us raise awareness, attract new supporters, and assert that persons with intellectual disabilities are worth the investment!

The hub will strengthen the bond between our homes and our day programs, helping core members come together, build friendships, and grow in ways that were not possible before. It will also give our staff and volunteers better tools, resources, and spaces to do what they do best: support and empower others.

**This new space will help us welcome more people, attract and retain dedicated team members, and show families that we are committed to long-term care and excellence.** It will also open the door to new partnerships, events, and creative programming that can generate support for our mission and help us continue to expand thoughtfully. Most importantly, it will stand as a lasting symbol of belonging and community. The hub will be a place where everyone feels valued and where potential is not limited by circumstance. It represents the next step in our journey to help each person live their best and fullest life."

## FORMER BOARD MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS

achieve their full potential and be successfully integrated in the community. Each personalized plan was unique and effective, and the progress made by core members was truly inspiring."

*Sarah Buck*

Photo by Mark Looney  
of Sarah and J. Ben Buck



"Cosette and I have been supporters of Friendship Ark since its beginning 25 years ago. I have known the Johannis family since I was in grade school. Our connections with them and some of the other founders have made us well-aware of the powerful impact that Friendship Ark has had on our community."

»»» "The need for the care provided by Friendship Ark for our community members is great. We believe that the new programming and recreational hub will be a tremendous help in meeting that demand. Having three impactful organizations work together to make this project happen will help provide long-term collaboration and sustainability. Dedicated administrative and meeting space will provide a stable, long-term home for these organizations. A recreation space specifically designed to foster healthy exercise and interaction for core members and Special Olympics athletes will be a wonderful addition-especially through our long Iowa winters!

**We strongly support the capital campaign for this great project!"**

*Lou and Cosette Scallion*

"We support Friendship Ark because we know families who have found it to be a safe and supportive place for their loved ones with special needs. After visiting and sharing meals with the residents, we've been deeply impressed by the caring environment and the quality of support provided."

*Chuck and Kathy Glatz*

"Friendship Ark has opened my eyes to so many wonderful people who make Ames such a great place to call home."

*Jon Sargent*





"What I love the most about Friendship Ark is how special it feels to be a part of something where

everyone is celebrated for who they are. It's about belonging, growth and joy."



"As the Representative Payee at Friendship Ark, my role is to help our core members manage their finances responsibly and safely. Being a Rep Payee means making sure our core members' needs are always met so they can focus on living their best lives. Having a new building that is fully ADA-accessible, and on a bus route, will be life-changing for our core members. It means independence. **With our new building many of our core members will be able to ride CyRide. This will help them have the independence they need while having access to services in a space designed for their needs.**"

*Kim Miles, Representative Payee*



"I have had the privilege of serving at Friendship Ark for the past 18 years and my journey has been filled with countless meaningful connections."



"Having the new building will provide a wonderful opportunity for me to connect with staff in a fully accessible space. At present, my office can only be reached by navigating multiple steps, which is not always possible. Having a welcoming and accessible place to meet will make a tremendous difference. **I feel truly blessed to work alongside such dedicated employees who enrich the lives of our core members every single day. My hope is to be as accessible to them as they are to the people we serve.**"

*Laura Dolan, HR Director*



"What started as a job 19 years ago has become a passion, a community and a family. I have always been drawn to be next to the core members and helping them continue to grow."



"Now seeing the opportunity at hand with the new building feels like so much more than an office. **For the first time in 25 years, we will be able to build a space that will serve.**

**our core members' individual needs.** Whether it is accessibility for all throughout the entire building, space to have private team and individual meetings or social and recreation space to spend time together. This truly feels like another milestone for Friendship Ark".

*Natalie Seibold,  
Day Habilitation Supervisor*



## OUR STAFF



## A WORD FROM A LOYAL FRIEND



### *Rev. Tom Prochnow*

*Former Multi-Term Board Member,  
Current Committee Member and Longtime Supporter*

"I have had a relationship with Friendship Ark before there was Friendship Ark. I met Lois and Joe Johanns in the early 1990s when Lois and I served on a board together. The giftedness and vision that Joe and Lois had for ministry was amazing.

When the first home opened in 2000, I was amazed at this ministry with core members, families, staff and volunteers. On most Tuesday mornings, I meet with Joe for breakfast and usually say to him "What you and Lois started is simply amazing." I hope I don't overuse that word amazing, but Friendship Ark is simply amazing.

In those early days, the office was at their home. After the first house was completed through the hard work of volunteers, I gave thanks to God for God's amazing work. Now, when I look at the plans for ARK-itects, I am simply amazed.

Through my involvement with Friendship Ark, I have become aware of the journeys of many core members. Through their stories, I have come to the conclusion that we have such a dedicated, qualified and gifted staff. They are simply amazing.

When our daughter died four years ago, our whole family decided that we should do something in her memory for something that meant so much to her. She had such a great compassion for those with intellectual disabilities, how could we not work harder for Friendship Ark? Thus, came about the annual Sara Prochnow Ojard Golf Outing for Friendship Ark through which we have been able to donate about \$40,000. She would be amazed at all of the new homes and ministries of Friendship Ark.

**I'm asking everyone to contribute to the ARK-itects Capital Campaign. Friendship Ark is an amazing place with wonderful core members and staff. Please give an amazing donation."**





**Building for the Future  
While Sustaining the  
Present**

## **Capital Campaign**

**We invite you to join us in creating a space where our core members can thrive and our staff feel valued—a place to call home, gather, and connect with our community.**

They say it only takes seven seconds to make a first impression. This new building is not only for our current core members and staff, but for everyone who walks through our doors. It is for potential core members and their families, future staff, and new community partners. Our hope is that when they enter, they immediately feel welcomed, safe, and supported—and see our commitment to providing high-quality, person-centered care. This space will help us show who we are before we even say a word.

Owning an accessible administrative and recreation space will allow us to offer more opportunities for core members, attract and retain strong staff, and invest more directly in our mission rather than rental expenses.

Additionally, sharing the recreation space with the Ames community will generate an added revenue stream, strengthening our sustainability and expanding our impact.

**Our Ark-itects Capital Campaign goal is \$4.5 million to complete both the administrative office and recreation space. Your support will build more than a building—it will build a lasting foundation of belonging and hope for years to come.**

For 25 years, we've built homes that empower core members to grow in independence. Now, it's time to build a home for the entire Friendship Ark family.

**Will you help us reach this goal and come aboard the Ark?**

Reaching our target allows us to move forward with both phases at the same time.

For more information about this project and a full Capital Campaign Brochure, please visit our website at [friendshipark.org](http://friendshipark.org) or scan the QR code.





## Giving Levels

ARK-itects  
Capital Campaign

# Friendship Ark Donor Recognition

Level Name	Gift Range	Recognition
<b>Legacy ARK-itects</b>	\$250,000- \$500,000 and above	Name on Ark wall, plus Rec Center or future home naming rights. Listed in campaign materials (print and digital), at all events, and in a newsletter.
<b>Master ARK-itects</b>	\$100,000-\$250,000	Name on Ark wall plus large room naming opportunity. Listed in campaign materials (print and digital), at all events and in a newsletter.
<b>Blueprint ARK-itects</b>	\$50,000 - \$99,999	Name on Ark wall plus small room naming opportunity. Listed in campaign materials (print and digital), at all events and in a newsletter.
<b>Foundation ARK-itects</b>	\$25,000 - \$49,999	Name on Ark wall. Listed in campaign materials (print and digital) and in a newsletter.
<b>Framework ARK-itects</b>	\$10,000 - \$24,999	Name on Ark wall. Listed in campaign materials (print) and in a newsletter.
<b>Builder ARK-itects</b>	\$5,000 - \$9,999	Name on Ark wall. Listed in campaign materials (print).
<b>Friend of the Ark</b>	\$1,000 - \$4,999	Name on plaque. Listed in campaign materials (print).
<b>Ark Helpers</b>	\$25-\$999	Listed in campaign materials (printed).

*\*Recognition in marketing materials will run in 2026.*





## Capital Campaign

# Pledge Form

Come aboard the Ark and make an impact for today and for years to come!

I/We are pleased to join Friendship Ark in securing a strong future.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount of my/our gift \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Investment Level

☐ Legacy ARK-itect (\$250,000- \$500,000 and above)

☐ Master ARK-itect (\$100,000-\$249,999)

☐ Blueprint ARK-itect (\$50,000-\$99,999)

☐ Foundation ARK-itect (\$25,000-\$49,999)

☐ Framework ARK-itect (\$10,000-\$24,999)

☐ Builder ARK-itect (\$5,000-\$9,999)

☐ Friend of the Ark (\$1,000-\$4,999)

☐ Ark Helper (\$25-\$999)

## Pledge

☐ One time gift on or before \_\_\_\_\_ (date)

☐ Pledge to be contributed over \_\_\_\_\_ years (up to five).

Pledge payments will be made in (please check frequency and fill in dollar amount):

\_\_\_\_ Monthly \_\_\_\_ Quarterly \_\_\_\_ Semi Annual or \_\_\_\_ Annual

installments of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per payment.

☐ I/We ask our gift to be anonymous.

My/our gift should be invoiced to the following email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**We accept check, credit, ACH and distributions through DAF Accounts.  
(Checks can be made payable to Friendship Ark, Inc.)**

For electronic payments scan the QR code  
or visit our website at [friendshipark.org](http://friendshipark.org).



\*If you would like to give as a business, please email us at [friendshipark@friendshipark.org](mailto:friendshipark@friendshipark.org)  
and we can send you specific information regarding business partnerships.



Capital Campaign

Thank you for  
your support.

Friendship Ark, Inc.  
5820 Lincoln Way, Suite 101, Ames, IA 50014