

Friendship  
Home

2020 Annual Report

Empowering freedom from domestic violence



“ I am so grateful for Friendship Home. They were there for me when I had nowhere else to turn.”

Domestic Violence Survivor

## Dear Friends,

Zoe's bruises were so painful we had to find special clothing for her to wear. She called for shelter last September, after her batterer beat her so badly that she was left with dark bruises from head to toe. Her voice on the line was hesitant, wondering if Friendship Home could offer safe shelter to her and her three children amid the pandemic raging in our community. She was relieved to find that we had a cozy apartment—one of our Single Family Shelters—available for the four of them. We were hope she could feel in a very dark time.

In so many ways, the pandemic rocked the very foundations of our lives in 2020. But the fundamentals of Friendship Home's services remained bedrock. As always, we listened. We responded with compassion. We sheltered, supported, and empowered. As always, we adapted our services to respond to each victim's individual needs. In Zoe's case, we equipped her apartment with a workstation and tablet so she could work remotely. We delivered supplies and groceries and provided supportive services by telephone to both mother and children.

Focused on empowering survivors to achieve safety and freedom from violence, Friendship Home served 1,445 people last year, nearly half of them children. It was your concern and support that made that possible. The safety you offered, when things were at their worst, allowed women and children to reclaim their lives and their futures.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amy', with a stylized, flowing script.

Amy Evans, Executive Director



Friendship Home's vision is that someday the need for our services will cease to exist, that domestic violence will not be tolerated by any in the community, and that all homes will be places of love, support and safety.

Friendship Home exists to support, shelter and advocate for victims of domestic violence, and their children.

“Friendship Home provided a chance for me to change my family's life when things were at their worst.”

Domestic Violence Survivor



# Empowering Freedom from Domestic Violence



## Crisis Services

Friendship Home's crisis services offer caring protection from domestic violence - safety planning, case management, advocacy, crisis counseling, access to medical and behavioral health services, financial aid, short-term mental health services, and support groups.

24-HOUR SHELTER CRISIS LINE: 402-437-9302



## Emergency Shelter

Friendship Home provides safe, secure, and confidential shelter options for victims and their children when their risk of violence is at its greatest. Trauma-informed shelter options include communal shelter and single-family apartments. During a shelter stay, advocates and case managers work alongside victims to support and empower them to reach their goals.



## Transitional Housing

Through this program, survivors focus on economic literacy, learning to track expenses, budget and credit building. Our transitional shelter curriculum offers other practical tools, such as preparing nutritious meals on a limited budget and coping with stress as a single parent. Survivors have the support they need to find a job or obtain job training, locate childcare, and secure permanent housing.



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The COVID-19 pandemic has created additional stress for all of us. In too many families, however, that additional stress has made an unsafe situation for a woman and her children even worse.

No part of our community is immune from this. Domestic violence happens in large homes and rented apartments, regardless of which religious holidays are on the calendar, or which language is spoken at the dinner table.

Friendship Home works across our community, in partnership with our police department and other local agencies, to provide crisis services, emergency shelter and transitional housing.

This important work empowers women and children when they feel most vulnerable; giving them the support they need to rebuild their lives.”

Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird



## 2020 Accomplishments

- Opened 2 additional transitional housing units, increasing capacity from 13 to 15 families at any given time.
- Began providing in-house protection order services to streamline the process and lessen trauma for victims needing protection from their abuser.
- Added workstations to all of our shelters, including desks, chairs, tablets, and wireless service so families in shelter were able to safely work and study remotely when needed.
- Served an additional 15 families per day in collaboration with Family Service's new InResponse Rapid ReHousing Project. Friendship Home's case management and supportive services for families who were homeless due to domestic violence helped to maximize their safety and success while securing housing and employment.

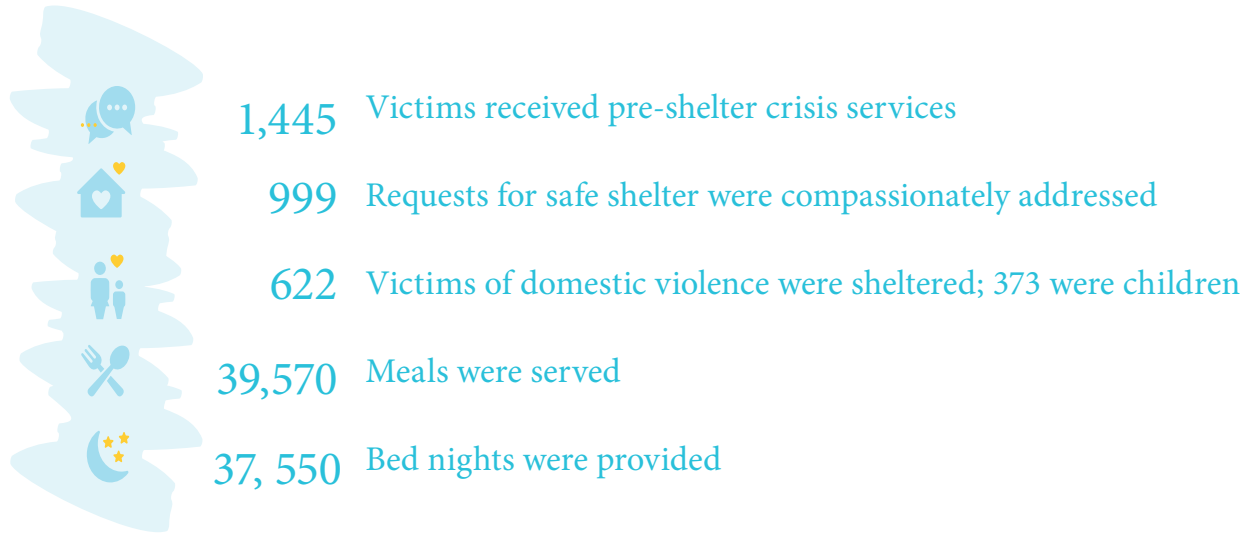
Our life-saving services empower survivors to find freedom from domestic violence. We are honored to be a part of their journeys and humbled by their courage. Little miracles happen within our walls every day!

Everyone deserves to be safe in their home and their community. Friendship Home advocates for all homes to be places of love and support and commits to addressing hate, eliminating oppression and working toward an equitable world.





# Lives You Have Touched



In 2020, Friendship Home served nearly 1500 survivors of domestic abuse. With counseling services, safe shelter, strengths-based goal setting, and ground-breaking health navigation services - we offered healing and restoration for the whole person.

Note: Numbers represent services provided January through December 2020



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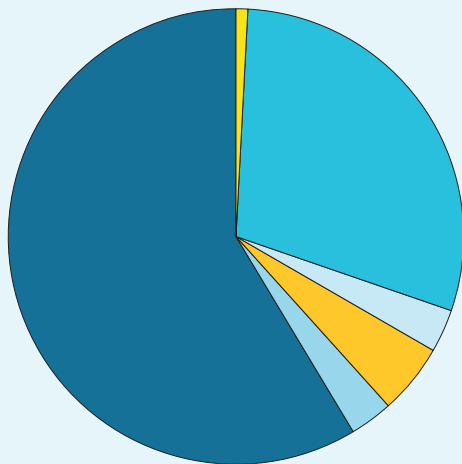
Friendship Home does so much more than provide safe shelter for victims of domestic violence. Our caring Advocates and Case Managers transform lives by providing hope, rebuilding confidence, and providing necessary resources to rebuild lives that are free from fear.

Friendship Home staff work tirelessly with law enforcement, state and local government and community partners to build bridges for victims. These bridges help them find the firm footing they need to move out of violence. It is an organization filled with staff and board members who have a passion to serve and who, along with our generous donors, are committed to making sure everyone in Lancaster County is aware of the services we offer. I am proud to support Friendship Home as we provide safety and hope to Lincoln's most vulnerable. ”

Crystal Wichita,  
Friendship Home Board President

## Friendship Home 2020 Income Sources

Total Budget = \$3,489,491



- 58% Grants & Government Support
- 29% Donations & Special Events
- 5% City of Lincoln
- 3% State of Nebraska
- 3% United Way
- 1% Other Income

## Money Matters

In 2020, 58% of our income came from Grants and Government support, and 30% from Donations and Special Events. The remaining 22% was provided by the United Way, the City of Lincoln, the State of Nebraska.

Friendship Home is one of only three local charities in Lincoln to receive Charity Navigator's highest rating of four stars - for five consecutive years! Charity Navigator is the nation's largest and most utilized evaluator of charitable organizations. This four-star rating indicates how efficiently we use financial support, how well we have sustained our programs and services over time, and our level of commitment to good governance and transparency.



# 2020 Board of Directors

Kirk “Joe” Adams

Kris Baack

Brady Bauer

Tera Beermann

Sharon Cirone

Brad Ewerth

Becky Ferguson

Matt Ferris

Debbie Gaspard

Mary Jo Gillespie

Kathy Griesel

Susan Martin

Jill Miller

Michon Morrow

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Darcie Ross

Cecilia “Sissy” Ruley

Marcella Sanchez-Nelsen

Brock Shelton

Krystal Siebrandt

Erin Soper

Wade Walkenhorst

Crystal Wichita

Lincoln Zehr



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[FriendshipHome.org](http://FriendshipHome.org)