



Friendship Home

2022 Annual Report

Empowering freedom from domestic violence



“Friendship Home gave me hope when I was hopeless, a place to live that’s safe, and the feeling of self-worth when I had none. Without the staff and everything they did for me, I would be dead.”

Former Friendship Home Resident

Dear Friends,

I was standing in shelter when Violet came in to see her advocate, her body racked with sobs. She had just left her work as a caregiver, supporting others all day, only to find out her abuser had defaulted on medical payments and her paycheck had been garnished. Once again, leaving her with nothing. It wasn't the money that had her so devastated but rather how he still managed to find ways to hurt her months after leaving. Violet and her 12-year-old daughter, Jada, had been living in a Transitional Housing shelter for 7 months and they were finally looking forward to moving into their own apartment. Her paycheck being a key to their autonomy.

There is a general belief that life will immediately improve for survivors when they leave their abuser; but more often than not, it is a long and arduous process that has grave risks. Our goal is that every survivor we serve has the opportunity and resources needed to be safe, heal from the trauma they have experienced, and build a foundation for a life that allows them to sleep at night in their OWN bed without fear.

Through coordinated advocacy Violet's case manager was able to reach out to their new landlord, and through Friendship Home's Rapid Rehousing program, she was able to sign her lease and have the resources needed to continue on her journey toward independence. Because of you, Friendship Home has a village of comforting advocates, counseling and individualized services to support brave survivors like Violet and Jada on their journey. Thank you.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leah".

Leah Droge, Executive Director

Mission

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

Vision

It is Friendship Home's vision that someday the need for our services will cease to exist, that domestic violence will not be tolerated by anyone in the community, and that all homes will be places of love, support and safety.



Our Services



Crisis Services

Friendship Home's crisis services offer caring protection from domestic violence - safety planning, case management, advocacy, crisis counseling, access to medical and behavioral health services, financial aid, short-term mental health services, and support groups.

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



Emergency Shelter

Friendship Home provides safe, secure, and confidential shelter options for survivors and their children when their risk of violence is at its greatest. Trauma-informed shelter options include communal shelter and single-family apartments. During a shelter stay, advocates and case managers work alongside survivors to support and empower them to reach their goals.



Transitional Housing

Through this program, survivors focus on economic literacy, learning to track expenses, budget and credit building. Our transitional shelter curriculum offers other practical tools, such as preparing nutritious meals on a limited budget and coping with stress as a single parent. Survivors have the support they need to find a job or obtain job training, locate childcare, and secure permanent housing.

“64% of the clients Friendship Home serves are children who have witnessed domestic violence in some way. All children and youth who live with domestic violence are affected by the experience; they are silent survivors.



There is a common misconception that children forget the violence they experienced and that it will not affect them as they grow older. As a former teacher and administrator with LPS, I have noticed that children who have gone through trauma are good at hiding pain, and instead, the trauma comes through in ways such as misbehavior or acting out in a classroom. Trauma can be hard for educators to address, which is why the Children’s Advocates at Friendship Home are so vital. They are there to walk hand in hand with the children served at Friendship Home, guiding them through this challenging time and ensuring they are cared for.

Friendship Home strives to make sure the children are not forgotten. With designated children’s advocates, each child that enters Friendship Home’s doors is cared for in a trauma-informed way. I am proud to be a part of this organization.”

Denny Van Horn, Friendship Home Board President

2022 Accomplishments

- 95% of those in our rapid re-housing program were able to sustain permanent housing after leaving the program.
- Friendship Home connected with a private landlord to open two additional housing units, increasing our capacity to 19 transitional units. The new apartments are named “Kay’s Korner” in honor of long-time Friendship Home employee, Kay Mathews.
- Upon leaving our emergency shelter, 92% of the survivors surveyed feel that because of their time in shelter, they know more ways to plan for their safety.



“The Lincoln Public Schools safety team routinely collaborates with Friendship Home to keep domestic violence survivors and their children safe. LPS is a member of the Lincoln Threat Advisory Team along with Friendship Home and this multidisciplinary approach to victim safety enables effective ways to address the dangers presented when DV intersects with the public school system. Our LPS team uses threat assessment to evaluate the level of risk in cases, and Friendship Home staff are fluent in the language and concepts of threat assessment. This creates more safety in our schools and in the community.”

Jon Sundermeier, Lincoln Public Schools Threat Assessment Team



Lives You Have Touched



1,554 Survivors received shelter and/or crisis services

914 Requests for safe shelter were compassionately addressed

648 Survivors of domestic violence were sheltered; 395 were children

51,552 Meals were served

44,017 Bed nights were provided

In 2022, Friendship Home served nearly 1,600 survivors of domestic abuse. 64% of those sheltered are children. With counseling services, safe shelter, strengths-based goal setting, and ground-breaking health navigation services - we offered healing and restoration for the whole person.

Numbers represent services provided January through December 2022



“Friendship Home gave me everything I needed to restart my life. They helped me get the financial help I needed. Through groups I attended, I got more confidence in myself, enough to get a job and the housing I needed to be on my own. I never thought I could do it and I wouldn’t have been able to without the support, shelter, and services I got from Friendship Home. What they gave me can never be repaid.”

Former Friendship Home Resident

Money Matters

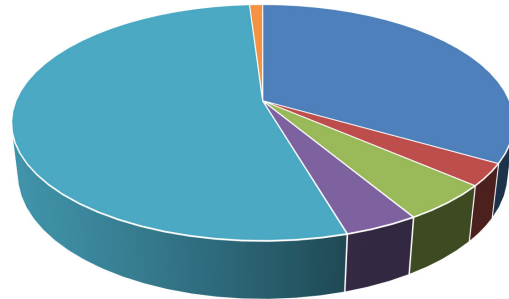
In 2022, 53% of our income came from Grants and Government support and 33% from Donations and Special Events. The remaining 14% was provided by United Way, the City of Lincoln, and the State of Nebraska.

Friendship Home is one of only seven local charities in Lincoln to receive Charity Navigators highest rating of four stars - for seven consecutive years! Charity Navigator is the most trusted evaluator of non profit efficacy in the nation. This means that Friendship Home is an excellent steward of financial support, and has sustained and delivered high quality programs and services for many years. We are committed to good governance and transparency – and trusted to have impactful outcomes.



Friendship Home 2022 Income Sources

Total Budget = \$3,702,311



- 53% Grants & Government Support
- 33% Donations & Special Events
- 5% City of Lincoln
- 4% State of Nebraska
- 3% United Way
- 1% Other Income

Board of Directors

Denny Van Horn

Joel Bacon

Tera Beermann

Marcy Haas

Brady Bauer

Pat Bennett

Brad Ewerth

Matt Ferris

Peggy Friesen

Lori Geist

Kathy Griesel

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Greg Mendoza

Crystal Meyer

Beth Lau

Jill Miller

Michon Morrow

Amy Mosser

Cecilia “Sissy” Ruley

Brock Shelton

Miranda Soulliere

Crystal Wichita



Friendship
Home

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402.434.6353

402.437.9302 **CRISIS LINE**

FriendshipHome.org