



Friendship Home



THE JOURNEY

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Looking Back with Gratitude

Didn't we all begin 2021 believing that "it" was over? That we could go back to our old normal. So, we thought! As we transition into another year of dealing with an unpredictable pandemic, we are counting our blessings! Non-profit organizations across the country have had to adjust their operations to accommodate a fluctuating level of risk. The "virtual" meeting became the norm. In a business where it is critical to connect with your supporters – this was not an ideal situation! In the Domestic Violence arena, we know that the pandemic is driving a spike in violence. Friendship Home is dedicated to providing safe shelter, emotional support, and access to resources and services including legal, transportation, and so much more. We must double down on security and safety planning.

We are **grateful** for the individuals, local businesses and foundations that helped us maintain the services needed and keep our doors open for those fleeing a violent home. The "virtual" events that we held last year, were not as personal as we would have had. As we plan for the year ahead, we are hopeful to be able to get back to "live" events. We need to see faces, talk to our friends, and celebrate the work that we are doing together. **Thank you for being a trusted Friend.**

Empowering freedom from domestic violence

From the Executive Director

Has it really been 35 years since that warm June evening when I walked up the driveway for my first shift as an overnight advocate at Friendship Home? Yes, it has! And it's time to retire! **At the beginning of 2022, I made the difficult decision to take a step back from my duties as Executive Director before fully retiring on March 30 of this year.**

I am grateful for the opportunity to work with courageous women determined to establish a life free from violence. There are committed staff, volunteers, and board members who have become precious friends, and a compassionate community that has rallied around our mission. It has been the opportunity of a lifetime to partner with them to grow Friendship Home from a small shelter with space for just six families to a network of shelters throughout the city with safe space for 51 families at any given time.

But the profound effect of our work over these 35 years is not counted in the number of shelter beds or programs. It is counted in changed lives: a little girl who can concentrate in school rather than worrying about what is happening to Mom at home; a little boy who sleeps securely at night and grows up to be a loving partner and father; a woman who, for the first time, has the ability to see her full potential.

I think of these changed lives times a thousand ... two thousand ... three thousand — all rippling into the future of our community in ways we may never fully imagine.

I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to work with the many people who have made Friendship Home what it is today. I will treasure you always!

Amy Evans
Executive Director, Emeritus



Letter from the Board President

Dear friends and partners,

As President of the Board for Friendship Home, it is with deep gratitude that we wish our outgoing Executive Director, Amy Evans, a well-earned and peace filled retirement. Amy's 35-year tenure with Friendship Home has been nothing short of transformational. Her compassion for the mission, ability to forge strong partnerships and strategic skill has expanded the capacity, footprint, and impact of the organization in an extraordinary way.

As we look forward to our next chapter, we are proud to offer our new leader a highly experienced staff team, and a deeply committed board of directors who will work shoulder to shoulder with them to continue this critical work. They will inherit a strong, innovative, and well-respected organization that continues to offer ground-breaking services, and empower thousands of survivors in our community to rebuild lives free from fear and violence.

We are well poised to continue to play a significant role in creating a community that continues to invoke social good, free from oppression and creating equity for all citizens.



Kathy Greisel
Board President 2022
Friendship Home

Follow us for updates on upcoming events and volunteer opportunities!

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Stuff the Bus

Friendship Home is excited to be partnering with Star Tran and Alpha Media for the 23rd annual "Stuff the Bus Campaign." Together with the Lincoln community, this event fills our shelves at Friendship Home with everyday items our residents and their children need to rebuild their lives and empower freedom from domestic violence. **Many of these families enter through Friendship Home's shelter doors with no more than the clothes on their backs. Stuff the Bus is critical to support their needs as they begin this journey.**

Please join us on Saturday, April 30 and/or Sunday, May 1 at the local Walmart and Sam's Clubs location to provide items to support Friendship Home or by volunteering just a short time to help us "stuff the bus." There are volunteer opportunities for families, individuals, and organizations, and we cannot do it without your support.

For more information or to become part of this event, contact Dani at danib@friendshiphome.org or call 402-434-0167.

Thank you!

Are you an online donor?

If yes, we encourage you to use Friendship Home's secure website, www.friendshiphome.org. Donations come directly to Friendship Home and we all benefit from lower processing fees. **Thank You!**



Holiday Thank You

Thank you to all our supporters who made the holidays a special time for the families that are rebuilding their lives from domestic violence with Friendship Home. With the support of our community, 30 families, 124 individuals, received gifts and holiday meals that brightened their season. From dolls and trucks to vacuums and gas cards, Friendship Home families were able to continue their journey of freedom from domestic violence while receiving simple items to help make the holidays a bit better. We are truly grateful for the tremendous support from individuals, families, and organizations in Lancaster County. **The generosity that we see during the holidays is a reminder that our community is committed to caring for others and supporting Friendship Home to be a hand to hold for those individuals fleeing domestic violence.**

Volunteers Emily Kent and Debbie Portnoy with the tree they decorated for Friendship Home at Heritage League's Holiday of Trees in December 2021.



REGA Engineering Communities Spotlight

Friendship Home is grateful for supporters like REGA Engineering Group! REGA Engineering Group President, Dan Rosenthal, first heard about Friendship Home back in 2016 from a former Friendship Home board member, and the mission really struck him as something REGA is passionate about.

REGA
ENGINEERING
GROUP, INC.

Dan said, "Growing up I was blessed to be in a loving family, but I had friends that were not as

fortunate, and it hurt my heart to know we all do not live in a make-believe world. Additionally, I have been involved in other outreach projects and to see firsthand the true need made me want to get involved."

REGA is a strong-valued, employee-owned, Midwest based consulting firm built by utilizing current technology, client interaction, and professional development. **We are incredibly thankful for the generosity we have received from REGA.** They have supported our Safe Quarters event as a sponsor, gave to our Sponsored Families holiday drive to make sure families at Friendship Home were well served, and attended Friendship Home informational tours. This past fall they hosted our community outreach coordinator, Nichole, at their offices to talk to staff about the need for Friendship Home's services and what they can do as individuals to help our neighbors.

Thank you to REGA for all you do for Friendship Home and our community!



Lives You Have Touched

January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021



1,359

Victims received shelter
and/or crisis services



907

Victims and their
children requested
safe shelter



609

Victims of domestic
violence were sheltered
(**214** adults &
395 dependents)



40,309

Bed nights



42,975

Meals were provided

A sincere thank you to our recent contributors for your generosity. To maintain a level of commitment to being cost-effective, the donor lists are now published online at www.friendshiphome.org.

Partner Spotlight: Allstate



Allstate

You're in good hands.

For the past five years, the relationship between Friendship Home and Allstate has evolved, now being stronger than ever. The leadership team at Allstate understands that domestic abuse can happen to anyone in our community and has created educational opportunities for their team to learn more.

They have not only contributed financial support, but they have also donated volunteer time and helped to spread awareness about domestic violence and the resources Friendship Home has available for our most vulnerable neighbors.

Mary Nelson, Vice President of Life and Retirement for Allstate explains, "We have a commitment to our team and our community to make sure that every victim is aware that they are not alone, and that Friendship Home is there to help them navigate times of crisis. Every victim of domestic violence has their own unique story. The staff at Friendship Home works alongside each person served to determine the support services needed to help them find safe shelter and community resources."

Thank you so much to the team at Allstate for their continued support of the families that we serve as they rebuild their lives free from violence and fear.



Friendship Home

Our Mission

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

Board of Directors

Kirk "Joe" Adams	Debbie Gaspard	Amy Mosser
Kris Baack	Lori Geist	Mary Nelson
Joel Bacon	Kathy Griesel	Cecilia "Sissy" Ruley
Brady Bauer	Marcy Haas	Marcella Sanchez-Nelsen
Tera Beermann	Perry Haralson	Denny Van Horn
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Becky Ferguson	Michon Morrow	

Remember Friendship Home

Each gift will allow us to help **every** person who comes to us for safety. Become a True Friend by giving a convenient monthly gift. **To learn more, contact Meredith Seaman, Development Director, at 402.434.6599.**

This newsletter is published three times annually by

Friendship Home

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402.434.6353

24-Hour Crisis Line: **402.437.9302** • In-Kind Donation Line: **402.437.9301**

