



THE JOURNEY

A Publication of Friendship Home | Winter 2024

Empowering freedom from domestic violence

Heartfelt Thanks to Our Partners

Friendship Home extends our deepest gratitude to the Asian Community Cultural Center, BraveBe, LPD Victim Assistance, and Voices of Hope for their dedication and collaboration. Your commitment to supporting domestic violence survivors has been instrumental in making a lasting impact. We are also grateful for the leadership of Dr. Toni Jensen and the generous support from Lancaster County Human Services, Woods Charitable Fund, and the Lincoln Community Foundation. Together, you have shown the power of partnership in creating meaningful change for survivors in our community.

We would also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the survivors who generously shared their time and personal experiences to provide invaluable feedback about domestic violence services in our community. Your courage and openness in speaking about your journeys have helped shine a light on the challenges faced and the critical gaps in support services. Your voices are vital in shaping better, more effective services for others who may be in similar situations, and we deeply appreciate your willingness to contribute to this important work.

Support Found at Friendship Home

For over 45 years, Friendship Home has been dedicated to providing essential services to domestic violence survivors and their children. In recent years, we have witnessed a rise in the number of survivors we serve. The need for housing is complicated and impacts all Nebraskans.

Access to emergency shelter and long-term housing options is vital for survivors seeking safety. Friendship Home recognizes this reality and works hard to support survivors in finding safe housing. As part of the Lincoln Homeless Coalition and Continuum of Care, we join with community partners to fulfill an essential role. Over the past decade, we have expanded our services, piloting individualized, trauma-informer single-family shelters, increasing transitional housing, and launching survivor-leased rapid rehousing. The daily number of survivors served at Friendship Home has doubled during this time frame. In 2013, an average of 62 adults and children were sheltered at Friendship Home each night. Last year, we had an average of 128 adults and children staying with us.

Housing is not the only support a survivor needs to leave an abusive partner. A survivor's journey is unique – our systems need to be flexible to truly support survivors who flee violence. Safety planning, financial safety, access to childcare, and much more are needed while finding freedom. We will continue to work alongside community partners as we build pathways to safety and stability across our community.

From the Executive Director

At Friendship Home, our work begins with trust, compassion, and a deep respect for the strength and resilience of the survivors we serve. Every individual who comes through our doors is on a unique journey, navigating the complexities of healing and rebuilding after experiencing domestic violence.

Our approach is built on compassionate collaboration, honoring each survivor's courage. We are here to walk alongside them, offering support, tools, and encouragement as they reclaim their power and independence.

We recognize that survivors know their lives and circumstances better than anyone else. That's why we center their voices and honor their choices, whether they're making decisions about their safety, housing, employment, or healing process. Our role is to provide the resources and space needed to explore options, set goals, and take steps that feel right for them.

Our staff at Friendship Home bring expertise and deep empathy to their work. They meet everyone with respect and an open heart, creating a safe environment where survivors can envision and build the futures they deserve.

This winter, as we reflect on the challenges and triumphs of the past year, we are reminded of the incredible courage of the survivors we work with. We are also grateful for the community behind them—your support makes our work possible.

Thank you for believing in our mission and being part of the journey toward safety and empowerment for so many. Together, we can ensure that survivors are never alone on their path to healing.

Leah Droge

Leah Droge
Executive Director



Friends of Friendship Home

Photos with Anderson

We are so grateful to the **Friends of Friendship Home** for giving their time, energy, resources, and compassion to support those served at Friendship Home.

Photos with Anderson

Thanksgiving was special at Friendship Home this year, thanks to Photos with Anderson and her clients. In a 10-day time frame, she pulled together 12 Thanksgiving Baskets, including all the fixings and recipes on how to make the dishes! Thank you to all the amazing individuals who helped make this possible!

Team Roper & Murphy

For many years, Mitchell Murphy gathered his friends, family, and coworkers to walk his neighborhood on Safe Quarters Sunday. Mitchell is the first team to register every year and works extremely hard to organize every little detail. Thank you for your dedication, Mitchell!

Community Women's Club

We thank Kathy Evans and the Community Women's Club ladies for their dedication and support of Friendship Home. These ladies have spent countless hours volunteering and spreading awareness on behalf of Friendship Home. Most recently, they participated in our Annual Safe Quarters drive through event preparations and knocking on their neighbors doors. Because of wonderful supporters like you, we can continue our work of empowering freedom from domestic violence!

CONNECT WITH US!

Follow us for updates on upcoming events and volunteer opportunities!

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Safe Quarters Thank You

Thank You to Our Sponsors!



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On October 13th, Friendship Home held our 22nd annual Safe Quarters event! Safe Quarters has been a prominent and memorable event in the community, with households collecting spare change and donations all year for Friendship Home. This year, through sponsorships and donations, we raised over \$78,000.00 for survivors of domestic violence!

Safe Quarters truly is a community-wide effort, and the results show how generous our community is in helping to empower freedom from domestic violence. The money raised during Safe Quarters funds housing, daily needs, and crisis services for survivors.

This event has been near and dear to our hearts for many years, and we are forever thankful to Cyn Fitchett, Marcia Roth, and Kathleen Allan for creating Safe Quarters. We are honored to have such great friends who support us and continue to share their time and ideas with us as the years go on. Safe Quarters would not be possible without the support and dedication of our community. Each year, hundreds of volunteers join a team of their family and friends to walk their neighborhood, raising funds and spreading awareness. Thank you for your hard work and dedication!

Honoring Dewey and Marge Harouff

It's difficult to quantify the number of lives impacted by such gracious and humble supporters of Friendship Home over the last 30 years. However, their story of generosity began long before we opened our doors. After graduating from what was then known as Kearney State College, Dewey, and Marge Harouff began their careers as educators with the goal of providing education to other children throughout the State of Nebraska. Tragically, during this tenure, a beloved colleague of Dewey's lost her life to domestic violence, leaving the tragic imprint of trauma on her children and loved ones. Never a pair to shy away from making a difference, Dewey and Marge made a commitment to help provide safety for survivors and their children, understanding that it would make a multi-generational impact on families.

Last November, Marge passed, giving us moments to reflect on her strength, wit, and their legacy. Years ago, Dewey and Marge made a commitment to extend their giving through

their estate to provide safety to survivors and their children. Through these conversations, Dewey agreed to let us honor him and Marge, hoping that their dedication to survivors would encourage others to commit to providing sustainable funding in our community, ensuring resources remain available to those experiencing domestic violence.

In the spirit of the season and their upcoming shared birthday in December, it is our privilege to share a small portion of their story and express our sincere thanks for their compassion and commitment to Friendship Home and all the lives they have touched.

By remembering Friendship Home in your will or estate plan, you can help us empower women and children to live their lives free from violence. [Learn more](#) ▶



Lives You Have Touched

January - November 2024



20,374

services to survivors



13,087

hours from staff

4,500

hours from volunteers

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.

Join Friendship Home's Monthly Giving Program

Everyone deserves a future free from violence. By joining Friendship Home's monthly giving program, you can provide critical support to survivors as they work with advocates to rebuild their lives.

As a monthly donor, your gift is automatically transferred on a date you set, and you can adjust it anytime. No matter the amount, your donation makes a powerful impact. Knowing we can rely on your recurring support allows us to better prepare for survivors who need our services.

Even a small monthly contribution can make a difference. For example, a \$50 donation provides a full day of food, shelter, and blankets for someone in our emergency shelter. Monthly giving is not only the most convenient way to contribute, but it also ensures reliable, sustainable funding all year long—so we can continue offering vital services to survivors in need.



Friendship Home

Empowering freedom from domestic violence

Our Mission

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

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"I love supporting Friendship Home as a member of their monthly giving program. I can give back to my community with ease and without worry! I am proud to say that I make a difference each month for less than a dollar daily."

This newsletter is published three times annually by

Friendship Home

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

