

Friendship Home

Safe shelter and so much more

A place of trust

Sheri trusted Ron. "I came from a small town. We didn't lock our doors! We trusted people. It was easy to trust Ron, he said all the right things," she told a Friendship Home Advocate.

Her trust in one man turned to uncertainty and fear in a matter of months. Lies. Deceit. Sheri began to uncover things hidden under Ron's rug. Then the yelling started. In her face, spit flying, hands waving, screaming. Insults, accusations, threats, declarations of his own righteousness.

It was time to leave.

When Sheri came to Friendship Home she had only herself, her daughter, a bag full of personal items, and a spark of hope that there was something better out there.

Her credit was ruined; Ron had opened, maxed out, and not paid several accounts in her name. She had no money. Her family was far away. Her spirit was broken. She felt completely alone.



This is the point where you, as a friend and donor, enter Sheri's story. First you promised Sheri she and her daughter would have a safe place to rest, food to eat, skilled people with whom to problem solve.

And then you did more.

When Sheri came to Friendship Home she had only herself, her daughter, a bag full of personal items, and a spark of hope that there was something better out there.

Through Friendship Home's Transitional Housing Program, you gave Sheri time to look for a job. Because of the longtime and valued partnership with the Lincoln Housing Authority, she had an apartment to live in while she saved money for a place of her own. You taught her how to work with creditors through The Allstate Foundation's support of our Economic Empowerment Program to mend Ron's damage. You volunteered your time to model healthy relationships to her daughter at Children's Support Groups. You sent an Advocate to check in on her and make sure everything was okay. You collected items to feather her nest when she moved out on her own.

All of the **MORE** you did ensured Sheri and her daughter did succeed.

Sheri was right to place her trust in you. She and her daughter's lives are stable. From time to time she needs some help; a food basket, a gas voucher, someone to reaffirm her decisions are good ones. With you on her side, she is safe and sound.

safe  quarters

SAVE THE DATE 10.2.11

From the Executive Director

Amy Evans



My first memory is of a summer night. It is my second birthday and my aunt, uncle and cousin Myra have joined our family for the festivities. With the day behind us, we sit on the front porch, enjoying the evening breeze. The adults introduce us to the marvels of twilight. My father points out the fireflies, and I watch, astounded, as they twinkle across our front yard. As night falls, the stars, moon and streetlights all seem equally wondrous to me. The adults chat, and I peer out into the darkness from my spot on the top step, hugging my knees to my chest. The rest of the world looks vast and scary to my two-year-old eyes and I shiver at the deep shadows and strange noises of the night.

What is interesting about this memory is that it is not a recollection of fear. Rather, it is a memory of feeling absolutely secure. Because however dark the night, I **knew** I was safe on that porch with my parents.

I want every child who comes in the door at Friendship Home to know that kind of peace and security. With your help and support, they can.

The child who has grown up dreading the nighttime can know the comfort of a bedtime story, secure in the knowledge that Mom won't be hurt tonight. From the protection of shelter, a child can learn that the normal annoyances of the day—a broken glass, a misplaced pair of shoes—are just that, minor irritations to be dealt with, rather than situations that must escalate into accusation, hostility, and violence. Little girls and boys both can learn that abuse is not the price they have to pay for love.

At Friendship Home, our vision is that children, who have seen and experienced far more than their short years should demand, are able to love, laugh and recapture the childhood that was taken from them too early. With your generous support, they do.

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

In Good Hands



Thanks to a grant from The Allstate Foundation, Friendship Home will continue its work with women to promote Economic Empowerment. Using a curriculum developed by The Allstate Foundation, Staff members provide one-on-one and group counseling to women, helping them achieve economic self-sufficiency. Thank you to The Allstate Foundation!





My adrenaline is pumping. I want to leave. I want to get out of here, but I can't. He has the keys. He won't let me leave. There is no one I can even call for help. He's yelling at me. When I look in his eyes, I don't even recognize the person I'm seeing. He grabs me, pulls my hair, and punches me in the stomach. He's grabbing my arms so hard. I'm trying to get away. He throws me down on the floor and kicks me. I try to protect myself, to fight back, but he's just so much stronger than I am. He straddles me and puts his hands around my throat. Oh my God! I can't breathe! I'm not going to be able to take another breath. This is it... I'm going to die.

This is the situation I found myself in not so long ago. I don't know the reason my husband decided to stop strangling me that night, but I am so grateful he did. If he wouldn't have stopped, I wouldn't be alive today.

After three and a half years of living in an abusive marriage, I finally decided (and had the courage) to leave. January 1st, 2006 was the last time I experienced domestic violence. After leaving him, my son and I stayed with my parents for two months while waiting to get into Friendship Home. We stayed at Friendship Home for four months before being able to get our own place.

Now I look back at my journey. Five years ago, my son and I were homeless. Five years ago, the wonderful people at Friendship Home took us in, encouraged us and built us up. From the first day I stepped foot into Friendship Home, the environment and the staff were positive and encouraging.

Friendship Home gave me the new beginning I needed. They gave me a wonderful gift, the chance of a better life. They gave my son and I more than a roof over our

heads, they gave us hope and safety. They gave us a home where we could live and make new friendships, some we still have today, five years later.



I will always be grateful to Friendship Home for the role they played in my journey to a better future. Because of Friendship Home, my son and I live in a home free from fear of violence and verbal abuse. Because of the new start I was given, I am now a college graduate and am starting graduate school in the fall. Because of Friendship Home, I am now proud to call myself a survivor of domestic violence and am proud to stand up to tell other survivors, "You are not alone!"

Denise told her story at Friendship Home's Heart of the Matter Donor Recognition Luncheon. Honored at the event as Community Partners were Eastridge Presbyterian Church, Lincoln Orthopaedic Center, and Verizon Wireless. Dani Jurgens was recognized as Advocate of the Year.

Help kids keep safe!

New Belgium Brewing Company has donated bikes for the kids in shelter. Help keep them safe by donating locks, helmets, and lights! Donations can be taken to Eastridge Presbyterian Church, 1135 Eastridge Drive.





With caring donors like you, the women and children at Friendship Home had a hope-filled spring! Here are some examples of the creative ways you've helped the women and children at Friendship Home.

Many of you celebrated Easter and Mother's Day with family and friends and your thoughts also turned to the women and children spending their holidays in shelter. **Bouwen's Plumbing** and **Assurity Life Insurance** employees prepared Easter baskets for kids in all of our Emergency and Transitional shelters. **Julie Lemons**, along with members of the **Nebraska Mother's Association**, prepared and donated gift bags for women at Friendship Home. **Julie** also captivated the interests of children in shelter with various art projects, including a night of making Mother's Day gifts. **Carissa Martin** and **Hope Community Church** provided photos of families for Mother's Day. **Verizon Wireless** and **Victoria's Secret** donated Mother's Day baskets for all the women in shelter.

A Sound Impression held a Fantasy Wedding Show, of which a portion of the proceeds went to those in our shelters. **Alpha Gamma Delta** hosted an event at Skate Zone and the **UNL Village Council** held a Casino Night, both of which benefited Friendship Home. The **UNL Women's Law Caucus** donated the proceeds of their annual Susan B. Anthony Charity Auction. **Kaplan University** collected items and monetary donations for

Friendship Home. **P.E.O. Chapter FG** hosted a Royal Wedding Tea Party at Eastmont Towers, with donations to Friendship Home. **Bennet Community Church's Sunday School** donated their collection of "Pennies from Heaven." **Ivanna Cone** provided funds in April from their specialty flavor created for Friendship Home, "Home Sweet Home." Members of **P.E.O. Chapter GW** held a slumber party collecting pajamas for women and children. **Elmwood Christian Church Christian Women's Fellowship** collected items from our needs list and monetary donations. **EyeCare Specialties** linked up with **Aelyn Thompson** to do a diaper drive during the month of May. **Doane College Roots and Shoots group** collected items for the shelters. Several Girl Scout Troops did an amazing job of supporting Friendship Home this spring by providing cookies, funds, and blankets; **Girl Scout Troop #55**; **Adams Elementary Girl Scout Troop**; **Girl Scout Troop 20227**.

Many incredible volunteers shared their special talents with the women and children at Friendship Home. **Tamy Burnett** and her **UNL class Writing in Communities** hosted a writing workshop for women. **Tina** and her **therapy dog Tank** continue



Pre-Newlywed Contestants at the Fantasy Wedding Show



Elmwood Christian Church Christian Women's Fellowship



to work with our children's groups, while **Rosina Paolini** takes time to teach yoga to residents. The **SURGE** volunteer group put together shower caddies and linens for families entering shelter or transitioning out. The **Lincoln Evening Optimists Club** provided craft activities for children's' groups.

City Impact Youth Group has been making sure the kids in shelter have a great place to play; holding fundraisers and

improving the play areas at shelter. **New Covenant Community Church** worked and weeded to make the shelters fresh. The women in shelter were pampered thanks to spa nights provided by **Susan Craig** with **BeautiControl**. For the annual volunteer recognition event, **NET** provided the venue, while **Firethorn** donated food and **Nebraska Petal Pushers** provided flowers. **Holiday Inn Southwest** hosted a social in May for some of our donors and staff, providing the venue, food, and beverages.



Girl Scout Troop #55



Doane College Roots and Shoots Group

Thank You Lincoln!

stuff the bus



Your generosity filled four StarTran busses with \$40,000 worth of items and cash donations for women and children. Special thanks to Wal-Mart, Sam's Club, StarTran, 1240AM KFOR, 106.3 KFRX, KX 96.9, 92.9 The Eagle, ESPN 1480, and 104.1 The Blaze.



Sincere Thanks to Our Donors

Friendship Home thanks its contributors for their generosity. The following list reflects contributions between February 1, 2011 and May 15, 2011. All donations help provide safe shelter, support, advocacy and comprehensive services for battered women and their children. Contact the Development Office at 402.434.0163 or by email to taras@friendshiphome.org with any questions or concerns.

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Upcoming Events

August 6th

Chrome Divas of Southeast Nebraska Chapter Bingo Run

- Live Music and Raffles following
- JJ's Bar & Grill 2910 N. 1st Street
- Contact Michelle at chromedivasene@yahoo.com or 402-601-7003

August 7th

Verizon Wireless 4th Annual Golf Tournament to benefit Friendship Home

- HiMark Golf Course, Four person scramble
- 2:15 p.m. shotgun start, \$200 team fee
- Register by email at amy.schlichting@verizonwireless.com or by phone at 402-473-6638