

Friendship Home

Safe shelter and so much more

Time and Opportunity

Webster's defines "transition" as a "movement, passage, or change from one position, state, stage, subject, concept, etc. to another." We think it should also mean time and opportunity, not just a change from one place to another, but a chance to leave one place and arrive at a better one.

At only twenty-four and with three children, Rebecca's family always made her feel like her path was laid out. She would raise her children and obey Randy. Simple as that.

But it wasn't simple. Rebecca had hopes and dreams of her own. She wanted a better life for her children than she'd had. She wanted a better life for herself—one without yelling and hitting.

She knew it wouldn't be easy, but she knew who to ask. Friendship Home became the foundation of her new beginning, the opportunity for a better life.

Rebecca's goals while she was in shelter were clear; find a job, a place to live, and transportation. She needed to complete her GED in order to obtain a job and support her children. Randy had always told her she didn't need school to take care of him and the kids.

Working hard from day one, things began to fall into place. With help from Michell, her Case Manager at Friendship Home, she was able to qualify for childcare so she could study for her GED. Because of her work ethic and determination, Rebecca was selected to receive a donated van given by a generous donor. Now she had enough time to get to necessary appointments and still pick up her children from school and daycare. She would later smile and say "that van was just the beginning of more good things."

"That van was just the beginning of more good things." - Rebecca

As Rebecca's exit date from emergency shelter approached, she was worried. She'd started working, but didn't have enough saved for a place to live and was afraid she wasn't ready to be on her own and take care of her children. She talked with Michell about her fears and Michell suggested she apply for Friendship Home's Transitional Housing Program.

Since 1992, the Lincoln Housing Authority (LHA) has been an invaluable partner to Friendship Home. Recognizing the critical need battered women had for housing beyond emergency shelter, LHA offered not only housing units for victims of domestic violence, but assisted with the provision of sup-

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Leah's Love

On this bitter night in January, my mother is dying. Any day now, her doctors say. Over the last few weeks her world has narrowed slowly from home, to room, to bed, until now it is just the feel of cool sheets on her cheek, loving voices at her side, the sigh of her respirator, the warmth of her blankets. She has not spoken all day, but when I tell her that I am leaving for the night, her voice startles me with its strength. It is too dark and too cold for me to go out, she says firmly. When I persist, she worries about whether I have gloves and a warm hat. I smile. So much has fallen away, and yet she is still mothering me.

Over the last few years, Mom wrote her memoirs, telling vibrant stories from her early childhood. I served as her typist, editor and fan club. The 1930s were marked by drought and economic depression, and yet her life was rich. In her Wifi-less world, she watched the road through the floor

boards of her grandfather's Model T Ford. She wandered dusty paths in the Ponca Hills north of Omaha, and enjoyed the pure pleasure of flying down the hill on a sled during recess on snowy winter days.

It is her bright, independent mother, my beloved Grandma Leah, who emerges as the heroine of her tales. Through Mom's stories of little moments...a conversation by the woodstove, a fib forgiven, I came to understand that Leah's love was the firm foundation for my mother's life. This enduring power of a mother's love for her child is something we see every day at Friendship Home.

Batterers often threaten to harm the children if their victims attempt to leave an abusive relationship. Caring mothers sometimes take blows to their own bodies to shield the ones they love. Against almost impossible odds, the mothers we shelter at Friendship

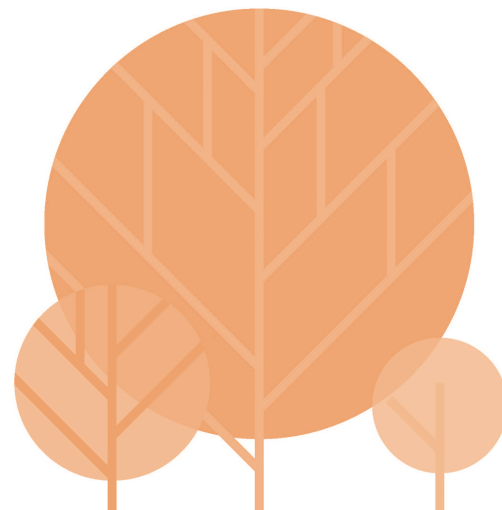
Home still give their children the love and care that will form the bedrock of their adult lives. They are heroines as well.

The words my mother wrote a few years ago resonate with me now as never before:

I am an old-timer now, with no elders to warn me away from dangerous gates. But, I still carry the protection of their lingering love and forgiveness, and can make my own way.

Go with God, Mom.

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





Charity

Charity is a loving spirit concretely expressed in unselfish good deeds to one's fellow human beings. Why does Eastridge Presbyterian Church support Friendship Home? As the Bible teaches: charity is a primary Christian duty.

In his Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37), Jesus explains what it means to love one's neighbor as oneself. When the Samaritan happened to encounter a man who had been badly hurt by robbers, he compassionately ministered to the man's needs. He first took care of the beaten man, himself, and then, when his own pre-existing commitments called for his departure, he paid an innkeeper to nurse the victim back to health.

No person, organization, institution or government should ever force someone else to be charitable. True charity comes from self-willingness; knowing what the right thing is to do and doing it ... it comes from the heart. Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 9:7, "Each person should give what that person has decided in one's heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

By all means, God calls us to be charitable with our resources. We are to be happy and willing to use them to assist people in becoming all that God intends for them to be. But don't mix charity with compulsion. Jesus never did. Jesus

simply taught, as in the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25), that people are accountable to use the resources with which God has equipped them.

If there is a need in our world today, it is for human beings to roll up their sleeves and, seeking no personal aggrandizement, minister to their neighbors. Henry Ward Beecher put it this way: "Religion means work; religion means work in a dirty world; religion means peril; blows given, blows taken as well ... The world is to be cleaned by somebody and you are not a child of God if you are ashamed to scour and scrub."

Of course, mission dollars given to the church should be used in responsible ways. We need to partner with those, like Friendship Home, whose work is showing results. The Church is called to find creative ways to make our monetary gifts go as far as possible. An on-going opportunity presented itself. Eastridge witnessed the great work Friendship Home was doing in assisting women in getting through abusive relationships and wanted to help. When the women were ready to return back to the community, most had no money for an apartment and no job. We wanted to provide a transition home where a woman and her family could live short-term, rent free, so that she could save money for the first month's rent and a down payment. The Church bought

a home for this purpose. Praise be to God, this blessing can be shared again and again and again!

Good Samaritans are very much needed in our world. Civilization's progress has come from good Samaritans over the years: men and women, whose names we cannot remember, have performed acts of kindness at great sacrifice to themselves. Christians are people who give time, money, and managerial ability unselfishly to others.

It is amazing how much can be done when we focus on the task at hand instead of on our own recognition. It is amazing how much Eastridge has accomplished because members do not care who gets the credit for the church's ministry: ultimately God deserves the credit. For truly in the end the miracle of provision and healing is God's work, accomplished through willing and selfless good Samaritans, simply going about their daily call to serve God and love people.



Help Us Go Green!

The everyday work of sheltering and supporting battered women and their children takes a lot of newspapers, a lot of laundry detergent bottles, and a lot of moving boxes. Can you help us responsibly dispose of these materials by donating recycling services for our two shelters? If you'd like to help, contact Amila at amila@friendshiphome.org or 437-9317.

Mark your calendars!

On October 10, 2010, Friendship Home volunteers will knock on your door collecting for Friendship Home's 8th Annual Safe Quarters Drive. If you'd like to help change the lives of women and children by volunteering or sponsoring the event, please contact Tracy at tracyh@friendshiphome.org or 434-0167.



The Allstate Foundation-Transitioning Women to Safety

The Allstate Foundation sponsors initiatives to promote safe and vital communities. 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 The Allstate Foundation!



Back to School for Friendship Home Kids

Pencils? Check. Notebook? Check. Fear? Check.

Going back to school for a child staying at Friendship Home can be a scary thing. How do they answer when somebody asks, "Where do you live?" Help ease their anxiety by making sure they have everything they need to be successful. Please send cash donations and/or gift certificates for school supplies, hair cuts, and clothes to Friendship Home, Attn: Back to School, P.O. Box 85358, Lincoln, NE 68501. Or, take new school supplies to Eastridge Presbyterian Church, 1135 Eastridge Drive Mon-Thurs 9am-8pm, Friday 9am-4pm, and Sun 8am-12pm.





We recognize those individuals and businesses who've found creative ways to donate their time, talent, and treasure to ensure battered women and their children have not only a safe, but comfortable shelter. Thank you for your clever and invaluable contributions!

The good employees at **Verizon Wireless** held their annual **Shower for the Shelter Campaign** where they collected needed items for women and children at shelter.

For several years, the employees at **Victoria's Secret** have held their **Adopt-A-Mom** campaign. Employees buy items for women in shelter, then wrap them up for a special Mother's Day treat.



Friendship Home Woman's Advocate, Schy L.

A Woman's Advocate at Friendship Home, **Schy Lindekugel**, runs a small business, **Schy's Pies for Peace**. She donated a portion of her sales to help buy books for kids at Friendship Home. Children's books were on the minds of many this spring. **Stacy Goes** used her position as a consultant for **Usborne Books** to help

out with the effort. Customers donated funds and Stacy added to it to fill the bookshelves for kids at the shelters.

The **State Farm Good Neighbor Committee** held an items drive in conjunction with StarTran's Stuff the Bus event. They encouraged employees to bring donations to work the first weeks of April and dropped the items off at the busses.

Lincoln Berean Church asked members of their congregation to help women and children at Friendship Home by purchasing needed items and bringing them to the church.

The cast and crew of **The Vagina Monologues** chose Friendship Home and Voices of Hope to benefit from their performance of the drama at the Joyo Theater.

The International Association of Administrative Professionals held their annual conference April 20th. The group held a raffle for Friendship Home and made an additional donation from the organization.



Members of the International Association of Administrative Professionals

Penny Oestmann organized a concert at **Luther Memorial Church** in Syracuse to benefit Friendship Home. Guests had dinner and enjoyed the music of **Dakota Road** who traveled from South Dakota to play for the event.



Dakota Road (front - Scott Jibben, Hans Peterson, middle - Karol Baer, Larry Olson, back - Al Berven, Josh Olson-Baer)

First-Plymouth Congregational Church took a collection for Friendship Home at their contemporary service.

One non-profit helped another on May 15. **Ten Thousand Villages**, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping artisans around the world receive fair pay for their goods, chose to donate 10% of their sales from the entire day to Friendship Home.

Kristin Rozsa at **thé Cup** helped kids honor their mothers for Mother's Day. Staff and Volunteers took the kids to thé Cup where Kristen had everything they needed to create festively decorated cakes for their moms.



Sincere Thanks to Our Donors

Friendship Home thanks its contributors for their generosity. The following list reflects contributions of \$100 or more between February 21, 2010 and May 15, 2010. 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.

Individuals

K.Q. Allen
Karla Bachman
Ashley and Benjamin Barber
Mary Barton
Draper and Joyce Bishop
Sharon and Tom Bliemeister
Sharon Brehm
Eric Brown
Larry and Carol Brown
Sheila Burdock
Traci and Joe Butt
Douglas and Regina Carlson
Jenny Carver and Don Macke
Shirley Clifton
Thomas Davies
Wilfred and Audrey DeVries
Sharon Doll
Tamara and Raymond Dorwart
Judith and Terry Dougherty
Jason Draper
Barbara Edmondson
Gene and Dee Edwards
Roger and Janet Ehlers
Joan Foote
Don Freeman
Virginia Goomis
Shawn Gordin
Vicky and Richard Gray
Charles and Carolyn Gregorius
Kathy Griesel
Jerusha Hancock
Loretta and Jason Hellmuth
Matthew and Lynne Herman
Linda Hillegass and Jim McKee
Herb and Sue Howe
Walt and Mary Jensen
Dick and Cheryl Johnson
Barbara and Con Keating
Patricia Knapp
Patricia and Allen Kohout
Steven and Elizabeth Lau
William Leavitt
Eric and Jennifer Lemke
Jane Linsenmeyer
Alan Loos
Susan Lowe and Jack Petersen
Sabyasachi and Amrita Mahapatra
Jean McBride
Lavon and David McBride
Campbell and Marilyn McConnell
Jean McGuire

Jennifer and Roland Meyer
Daisy and J. Gates Minnick
Joyce and Orlin Moss
Frances Nelson
Kenneth and Diane Olsen
Patricia Olson
Irv and Wanda Omtved
Carlton and Judy Paine
Karen Peppmuller
E. Wesley and Andrea Peterson
Kris and Don Peterson
Lisa and Cary Peterson
Ann Rawley
Renna Ritchie
Analee Roberts
Dan Robinson
Steve Rohman
Lynn and Dana Roper
Joe and Vicki Roy
Cecilia Ruly
Chris and Thomas Schleich
Chad and Kimberly Shirk
Carl and Jayne Sitzmann
Arlene Sorensen
Deila and Don Steiner
Shirley and Richard Sutton
Carolee Svoboda
Mary Swanson
Germaine and Walt Switzer
Duane and Julaine Thomas
Kenneth and Debra Troester
John and Kathy Turnquist
Rhonda Upton
Shelley and Jim Van Brocklin
Mark Vangen
Grace Varney
Anna Marie Walkenhorst
Kristi Whitmer
Helen and Herm Wiebers
Tim and Lorene Wiggins
Wilmer and Linda Wilhelm
Darlene and Merlin Wright
John Wurm
Robert Zender

Organizations

American Lutheran Church
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska
Brennan & Nielsen Law Offices, P.C.
Cheever Construction Company
Double Eagle Beverage
Experian

First Christian Church
First-Plymouth Congregational Church
Heart of the Midlands Combined Federal Campaign
Home Real Estate
International Association of Administrative Professionals
Kiwanis Club of Lincoln Northeast
Lincoln Community Foundation
Lincoln Federal Savings Bank
Lincoln Housing Authority
Lincoln Rotary Club #14 Foundation
Luther Memorial Church
Mahoney Manor
Molex Incorporated
Nationwide Foundation
Noel Engineering
Region V Systems
Saint Elizabeth Regional Medical Center
Sam's Club
Sandhills Publishing Company and Employees
St. Mark's on the Campus Church
Studio 7
Truist
United Way of Lincoln & Lancaster County
University of Nebraska Women's Law Caucus
UNL Village Council
Wal-Mart #3278 / South Lincoln Wal-Mart

In Honor Of

Gladys Atkins *from Linda Lyon*
Marilyn Aubert *from R. Samuel and Lorrie Bryant*
Heather Bernt *from Dorrie and Gene Gage*
Judy Carver *from Jenny Carver and Don Macke*
Norma Casillas *from Tara Skorohod*
Lillian Coniglio *from Nancy and Tim Coniglio*
Jo Ann Daniels *from Nancy and Tim Coniglio*
Irene Faesser *from Christie and Michael Weston*
Kristal Flaming *from Greta Leach*
Mildred Fossler *from Lavon and David McBride*
Andrea Gage *from Dorrie and Gene Gage*
Megan Gage *from Dorrie and Gene Gage*
Greta Glenn *from Dorrie and Gene Gage*
Karen Hall *from John and Kathy Turnquist*
Lynne Herman *from Matthew Herman*
Linda Hough *from Lee Ann Wittstruck*
Melissa Hulin Turnquist *from John and Kathy Turnquist*
Kay Hunter-Chester *from Rae Hunter-Pirtle*
Gertrude Johnson *from Janice and John Gossin*
Betty Kohout *from Patricia and Allen Kohout*
Victoria Lee *from Irene Lee*



stuff the bus



Thank You Lincoln!



Wesleyan students help
Stuff the Bus

raffle ticket sales, and cash donations \$28,000 was raised to help support the women and children at Friendship Home.

Stuff the Bus was kicked off by a Safety Scavenge at Sam's Club. Local politicians and celebrities raced through the store to collect needed items for the women and children at Friendship Home. The Safety Scavenge was sponsored by Chapin Enterprises and The Good Neighbor Committee at State Farm Insurance.



Safety Scavenge winners JJ
Ryan and Jon Camp

Aided by the committed Deejays from Three Eagles stations (1240AM KFOR, 106.3 KFRX, KX 96.9, 92.9 The Eagle, ESPN 1480, and 104.1 The Blaze), Volunteers loaded items onto the busses all weekend and heard many stories of women who used the services of Friendship Home and are now safe.



Northeast Kiwanis members

Jenny Unruh, who volunteered at the event said, "It was amazing when handing out fliers to hear people say that Friendship Home helped them in the past. Their stories brought the project to life to me. Thank you for letting me be a part of it!"

Jennifer Lentfer *from Patty and John Lentfer*
Ethel Lux *from Brian and Linda Striman*
Marge Macke *from Jenny Carver and Don Macke*
Kay Mathews *from John and Kathy Turnquist*
Jean McBride *from Lavon and David McBride*
Lavon McBride *from Jean McBride*
Marge McDonald *from John and Kathy Turnquist*
Delia Michalski *from Dwaine and Evelyn Michalski*
Joni Michalski *from Dwaine and Evelyn Michalski*
Mary Helen Mitchell *from John and Kathy Turnquist*
Irene Moore *from Kathy Griesel*
Rowan Morrow's 5th Birthday *from Michon and Kenneth Morrow*
Bertha Nelson *from John and Kathy Turnquist*
Josie Norman *from Tara Skorohod*
Julie M. Olson *from Jean McBride*
Loma Rader *from Lee Ann Wittstruck*
Laura Sullivan Hackley *from Pat Hackley*
Helen Turnquist *from John and Kathy Turnquist*
Ann Walkenhorst *from Wade and Anna Marie Walkenhorst*
Mary Walkenhorst *from Wade and Anna Marie Walkenhorst*
Sue Weston *from Christie and Michael Weston*
Tracy Willet *from Jerry Zimmerman*
Lavonne Wittstruck *from Lee Ann Wittstruck*

In Memory Of

Hazel Carne *from Brian and Linda Striman*
Alice Combs *from Pat Hackley*
Josephine W Combs *from Pat Hackley*
Mary Dhooge *from Cecilia Ruley*
Marie Doyle *from Roxanna and Richard Pickel*
Matt Dye *from Arlin Yastorza*
Rosella Fitchett *from Cynthia and Thomas Fitchett*
Cynthia Fowler *from Cynthia and Thomas Fitchett*
Doris and Ed Hamer *from Barbara Edmondson*
Mable Nancy Hart *from Sharon and Thomas Beachell
and Anne Whitney*
Mari Haungs Gulley *from Virginia Goomis*
Mildred Holmquist *from Cynthia and Thomas Fitchett*
Zoe Jungbluth *from Elaine and Dwain Anderson, Jane Cogan,
Marcee Metzger, Melissa and Gene Rogers, Judy and Bill Roper,
and Stephanie Scheffler*
Carl Keister *from Kim Keister*
Velma Koleszar *from Jean McBride*
Augusta Lux *from Brian and Linda Striman*
Margaret Marshall Sullivan *from Pat Hackley*
Ron Mathews *from John and Kathy Turnquist*
Cecilia "Ceil" McGuire *from Jean McGuire*
William Mohatt *from Mary Mohatt*
Amy Nose *from Byron and Becky Bradley*
Nancy Reckewey *from Charles and Carla Hines*
Eleanor Renfro *from Laura LaDue*
Craig Saylan *from Carrie Bence*
Jan Semin *from Rich and Cynthia Owen*
Marge Striman *from Brian and Linda Striman*
Hazel Struble Stebbins *from Ann Stebbins Stiles*
Sarah J. Uhrmacher *from Cindy and Donald Uhrmacher*
Elizabeth Weed *from Audra and Larry Cook*
Ellie Wilson *from Susie Wilson and Steve Hill*
Dean Wright *from Darlene and Merlin Wright*
Opal Wright *from Darlene and Merlin Wright*

Upcoming Events

Thursday, July 22

Bagolita **Pay it Forward** Party
hosted by Becca Dobson

Cornhusker Bank
6100 Apple Way #100
11:00am-1:00pm and 5:00-
7:00pm

Buy a Bagolita bag and 15% of
the sale is donated to Friendship
Home Contact Tracy at 434-0167
or tracyh@friendshiphome.org

Sunday, August 1

Verizon Wireless Golf Tournament
Pioneers Golf Course
1:00pm
\$50 entry fee per golfer

All proceeds to Friendship Home
Contact Amy at 473-6638 or
amy.schlichting@verizonwireless.com

Sunday, October 10



Recruit a team, volunteer
at the event, or donate!
Contact Tracy at 434-0167 or
tracyh@friendshiphome.org

Time and Opportunity

(continued from cover)

portive services. Over the past eighteen years, these housing units have been “home” to hundreds of victims of domestic violence. Recently, Eastridge Presbyterian Church met our growing need for transitional housing by adding another unit, bringing the total number of homes to seven.

Friendship Home’s Transitional Housing Program meets Webster’s formal, and our less formal, definition of “transition.” It allows women to move from shelter to supported, independent living. Perhaps even more importantly it offers them time and opportunity: The time and opportunity to reflect on what they have survived and what it means. The time and opportunity to plan for the future. The time to be safe and the opportunity to savor it.

Rebecca still struggles. At support group she shares her challenges with other women who are experiencing similar hurdles. But she also shares her aspirations. She dreams of being a teacher.

With the encouragement and support of organizations like the Lincoln Housing Authority and caring congregations like Eastridge Presbyterian Church, there is no doubt she will succeed.

