



We see
We support
We encourage

ABILITY

Friendship Ark staff have the opportunity to help our core members take brave steps toward greater independence each and every day.

We celebrate all of the small and big successes our core members achieve throughout the year, but every once in a while our staff get to be a special blessing at a particularly important time in a core member's life. We experienced such a time in June of this year, when through patience and persistence, we were able to make it possible for a core member to attend, and even enjoy, his sister's wedding.

When you give to Friendship Ark, you help us be there to teach and encourage our core members to reach their full potential.



It is often uncomfortable and scary for core members to enter a new situation and be surrounded by crowds of people. So in preparation for the big day, core member Tay's family had worked with him by reading social stories and giving advance notice of the upcoming event. When the time came, however, Tay decided he was not ready to exit the van he had come in to enter the church.

Friendship Ark staff made two trips out of town to try to convince Tay that it was safe to get out of the van, but to no avail. The bride (his sister) was devastated that he was going to miss her big day.

As the wedding festivities proceeded, family members were brain-storming ideas to try to come up with the best approach to helping Tay become a part of the celebration. There was going to be a party bus, and there was a chance that he might get on the bus with the bridal party. Tay's parents contacted the Friendship Ark home where he resides and staff prepared him for their arrival. His parents showed him pictures of party buses and he was excited to get dressed and take off with them.

This time he jumped out of the vehicle and climbed onto the bus with his sister, Savana, and her new husband amidst cheers from the entire wedding party. They pumped up the music and the lights and Savana danced with him. Then Savana received a gift she had been hoping to receive all of her life, a photo of her in her wedding dress with both of her brothers in tuxes by her side.

When the bus arrived back at the event venue, Tay lumbered down the steps and walked into the reception where 220 of the bride and groom's closest friends and family were seated and waiting for the bridal party. A cheer went up for him when he entered, and he went right to his reserved seat, happily taking it all in, eating dinner and high-fiving people.



In the words of Tay's family: "Because Friendship Ark staff was willing to keep trying, visible disappointment turned into one of the most perfect days in our family's life. We cannot begin to thank staff enough for giving us this wonderful gift. On this weekend, Friendship Ark staff went above and beyond to create a small miracle that will be remembered forever. Thank you for helping us work through the limitations Tay puts on himself to show him and others the blessings and beauty of life and love."

The core members grow and discover new skills as they pursue their goals while they are in our care. We love walking beside them as they take the next steps on their journey to greater independence. It is our mission to celebrate the uniqueness of adults with intellectual disabilities and to help them reach their fullest potential through faith, family and friendship.

We would like to invite you to partner with us in helping the core members we serve. Your donation will ensure that we will continue to be here to see, to support, and to encourage ABILITY for our core members. Thank you for being a friend of Friendship Ark.

WAYS TO GIVE

- Donate online at www.friendshipark.org.
- Donate your spare change through the RoundUp App. You can find a link to this on our website at www.friendshipark.org.
- Host a Social Media Fundraiser. Find us on Facebook at Friendship Ark Homes and Community Services.
- Mail in your donation by completing the form below.
- Donate stocks/mutual funds, an IRA, or Charitable Gift Annuity. Contact us for more information.
- Include us in your Estate Plans and let us know by completing the form below.



I want to partner with Friendship Ark in supporting the ABILITIES of adults with intellectual disabilities with my gift of:

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 Other Amount: _____

Please let us know:

I have included FAHCS in my will/estate plan.

I would like more information about including FAHCS in my will/estate plan.

Name: _____ Email: _____

Mail to: Friendship Ark Homes and Community Services
130 S. Sheldon Avenue, Suite 203, Ames, IA 50014