



# THE JOURNEY

A Publication of Friendship Home | Winter 2020

## The Gift of Sustainability

Reflecting over the past year, we are so grateful for the foresight and generosity of our donors that provided Friendship Home the ability to care for battered women and their children during the pandemic. We had the security to maintain these services because our donors understood that long term commitments create a bridge to cover unpredictable circumstances.

You can help ensure that women and children in our community have safe shelter, crisis services, and the hope of freedom from domestic violence. Donors can help secure our future by:

- 1 Transferring gifts of stock, appreciated property, or other inflated assets.
- 2 Name Friendship Home as a beneficiary or partial beneficiary of your IRA, life insurance policy, or other financial account.
- 3 Remember Friendship Home in your will or estate plan.

For more information on planned giving, please contact Sande Dirks, Donor Relations, at 402-434-0160 or [Sanded@friendshiphome.org](mailto:Sanded@friendshiphome.org).

## *Empowering freedom from domestic violence*

### Providing Hope for our Youngest Survivors

Darius, six-years-old and curious, turns to Randi, his Children's Advocate at Friendship Home, to help settle his worries as the holiday season approaches. *"Darius worries about everything and everyone,"* says Randi. *"He wants to know if Santa has to wear a mask and how Santa will find them now that they are in shelter. Will his little sister get the doll she wants? Will his Mom receive anything at all?"*

Darius and his four-year-old sister, Toni, have been at Friendship Home with their mom, Dee, for several weeks, ever since his Dad beat Dee so badly that she had to go to the emergency room for her injuries. Sometimes, his Dad's violence was directed at Darius and Toni. Darius confides to Randi that he misses his Dad, but is relieved to feel safe at last and to see that his mom is happier. Children's Advocates work every day to help children like Darius and Toni feel safe and special, and to reduce their isolation while they are rebuilding their lives from domestic violence.

The pandemic has made it difficult, but Children's Advocates have found creative ways to provide a peaceful, supportive environment for children. Randi brought Darius a "baking kit" and he cherishes the time he gets to spend in the kitchen making cookies with his mom and Toni.

Randi recently sat down with Darius to write his holiday wish list and assured him that Santa will know exactly where to find them. His worries are beginning to ease.

**Thanks to you, our donors and supporters, Darius is safe, and is anxiously awaiting Santa's arrival this holiday season, mask and all.**

# From the Executive Director

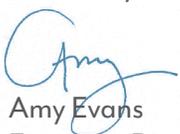
The toddler on the sidewalk in front of me at the mall stopped suddenly and knelt to examine something in his path. As I neared, I realized it was a small leaf turned golden in our beautiful fall. He quivered with pleasure over this treasure then picked it up and turned it over carefully in his hands. Finally ... triumphantly ... he presented it to his mother. She accepted it with reverence, and he tottered on.

A small girl in shelter recently confided that she knows it's going to be a good day when her mother sings in the car with her. Nine-year-old Kayla said she loves spending time cooking with her mother on the weekends. *"She teaches me how to cook, what to cook first, and how to keep the kitchen clean while I cook."* Kayla wants to be a chef someday. Another child talked about snuggling with his mom and sister on the couch and watching movies together.

A glimpse of the world through the eyes of a child is always touching to me. Especially children in shelter.

These are not manufactured Disneyland moments. They don't require wrapping paper or ribbon, batteries or a credit card. They happen when families feel secure and safe. They are meaningful to the families we serve, and I know they are meaningful to you. Because you make them possible. Your support of survivors of domestic violence and their children is transformative to these families and to our community.

Rest assured that there will be wrapping paper and ribbons in our shelters this holiday season. But there will also be many small moments of true peace, joy, and safety. **Because of you! Thank you!**

  
Amy Evans  
Executive Director



## Are you an online donor?

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



## Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Without question, COVID-19 has turned everything upside down for Friendship Home and the women and children we serve in single family shelters. Women are so isolated, they either can't reach out, or they're unsure of what resources we can provide.

Due to the safety of our volunteers, staff, and thousands of team members, we were unable to execute our traditional door-to-door fundraiser known as **Safe Quarters**. As a result, we were compelled to make multiple moves to orchestrate an Awareness Campaign.

Using Domestic Violence Awareness Month, October, as the backdrop, centering the campaign on bringing awareness to domestic violence in our community and the resources available to victims. Through direct mail and partnering with 10/11 News for a 5-part mini-series, we were able to drive more awareness of Friendship Home's services and how we can serve those who need us most.

### A special thank you to our 2020 Awareness Campaign Sponsors:



Assurity  
Capitol Heating & Air Conditioning  
CharterWest Bank Mortgage Center  
DuTeau Chevrolet Subaru  
JFC Financial Services, Inc.  
Legacy Retirement Communities  
Pharmacy Solutions

REGA Engineering Group, Inc.  
Buckingham Strategic Wealth  
HBE LLP  
Pinnacle Bank  
OnToCollege  
Pine Ridge Dental

# Friends of Friendship Home

*We are so grateful to you for giving your time, energy, and resources ... and, above all, your compassion to support those we are serving.*

**1 Local 265 IBEW** — Thank you to **NECA / IBEW Local 265** for selecting Friendship Home as the recipient of their 9th annual Golf Tournament, which raised \$4,700.00. Your donation is helping to provide safe, confidential shelter to victims of domestic violence and their children.

**2 Open Harvest Co-Op Grocery** — During August, **Open Harvest Co-op Grocery** customers rounded up to the nearest dollar amount to checkout and raised \$2,167 for Friendship Home. Thank you to Open Harvest Co-op Grocery's staff and customers for the support empowering freedom from domestic violence.

**3 Comfort Family Chiropractic** — Thank you to the team at Comfort Family Chiropractic for their new client summer promotion and t-shirt sales that raised over \$1,000 for Friendship Home. We appreciate your support and bringing awareness to domestic violence in our community.

**4 Raymond United Methodist Church** — A huge thank you to the members of **Raymond United Methodist Church** for their donation of gift cards valuing \$1,400. Gift cards are used to purchase groceries for the over 120 victims of domestic violence Friendship Home shelters each day.

*We are truly grateful for all of our friends!  
To see a full list of donors please visit [friendshiphome.org](http://friendshiphome.org).*



## Volunteer Spotlight: Debby Portnoy and Emily Kent



(Left to right) Emily Kent, Cheri Parent, Tedd Parent, and Debby Portnoy holding a picture of Tori Parent

Debby Portnoy and Emily Kent serve Friendship Home as Welcome Home Project volunteers and have become an essential part of our team. They make a great pair and together decorated half the rooms at our communal shelter, on top of the numerous apartments they have refreshed and decorated over the years.

Emily recently introduced us to Tedd and Cheri Parent, who helped turn our newest transitional housing unit into a way to honor their daughter, Tori. On April 26, 1993, Tori Parent was born, and was raised in Lincoln. Tori's mother said, "She loved all people, saw the good in all and was very accepting." Tori was a fighter, but on July 26, 2020, at age 25, lost her battle with cancer.

When Emily mentioned to Tedd and Cheri the volunteer work she does with Friendship Home, they thought we would be the perfect place to donate the furniture and furnishings from Tori's apartment. Through the Parent's generous donation and Debby and Emily's styling, they have provided **a safe, comfortable place for a family to begin again — free from domestic violence.**

# Lives You Have Touched

January – September 2020



**29,978**

Bed nights



**29,577**

Meals were provided



**715**

Victims and their children requested safe shelter



**961**

Victims received shelter and/or crisis services



**537**

Victims of domestic violence were sheltered, 322 were children

*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](http://www.friendshiphome.org).*

## Community Partner Spotlight

# Q2

With the challenges of COVID-19 this year, Q2 has held many virtual events to keep team members connected, engaged and giving back to their local communities. One of the events hosted was a Virtual Olympics, where team members across the globe could participate in virtual games, while also raising money for non-profits. The Q2 Lincoln team chose Friendship Home as their featured local non-profit and **raised over \$7,000 to help victims of domestic violence.**



“We know Friendship Home provides a vital safety net for some of our community’s most vulnerable citizens. It was great to see Q2 team members across the organization come together to support Friendship Home’s mission. We employ more than 100 team members in our Haymarket office and more than 1,600 worldwide. We are passionate about building strong and diverse communities by strengthening financial institutions and continuing to serve our communities safely during the pandemic.”

– Bruce Dragoo, Q2 Lincoln

Engagement Lead and Solutions Consultant

*Thank you Q2 for your generous support. We are grateful for your partnership!*



## 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	Cecilia “Sissy” Ruley
Kris Baack	Mary Jo Gillespie	Marcella Sanchez-Nelsen
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### Remember Friendship Home

Please let us know if you’ve included Friendship Home in your will and estate plans. We would like to add you to our Legacy Society. **To learn more, contact Sande Dirks, Donor Relations, at 402.434.0160.**

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**Friendship Home**

P.O. Box 85358, Lincoln, NE 68501-5358  
402.434.0168

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

