



Friendship Home



THE JOURNEY

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Empowering freedom from domestic violence

Save the Date for Safe Quarters!

This year, Friendship Home is celebrating the 20th Anniversary of Safe Quarters on Sunday, October 9th! Safe Quarters is our largest fundraising event of the year, with over a thousand volunteers visiting homes in Lincoln and surrounding area neighborhoods collecting financial contributions and spreading awareness of the life-saving services Friendship Home provides.

The help of the whole community is needed for Safe Quarters to be a success. Your participation will help empower freedom in the lives of domestic violence survivors in our community — and maybe even save a life.



Become a Team Captain

Team captains are a crucial part of Safe Quarters. They are the backbone of the event every year. In our last in-person event in 2019, over 100 team captains led almost 1,400 volunteers throughout our community to raise over \$115,000.

Join us and gather a group of friends, family, co-workers, or neighbors to go door-to-door in a neighborhood of your choosing on Sunday, October 9th. All ages are encouraged to participate. Each team will receive a collection bucket and every volunteer will receive a t-shirt.



Volunteer

Not interested in being a team captain? There is a variety of other opportunities for you to be involved from walking neighborhoods to help with event site set up or tear down.

To register, or for additional information please message us at: safequarters@friendshiphome.org

Safe Shelter



Carly still remembers the first night that she and her twin teenagers, Liam and Olivia, spent in a safe shelter. She had thought many times about leaving the violent home she shared with her partner, Jay, but he was the children's father. She had tolerated his abuse for years to keep the family together. Until the night that Liam had to pull his father off her as Jay wrapped his hands around her throat. She was terrified, and that was the moment that she knew they had to leave.

Carly called the Friendship Home crisis line and talked to an advocate. After talking through some safety planning questions, the advocate told her that they had a place for her immediately, and they would be safe. Carly packed up some belongings while Jay was at work the next day and picked her kids up from school. They never returned to that home.

After completing some paperwork and talking to their case manager, Jan, they were taken to a confidential single-family apartment. Carly was surprised to find a furnished, cozy, three-bedroom apartment that had been stocked with everything they would need. Jan gave her the key and told her she would be in touch soon. Carly breathed a sigh of relief. It felt good to feel safe.

Jan worked alongside Carly, arranging counseling sessions, assisting with applications to community resources, and filing a protection order. **Carly was grateful for the help. That was the day their new life began.**

From the Executive Director A New Day



Introducing Leah Droge, as Friendship Home's new Executive Director! Leah is a native of Pawnee City, NE, and a graduate of Nebraska Wesleyan University, with a Bachelor's in Sociology, and currently working towards a master's degree in Public Administration.

Many of you already know Leah as a tireless advocate for survivors and for all who experience domestic violence. She brings seventeen years of experience at Friendship Home, first as a student Intern, then Children's Advocate and Case Manager, later as Intern and Program Coordinator and most recently as Assistant Program Development Director. In every role she has demonstrated a consistent commitment to transparency, collaboration, and community involvement. Leah is a graduate of Leadership Lincoln, a former instructor at Southeast Community College and in the recent past, Chair of the Lincoln Homeless Coalition. She is a much sought-after presenter for her extensive understanding of the link between intimate partner violence and homelessness.

This is truly a 'new day' filled with endless potential to collaborate and create opportunities that will speak to the formidable challenges that lie ahead. We are eager to support Leah, and excited by the possibilities ahead of us.

Please, join us in welcoming and wishing Leah success in her new role!



Follow us for updates on upcoming events and volunteer opportunities!

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From the Frontlines

Serving a population in crisis can present complex problems that require creative solutions. It means that Friendship Home adapts to the needs of each individual survivor, because there is no template for domestic violence. This has pushed Friendship Home to provide new ways to empower survivors and their families. Friendship Home is the largest provider of confidential safe shelter for victims of domestic violence in Nebraska.

In this new feature column, we will be offering a peek into the "how" of our work. We will reveal everyday decisions and services that we offer. From the "complexities" of housing survivors safely, to assessment of the urgent danger/lethality of each case, to helping survivors find care for physical injuries and getting legal protection for their families.

We first come to know the victims of domestic abuse in a variety of ways ... through a call to our 24-hour crisis line, a referral from the police department, medical facility or from another agency. Sometimes they may be so traumatized that they are not sure what to do next. That's where we can help. The caller's safety takes precedence from the beginning to the end of the call, and beyond. Assessing immediate safety and helping victims plan for their physical safety is a priority for advocates. We help them develop a plan to leave safely and discuss options for next steps. We partner with survivors to understand their priorities and strategize ways to reduce risk and increase connections to safety and stability.

Monthly Giving

Our monthly giving program "True Friends" helps Friendship Home build a consistent base of monthly revenue. This gives us the stability to be able to offer each survivor services that are unique to their circumstance and plan for the future. For more information and to enroll, please go to www.friendshiphome.org and click on How You Can Help!

Thank You to Our Stuff the Bus Sponsors!



Volunteer Spotlight



We are grateful for the generous support we receive from individuals, families, and local organizations. **Because of you** we serve about 180 people every day! Your gifts and service allow us to help those fleeing a violent home find safety. If you would like to volunteer, please call Kelsey at **402-437-9367!**

Partner Spotlight: Lincoln Housing Authority – Beyond Housing

Thirty years ago, Friendship Home and Lincoln Housing Authority forged a partnership to provide transitional housing for survivors of domestic violence in our community. Thirty years later, this partnership is stronger than ever and continues to grow. Lincoln

Housing Authority works with Friendship Home to provide confidential single-family apartments, and Friendship Home uses those apartments to house families fleeing a violent home. “The growth in need has been surprising,” said Susan Tatum, Tenant Services Manager at Lincoln Housing Authority.

LHA currently provides 27 units for Friendship Home with additional units planned. These confidential dwellings provide critical safe space for survivors to breathe, process, feel safe and begin their healing journey. Each family is assigned a Friendship Home Case Manager to help them find the resources that they need to move forward. Our combined intent is to empower each family to build a successful new life that is healing centered and joy-filled. The outcome is beyond just housing. **“This partnership has allowed thousands of families to create a life free from violence”**, said Susan. We are grateful to Lincoln Housing Authority and our entire community for standing with us in this important mission.



Lives You Have Touched

January 1, 2022 – May 31, 2022



722

Survivors received shelter and/or crisis services



378

Survivors and their children requested safe shelter



377

Survivors of domestic violence were sheltered (130 adults & 247 children)



21,935

Bed nights



25,098

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.

The Gift of Sustainability

Non-profit organizations exist to fill niche needs that would not be addressed through for-profit organizations. This work of compassion and care is performed by staff and volunteers from our own community and funded through the generosity of people who care for those in need. Sustainable giving provides stability for these organizations and helps them to plan for their future. We are grateful for our generous partners whose gifts give new life to survivors who have suffered abuse. Long-term commitments and windfall giving 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 a life free from domestic violence. 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 call Angie Hilsabeck, Donor Relations, at **402.436.2156** or angieh@friendshiphome.org.



Friendship Home

Our Mission

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

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Are You an Online Donor?

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



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Friendship Home

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402.434.6353

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

