

LIVES *You* HAVE TOUCHED

**2018** ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT



Friendship Home's mission is to support, shelter and advocate for victims of domestic violence and their children.

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

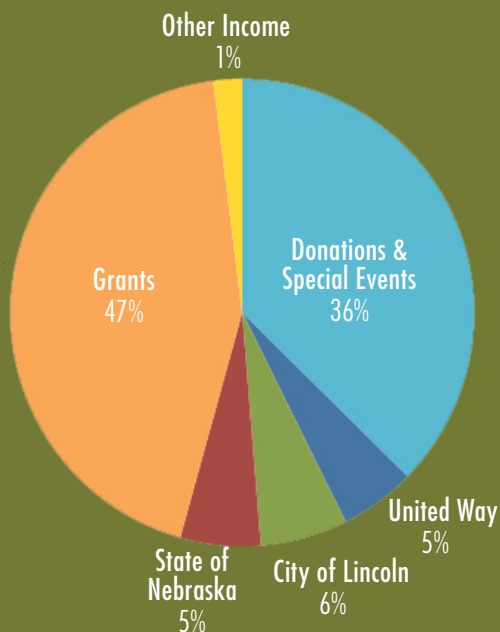
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*"I am proud to serve on the Board for Friendship Home. Our partners, donors, and volunteers help Friendship Home change lives in our community every single day. While it is heartbreaking to know the need for shelter exists, it is heartwarming to realize the number of people in our community willing to volunteer their time and give so generously to make a real difference."*

– Debbie Gaspard  
Friendship Home Board President

## 2018 FUNDING SOURCES

TOTAL BUDGET = \$2,788,830



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Last New Year's Eve, on a frigid driveway in Lincoln, a young mother lay dying of multiple stab wounds. Dijah Ybarra had just told her boyfriend she didn't love him anymore and wanted to end their relationship. He pulled out a steak knife, stabbed the mother of his two young children more than 15 times and left her to die.

When I look back at domestic violence homicides in Lincoln the last few years, Dijah's story is all too familiar. The abuser is usually male and the victim female. The victim is trying to end the relationship. And small children are in the home.

Dijah's story is heartbreaking, an example of how lethal batterers can be and just how dangerous it can be for victims to leave the relationship. It serves as a powerful reminder that children are also victims of domestic violence. In fact, over 60% of those we served in shelter last year were children. Their stories, often told with a crayon and paper, are enough to bring even the flintiest to tears.

For the past 40 years, Friendship Home has offered families in Lincoln the safety and support they need to rebuild their lives, free from violence. This has only been possible because of YOU: a caring community that generously gives both time and resources.

Thanks to YOU, Friendship Home will continue to be there for families. Because every woman and every child deserves to feel safe at home.

Amy Evans

## 2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Implemented a new *Housing First Project* adding 8 additional housing units.
- Developed an evidence-based Lethality Questionnaire designed to improve victim safety.
- Offered a new eight-week psycho-educational support group focused on healing from trauma and creating non-violent, positive relationships, developed by Friendship Home's Licensed Mental Health Professional.
- A 2018 survey of women in shelter revealed 92% had better knowledge of community resources and 86% said they knew more ways to plan for safety (exceeding the federal benchmark of 65%).

# LIVES YOU HAVE TOUCHED

As we look at our statistics from the past year, we are struck by how vital our services continue to be for our community. For over 40 years Friendship Home - with your help - has been saving lives. While we dream of a day when our services are no longer needed, we count it a privilege to still be here providing safe futures for adults and children.

Over 1,500 victims of domestic violence were provided with supportive services and/or shelter when they fled from their abusive partner.

28,190 safe bed nights were provided for victims of domestic violence.

On average, we sheltered 120 women and children every day.

Over 63% of those sheltered were children.

1,177 victims received pre-shelter services, such as safety planning, counseling and strategizing next steps while waiting for safe shelter.

Friendship Home maintained 35 facilities where we provided vital services and resources for victims we served (1 communal shelter, 12 single family shelter apartments, 13 transitional apartments, 8 Housing First apartments and a service center.)

1,801 volunteers gave 12,092 hours of their time to support Friendship Home's programs and services.

## LIVES REBUILT



“His first promise was that if I ever whispered a word of anything to anybody, he would kill me. His second promise was that if I ever tried to leave him, he would take the children so far I would never see them again. When I first visited with advocates at Friendship Home, I felt their compassion, caring and understanding. I finally felt safe. I couldn't remember the last time I had felt safe.” - Anna, a domestic violence survivor

## FROM OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

*“Domestic violence is the leading cause of homelessness among the families I work with at Lincoln Public Schools. From shelter to case management and advocacy, the wraparound approach at Friendship Home centers around the survivor and meets families where they are. Friendship Home is a vital partner in determining successful outcomes for families and children seeking safety and a new beginning. Our community is a safer place, thanks to the work that they do.”*

- Ellen Reilly  
Homeless Outreach  
Lincoln Public Schools

*“The Lincoln Police Department can't fix domestic violence. We are often a temporary solution. We depend on human services agencies to support victims and their children and Friendship Home is one of our critical partners. I respect, admire and support Friendship Home not just as a police officer but as a member of this community, as a wife, as a mother, and as a woman.”*

- Captain Michon Morrow  
Lincoln Police Department  
Friendship Home Board of Directors

*“A remarkable partnership with Friendship Home and the Lincoln Housing Authority began 28 years ago - based on our mutual goal of providing victims of domestic violence access to a safe home. Together we've had more impact, meeting the needs of victims, than either of us could have had on our own. Friendship Home is a crucial community partner in caring for some of our most vulnerable citizens.”*

- Chris Lamberty  
Executive Director  
Lincoln Housing Authority

# SAFE SHELTER AND *so much more...*

- Emergency shelter in a communal shelter or individual family apartments.
- Longer term Transitional Shelter apartments and Housing First apartments.
- 24-hour Shelter Crisis Line: **402-437-9302**
- Pre-Shelter Program with services including safety planning and counseling.
- Provision of basic needs - food, clothing and personal care items.
- Safety planning and crisis counseling.
- Case Management to gain housing, education and employment.
- Strength-Centered Advocacy for victims and children.
- Direct financial aid to help with rent, deposits gas, medications, etc.
- Short-term mental health and substance abuse counseling.
- Support groups for adults and children.
- Economic Empowerment classes.
- Health Navigator to connect families to medical resources.
- Ongoing post-shelter support.

## OUR MISSION

For 40 years, Friendship Home has provided safe shelter and comprehensive services to victims of domestic violence and their children. Your support empowers the families we serve to build new lives free from violence and fear.



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.

**Friendship Home is one of only six charities in Lincoln to receive Charity Navigator's highest rating of four stars.**



PO BOX 85358 | LINCOLN, NE 68501

DONATION LINE: 402-434-0168

24-HOUR CRISIS LINE: 402-437-9302

[WWW.FRIENDSHIPHOME.ORG](http://WWW.FRIENDSHIPHOME.ORG)

