



THE JOURNEY

A Publication of Friendship Home | Spring 2024

Empowering freedom from domestic violence

Save the Dates

We have an exciting year ahead of us, filled with multiple opportunities to get involved with Friendship Home and learn more about the services provided. Mark your calendars with the dates below; we hope to see you there!

For more information on the above events, please contact Whitney Wegner at whitneyw@friendshiphome.org or (402) 434-0167.

Join Friendship Home's Monthly Giving Program

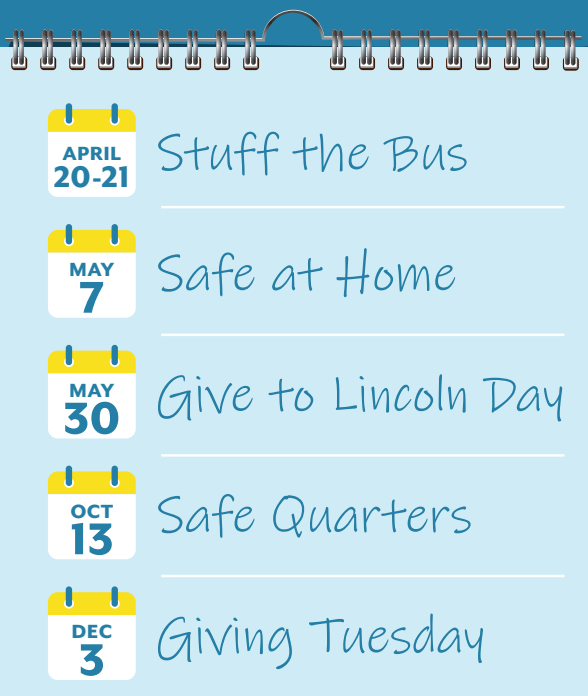
The need for our services is rising. We serve more individuals each year than in previous years, and we don't anticipate a drop in those numbers. Did you know that we served 1,664 survivors and their children in 2023 but still have a daily waiting list of people seeking safe shelter? It is an ever-growing challenge to meet the needs of those we serve. Thankfully, we have friends like you who stand shoulder-to-shoulder with us to help those fleeing domestic violence.

At Friendship Home, our monthly giving program helps provide a predictable stream of resources each month, allowing us to focus on client services and needs. This gives us stability to offer each survivor services unique to their circumstance and help them plan for their future.

Your set monthly gift reminds a survivor staying in one of our shelters that a person is out there dedicated to their journey and safety. Every gift makes a difference, whether \$10.00 or \$100.00; it matters to us and the individual's seeking safety through us.

If you choose to join our monthly giving program, we encourage you to reach out to your employer, as many companies offer a matching gift program where they provide a financial match based on your donation. It's an easy and simple way to double your gift to Friendship Home.

You are a dedicated friend of Friendship Home, and we invite you to consider joining our monthly giving program. For more information on our monthly giving program and how to become a monthly donor, please email dani@friendshiphome.org.



APRIL 20-21	Stuff the Bus
MAY 7	Safe at Home
MAY 30	Give to Lincoln Day
OCT 13	Safe Quarters
DEC 3	Giving Tuesday

From the Executive Director

Safe shelter is one of the most basic needs that we have as human beings. Imagine what life would be like without the comfort of your home. Think for a moment about what makes this need so important to you and those in your family. For most of us, it comes back to safety, comfort, and warmth. You cannot feel emotionally safe if you do not have physical safety.

One of the most significant barriers to leaving an abusive relationship is access to safe, affordable housing. For many survivors, the need for safe shelter is not met, furthering feelings of hurt and fear. Without a safe place to stay, many survivors feel their only option is to stay with their abusive partner.

Friendship Home is shaped by the voices of those who have come through our doors in the past. Over the last few years, we have heard from survivors who have said they need more time to find a home that they can afford for themselves and their children. By listening to survivors, we can adjust how we provide services to serve best those who come to us for help.

Friendship Home is adding seven units to our rapid re-housing program this year, creating 29 total units. Those participating in this program are provided with financial support, case management, and assistance in obtaining benefits. These benefits include connections to health care, daily living services, legal referrals, childcare, and counseling services.

Friendship Home's mission says we provide a continuum of care from emergency shelter to transitional shelter and sometimes after. Knowing that a stay of 6 weeks is not enough time to find employment and safe housing or to heal from the trauma brought on by domestic violence. Because of this input, we have expanded our services to meet the needs of those who have stayed with us.

While we dream of a day when our services are no longer needed, we count it a privilege to be here still providing safe futures for adults and children facing domestic violence. Thank you for being a friend of Friendship Home.

Leah Droge

Leah Droge
Executive Director

Friends of Friendship Home

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.

Amy and Stephanie Ottmann

This past January, braving the frigid temperatures, Stephanie Ottmann and her mom, Amy stationed themselves outside Crete's Walmart, collecting donations for Friendship Home. Stephanie, a girl scout, dedicated her service project this year to support Friendship Home. While collecting donations, they received a variety of items, including but not limited to hairbrushes, feminine hygiene products, toothbrushes, and blankets. Thank you for donating your time and energy to providing these highly needed items!



Talon Room Galentine's Day

Galentine's Day at the Talon Room, hosted by Luxx Events & Rentals, Hannah Johnson, and Amanda Rabe, was held in honor of Friendship Home on February 13th. Donations were raised and love was spread through music, crafts, and photos. We had such a fun time celebrating together! Thank you for holding this event in our honor and supporting our mission.

Hampton Enterprises

Thank you to all our supporters who made the holidays a special time



HAMPTON
ENTERPRISES
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for the families that are rebuilding their lives from domestic violence. We would like to extend a special thank you to Hampton Enterprises for their long time support and for donating our event space this year. Thanks to you, we were able to accept gifts and make the holidays special for those in our shelters. Thank you!

CONNECT WITH US!

Follow us for updates on upcoming events and volunteer opportunities!

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Growth Through Focusing on Strengths

For over 20 years, Friendship Home has been offering the Clifton StrengthsFinder to survivors coming into shelter. The strengths tool, created by the Gallup Organization, allows individuals to identify their strengths and allows advocates a unique way to understand and help them reach their potential.

Strengths-based advocacy has flourished at Friendship Home. For so many survivors, their abusers had taken these same strengths and twisted them into weaknesses. Our advocates work tirelessly with survivors to use their strengths to achieve attainable, short-term goals, gaining a sense of accomplishment as they stretch to meet more complicated goals.

In 2008, Friendship Home's staff extended the StrengthsFinder to children. Intended for kids ages 10-14, it has become instrumental in helping kids see the positive in themselves and others. Since beginning strength-based advocacy, we have seen a change in survivors and their children. Parents and children can develop a deeper connection and understand each other more effectively.

Celebrating 25 years of Stuff the Bus!

Friendship Home, StarTran, and Alpha Media are excited to partner for the 25th Anniversary of Stuff the Bus. Stuff the Bus has been a vital event for Friendship Home for 25 years. We are so grateful to have such supportive partners in StarTran, Alpha Media, and Walmart/Sam's Club stores.

To have a successful event, we need your help! Over the weekend of April 20th and April 21st, there will be multiple 2-hour shifts available for volunteers to assist in passing out needs lists and stuffing the bus. The event is a great, family-friendly opportunity, and we encourage you to sign yourself, your family, your friends, and your coworkers up for a shift!

Donations collected during Stuff the Bus are unloaded directly to Friendship Home's storage shelves. These supplies help assist in keeping our shelves stocked with items we are in high need of, allowing families served at Friendship Home to receive the everyday essential items they need while rebuilding their lives – free from violence.

For more information on how to get involved, contact Whitney Wegner at whitneyw@friendshiphome.org or (402) 434-0167.



Community Spotlight: Scheels

We are so grateful to receive an outpour of support from community members and businesses throughout the year. Friendship Home would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Scheels Lincoln for their incredible generosity and support. Last December, they financially donated to multiple Lincoln agencies. Friendship Home was honored to receive \$10,000!!

Along with their \$10,000 donation, they provided us with a \$750 gift card to buy coats, shoes, and various winter supplies! The generosity of Scheels helped our families served in our shelters stay warm and comforted over the holidays.

Scheels, your contribution will significantly impact our mission to empower freedom from domestic violence. Together, we are making a meaningful impact on those facing violence in our community, and we couldn't be more grateful to have such amazing partners in our mission. Thank you, Scheels, for being a dedicated friend!

SCHEELS®



Lives You Have Touched

January 2023 – December 2023



1,664

Survivors received shelter and/or crisis services



922

Survivors and their children requested safe shelter



529

Survivors of domestic violence were sheltered (227 adults & 302 children)



46,269

Bed nights



49,539

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.

Planned Giving at Friendship Home

At Friendship Home, we are fortunate to have a team that is dedicated to providing efficient and unique ways to donate to our mission, such as planned giving from your retirement account. Planned Giving is a simple, cost-effective way to support Friendship Home and receive tax benefits.

If you are over the age of 70, you can gift up to \$100,000 from your IRA to a qualified charity, like Friendship Home, and avoid income taxes while also counting toward your Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs). A key benefit of planned giving from your IRA is that you can make your charitable donation without incurring any taxes from your distributions.

By donating to Friendship Home through IRA contributions, you can help us empower survivors of domestic violence to live their lives free from domestic violence. Together, we can continue to offer possibilities to help change lives when things are at their worst.

Planned giving is accessible to anyone. Contact Friendship Home's Director of Strategic Partnerships, Angie Hilsabeck, at AngieH@FriendshipHome.org to learn more.

Make an impact today by donating to Friendship Home today.



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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"At Friendship Home, I found safety and solace in my advocate. I had someone to listen to and care for me in a way I didn't know was possible. I am forever thankful to Friendship Home."

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Friendship Home

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

402.434.6353

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

