

Friendship
Home

2019 Annual Report

Empowering freedom from domestic violence



“ I would recommend Friendship Home to others because they can take in a battered woman and give her back trust, faith and security.”

Domestic Violence Survivor

Dear Friends,

As Michael's fingers closed around her windpipe on that bitterly cold day in 2019, Ashley wondered if she would die. She'd stayed with her husband as his abuse escalated over seven years, determined to keep her family together and hoping that Michael would change. But that day transformed everything. Along with her two boys, Jake and Liam, Ashley found shelter at Friendship Home and the support she needed to rebuild their lives.

The 465 shelter beds we provided to Ashley's family in 2019 were part of a record-setting year at Friendship Home. In total, we provided 43,267 shelter beds in 2019, an increase of nearly 54% over 2018. But what exactly IS a shelter bed? Strictly speaking, a shelter bed is one night of safe shelter for one person. For Ashley and her boys, it is so much more.

Each night—and day—of shelter at Friendship Home comes equipped with an array of individualized services designed to help victims find safety and use their own, innate strengths to rebuild their lives. Thanks to your generosity, Friendship Home provided lethality assessment and safety planning, advocacy and case management services, counseling and support groups, financial aid and economic literacy classes, parenting assistance and children's advocacy to Ashley, Jake and Liam, and so many others like them. Thanks to your support, Friendship Home was there for them when things were at their worst. **We were hope they could feel.**

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amy', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Amy Evans, *Executive Director*

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

“ *I want my mom to be safe.*”

Child of a family at Friendship Home



Empowering Freedom from Domestic Violence



Crisis Services

Advocacy and support are available to victims of domestic violence 24 hours a day through Friendship Home's shelter crisis line. Friendship Home staff provide emotional support, referrals, case management, assistance applying for community resources, and ongoing safety planning tailored to each survivor.

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



Emergency Shelter

At Friendship Home, we understand that leaving may not end an abusive partner's violence. In fact, the batterer often escalates the abuse when a victim attempts to leave. Friendship Home provides safe, secure, and confidential shelter options for victims and their children at this critical moment.



Transitional Housing

Friendship Home offers an array of transitional housing options using apartments across the community. This program supports victims as they rebuild their lives and move toward self-sufficiency.



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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



2019 Accomplishments

- ◆ *Increased Transitional Housing bed nights by 73%, from 9,763 in 2018 to 16,862 in 2019.*
- ◆ *Ninety-four percent of families served in our Transitional Housing Program exited to housing that was independent of their abuser.*
- ◆ *Implemented a pilot project to serve Middle Eastern victims of domestic violence in Lincoln.*
- ◆ *Completed a 15-month project with the Nebraska Brain Injury Alliance to screen and assess victims of domestic violence for potential traumatic injuries and help with healing.*
- ◆ *Increased collaboration with the Department of Health and Human Services and the Juvenile Domestic Violence Court to improve safety for victims of domestic violence and their children.*

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A strong community coordinated response is the essential core of quality service for victims of domestic violence.

Lincoln Police Department (LPD) and Victim Assistance value our close relationship with Friendship Home because, together, our coordinated response team is able to help victims assess risk, seek safety and support them through the trauma and violence they are facing in their lives.

We rely on Friendship Home staff and their services to provide victims with opportunities to be empowered; to seek freedom from abuse; to make choices for their own lives and to redefine themselves as survivors.”

Beth McQueen,
Victim Assistance Unit Manager,
Lincoln Police Department



Lives You Have Touched



Note: Numbers represent January through December 2019



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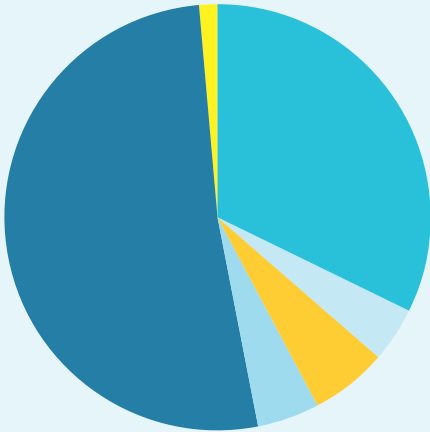
Friendship Home is so much more than just a safe shelter for victims of domestic violence. They provide hope, empowerment and the comprehensive support that helps victims become survivors.

Staff members make it easy for donors, volunteers and board members to come together for a common cause. I am proud to support Friendship Home and to have such an amazing organization in our community to help some of Lincoln's most vulnerable move to a life that is free from violence.”

Matt Ferris,
Friendship Home Board President

Friendship Home 2019 Budget Sources

Total Budget = \$2,978,476



- 52% Grants
- 32% Donations & Special Events
- 6% City of Lincoln
- 5% State of Nebraska
- 4% United Way
- 1% Other Income

Money Matters

In 2019, 15% of our funding was graciously provided by United Way, the City of Lincoln and State of Nebraska. In addition, we were awarded various grants that made up 52% of our revenue. The remaining 33% was generously given by the community, our donors, supporters and sponsors of our special events. Community support is critical to Friendship Home as we work together to empower freedom from domestic violence.

Friendship Home is one of only six charities in Lincoln to receive Charity Navigator's highest rating of four stars – **for the fourth year in a row**. 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

Lindy Mullin

Mary Nelson

Darcie Ross

Cecilia “Sissy” Ruley

Marcella Sanchez-Nelsen

Brock Shelton

Krystal Siebrandt

Erin Soper

Wade Walkenhorst

Crystal Wichita

Lincoln Zehr



Friendship
Home

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402.436.2156

402.437.9302 CRISIS LINE

FriendshipHome.org