



Friendship Home

Safe shelter and so much more



2007

Annual Report

Dear Friends,

When you hear the number 50, what do you think of?

A golden anniversary? “The new 40”? One-half of 100?

The number 50 has a very significant meaning at Friendship Home. It is a number we have worked hard to attain. It is a number we continue to work hard to maintain.

50 emergency shelter beds—our total emergency shelter capacity. Offered for all of 2007 for the first time since opening our second emergency shelter facility, in addition to the 31 transitional beds we also offer every day.

50 women and children who sleep safely every night.

50 women and children who build new lives, free from violence and fear, every day.

Your support helped make these 50 beds a reality for battered women and their children in our community in 2007.

On behalf of Friendship Home, and the women and children we serve, thank you for your role in making the number 50 a very special one in the Friendship Home history book.



**Pat Knapp
Board President**



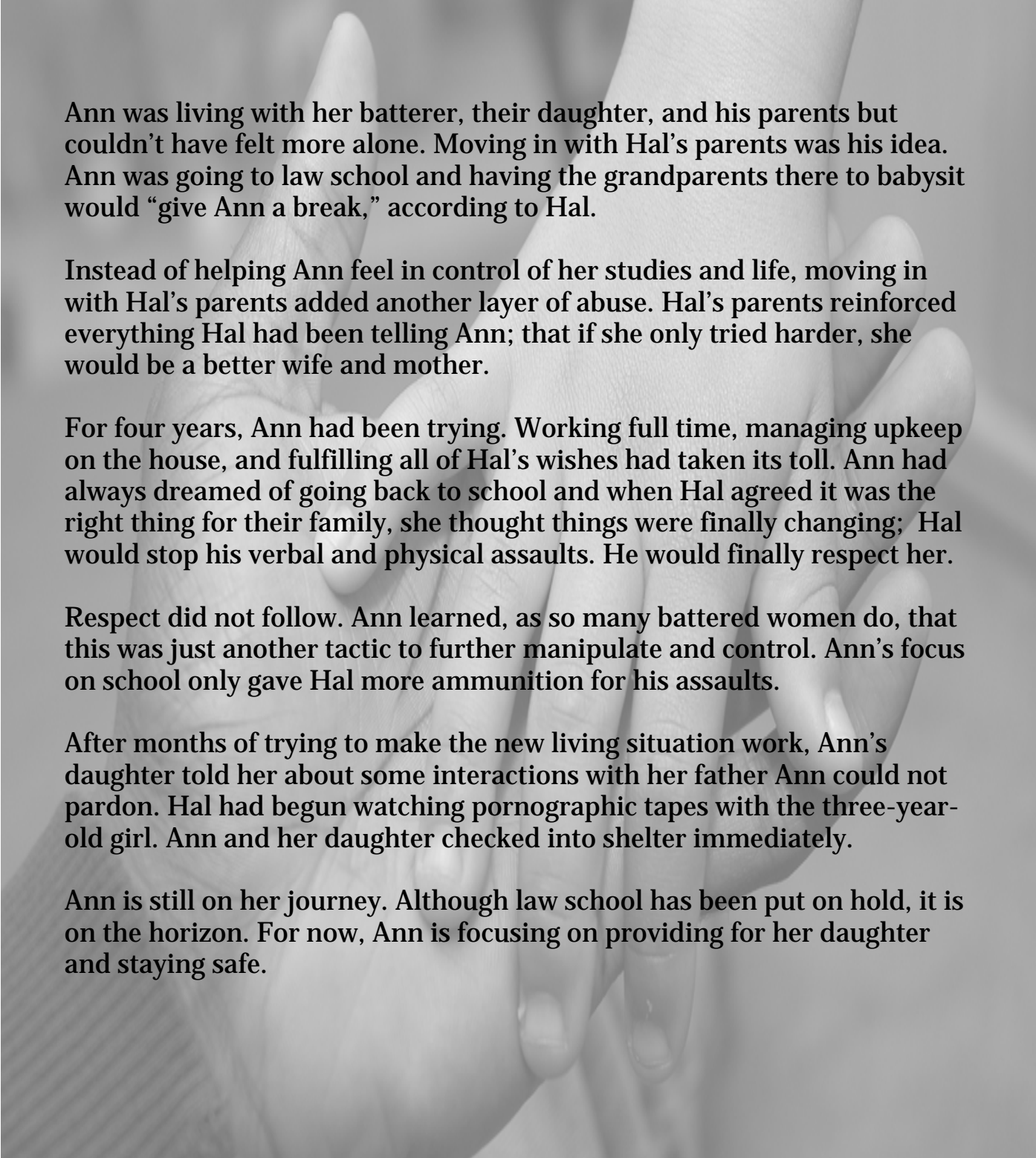
**Amy Evans
Executive Director**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pat Knapp".

**Pat Knapp
President
2007 Board of Directors**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Amy Evans".

**Amy Evans
Executive Director**



Ann was living with her batterer, their daughter, and his parents but couldn't have felt more alone. Moving in with Hal's parents was his idea. Ann was going to law school and having the grandparents there to babysit would "give Ann a break," according to Hal.

Instead of helping Ann feel in control of her studies and life, moving in with Hal's parents added another layer of abuse. Hal's parents reinforced everything Hal had been telling Ann; that if she only tried harder, she would be a better wife and mother.

For four years, Ann had been trying. Working full time, managing upkeep on the house, and fulfilling all of Hal's wishes had taken its toll. Ann had always dreamed of going back to school and when Hal agreed it was the right thing for their family, she thought things were finally changing; Hal would stop his verbal and physical assaults. He would finally respect her.

Respect did not follow. Ann learned, as so many battered women do, that this was just another tactic to further manipulate and control. Ann's focus on school only gave Hal more ammunition for his assaults.

After months of trying to make the new living situation work, Ann's daughter told her about some interactions with her father Ann could not pardon. Hal had begun watching pornographic tapes with the three-year-old girl. Ann and her daughter checked into shelter immediately.

Ann is still on her journey. Although law school has been put on hold, it is on the horizon. For now, Ann is focusing on providing for her daughter and staying safe.

A Woman's Story

2007 Program Accomplishments

Continuing the Promise

One of our major agency accomplishments was achieved in 2006 and continued into 2007; the provision of 50 emergency shelter beds—**our total emergency shelter capacity**—to battered women and their children!

As a result of this additional capacity, we recorded an agency-high 25,045 emergency and transitional shelter beds for 2007.*

We also broke agency records for the average number of women and children sheltered daily (69), and the total number of women and children sheltered (620). Women like Josie, who wrote:



Being at Friendship Home changed my life. For the first time in my life I was surrounded by people who completely supported me for who I was and encouraged me to express my feelings. Living at Friendship Home was the first time in my entire life that I had ever felt “safe” – really safe – and I was able to be my whole self; both the part I had always shown outwardly to others and the other part, the one I had never been able to show. I felt like both parts of me were finally free to come together and I was “whole.”

Now I am living my life with higher standards, knowing I deserve to be treated with respect; getting to know myself better, and enjoying life more.

* One bed equals one night of shelter for a woman or a child

Discovering My Strengths

Thanks to the support of The Sowers Club of Lincoln and the Lincoln/Lancaster County Keno Prevention Fund, we expanded our “strengths-based approach” to working with women who’ve experienced domestic violence to include their children.



Development Director Kay Mathews and Safe Quarters Team Captain Michelle Muggy

“Discovering My Strengths: A Strengths-Based Approach to Supporting Children and Youth who have Experienced Domestic Violence” incorporates The Gallup Organization’s Clifton Youth StrengthsExplorer (CYSE) assessment tool, and related activities, within Friendship Home’s existing Children in Shelter Project.

While we are focusing the majority of our efforts with youth aged 10-14 (the age group the CYSE was designed for), we have developed the related activities so they can be adapted for use with children aged 5-9 as well. Not only are we using the information revealed in the Clifton Youth StrengthsExplorer to individualize services and safety plans with youth in shelter, but we are also using it as a tool for strengthening the relationship between mothers and their children.

Having taken the StrengthsFinder myself, I was so glad my 12 year old got the chance to take the StrengthsExplorer when we were in shelter. I had seen her use her strengths so many times to deal with our family situation, so it was validating for her to actually have names for them! Since taking the StrengthsExplorer, I have really seen a change in her and how she is dealing with life in shelter, and without her dad. It's like a light bulb went off in her head and she sees how she can use her strengths to help her at school, and with her friends too. I'm so glad Friendship Home gave both of us this opportunity!

~Kimberly, Former Resident

Outside Fundraisers

Many generous individuals, businesses, and civic groups held fundraisers to benefit the women and children at Friendship Home in 2007.

Heather Brundieck and Neat Repeatz, Old Chicago, Lincoln Orthopaedic Center, and Subway are just a few of the groups who made it possible for Friendship Home to offer all fifty emergency shelter beds throughout the year.



Kerri Peterson and her Subway employees.

Stuff the Bus

Friendship Home and StarTran's 8th annual Stuff the Bus event moved from July to April in 2007. Over 150 volunteers welcomed the cooler weather and stuffed the buses with \$26,000 worth of merchandise, cash, and gift cards April 26, 27, and 28th. The buses were driven directly to the shelter the following Monday where the shelves were

stocked full with generous donations to be used with women and children throughout the year.

Scramble for Safety

Wilderness Ridge Golf Course was the location for Friendship Home's 15th annual Scramble for Safety golf tournament held May 19, 2007. Rich Nolte and Matt Minchow, co-chairs for the event, rallied 116 golfers and over \$39,000 in sponsorships, registrations, and corresponding silent auction.

Safe Quarters

September 30, 2007 proved a good day for Friendship Home. Over 1,700 volunteers canvassed Lincoln and Hickman collecting "Safe Quarters" for battered women and their children during the 5th annual drive. Through sponsorships and event day collections, over \$85,000 was raised to carry out Friendship Home's mission to shelter and support battered women and their children.



Debbie Gaspard, 2008 Board President, and volunteer Sharon Braun during Safe Quarters.

Heart of the Matter

Donors are the lifeblood of Friendship Home. On Valentines Day, more than 200 donors and friends of Friendship Home gathered at the Embassy Suites for the 8th annual Heart of the Matter Luncheon to hear our story, and celebrate our 30 years of service to the community. A touching video featured donors speaking to their encounters with domestic violence, their commitment to giving, and their support of Friendship Home.

Friendship Home honored the **Junior League of Lincoln** for their longtime partnership which fostered the Children in Shelter Project over twenty years ago. **Jame Strand** was recognized as Advocate of the Year for her constant commitment to respectfully serving women and children in shelter. Friendship Home also paid tribute to the creative leadership and dedicated service of five remarkable volunteers; **Scott Nelson, Sara McLoughlin, Mary Heidrick, Judy Roper, and Lindy Mullin.**



Former Board Member, Lindy Mullin, and Board Member, Judy Roper, at Heart of the Matter.

“He broke my arm three times. Each break eventually healed, but the emotional wounds were always raw. The patient support I found at Friendship Home has given me hope for a new life.”

~Dona, Former Resident

Zoe Valentine Holland delivered the moving keynote address. Holland told of her personal struggle to leave an abusive spouse almost thirty years ago when domestic violence shelters were just beginning to surface. Sewing, something Holland had practiced from a young age, turned out to be her salvation. It not only provided a source of income to support herself, but also an outlet to process what had happened to her. An avid reader, Holland shared many inspiring pieces of literature that helped her through her journey.

Friendship Home would like to extend a special thank you to **Jack Salzman** for donating his time and talents to create a beautiful setting for the luncheon, and to **Vonnie Sparks** for creating an original artwork that served as an award for each honoree.

This is Friendship Home

Values Statement

Listening: We value the hopes, dreams, fears, and concerns of the women and children we serve.. That means that our role is to listen —*really listen*— as they explore their newly found freedom and discover the next steps on their journeys.

Empowerment: We support the journeys of battered women and their children. We value an environment that enables them to understand their strengths and to discover the power within. To do this we must creatively adapt our approach, programs, and services to meet each individual's unique needs.

Accountability: We believe that we are not powerless against violence and that breaking the cycle is possible.. To do this, we as a community must hold batterers accountable for the crimes they commit against their victims.

Relationships: We support the personal connections and meaningful relationships between battered women and the people who care about them. We value the unique relationship between parent and child and embrace families in shelter with loving support.

Safety and Confidentiality: We believe that no woman or child should live in fear of domestic violence. We respect a woman's right to privacy and we strive to make it possible for her to pursue her aspirations without intimidation, violence, or control.

Collaboration: We value the joint efforts of a community that pools resources, talents, and ideas to help victims of domestic violence and to change the cultural attitudes that have created it.

“I was scared. He told me every day for ten years he would kill me if ever tried leaving. He put me in the basement and tortured me if he ever caught me leaving the house. No, I didn't think about leaving.”

~ Estrella, Former Resident

Mission Statement

Friendship Home exists to support, shelter and advocate for women and their children who are victims of domestic violence.

Friendship Home seeks to: Provide a continuum of safe, confidential shelter options--from emergency shelter through transitional shelter.

Provide a rich array of crisis intervention services, case management and emotional support to women and children in shelter, as well as those who are waiting for shelter; helping them to rebuild their lives, free from fear.

Address the many complexities and barriers associated with domestic violence and sexual assault on an individual level, as well as a community systems level; responding to the unique needs of the women and children we serve and improving our community's response to violence against women.

Continue to reach out to survivors through individual advocacy, emergency case management and support groups after they leave shelter, offering an environment where a woman feels welcome and is encouraged to share her story and wisdom with others.

Vision Statement

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.

We envision a community that embraces any woman or child who experiences domestic violence. As neighbors and friends, we join together in our commitment to them by taking bold action to affect change. We foresee a society that courageously holds abusers accountable for the crimes they commit against battered women, and allows the victims of domestic violence to stay in their own homes and re-build their lives free from fear.

We see Friendship Home as a haven of warmth and welcome, new beginnings, and empowerment for the women and children who find shelter within our walls. Through unconditional acceptance and respect for the journey a battered woman has taken, Friendship Home supports her as she stands tall and reaches high -- providing the assistance she needs to help bring her dreams to reality.

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. Our goal for them is to break the cycle of violence and surround them with lessons of hope, understanding, and acceptance. As we reach toward this vision, we aspire to be known throughout the country as a successful model program, propelling domestic violence services to new heights of achievement.

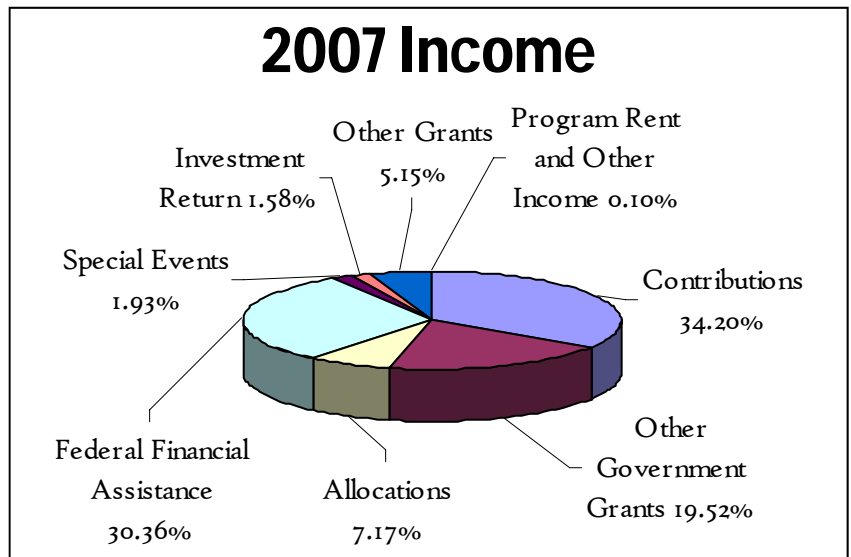
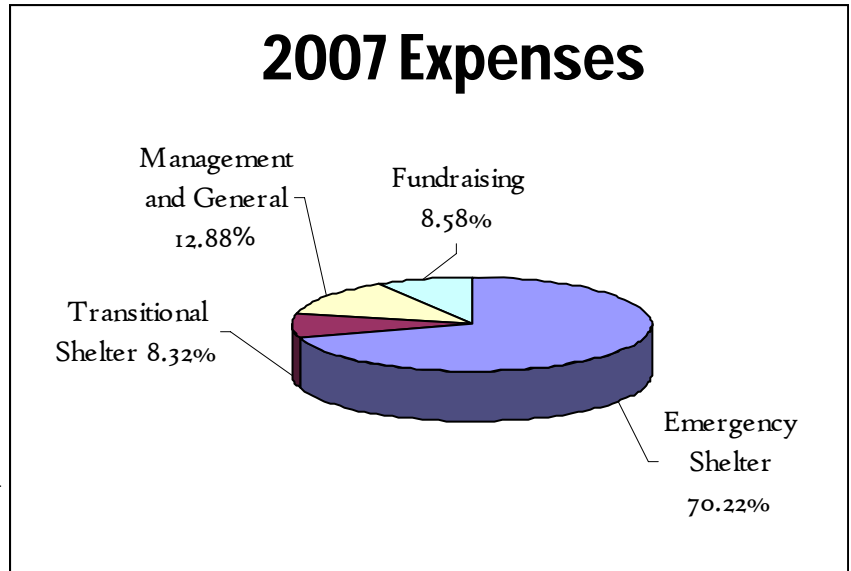
2007 Statistics

- ◇ **15,463** hours of counseling and support provided to women and children
- ◇ Women and children provided safe shelter every day, on average – **69***
- ◇ **2,081** volunteers provided **14,126** hours of direct and indirect assistance for victims of domestic violence and their children
- ◇ Victims of domestic violence served – **1,467**



- ◇ Nights of safe shelter provided — **25,045***
- ◇ Warm meals provided to women and children in shelter — **54,588***
- ◇ Women’s and children’s support group sessions offered — **508**
- ◇ Requests for shelter — **615**

**=all-time agency high*



Dana F. Cole & Company, LLP conducted a complete financial audit of Friendship Home for the year ending December 31, 2007. Audited financial statements are available upon request.

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*He wouldn't let me get
a job, even though we
had trouble paying
rent, and gave me a
weekly allowance that
was barely enough for
groceries. If I used
that money for
anything else, he
would hit me.*

*~Claire, Former
Resident*

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*For me, it was when
 my son brought home a
 report card with all As
 and Bs. He had never
 been able to concen-
 trate on school; he was
 too worried about the
 bruises on my face.
 Friendship Home let
 him stop worrying.
 ~MJ, Former Resident*

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United Way
of Lancaster County

You Can Help

Fund a Bed \$15,000

Supports a bed and all the services that go along with sheltering the woman or child who will lay their head to rest each night on that pillow.

Nurture a Child \$10,000

Provides a safe, loving environment to teach children nonviolent conflict resolution skills.

Protect a Mother \$5,000

Teaches mothers nonviolent discipline skills, leadership, and positive role modeling, which gives them the self-confidence to rebuild their lives.

Encourage a Woman \$2,500

Provides a survivor support group, creating a network of friends with shared experiences for a woman to lean on when she is frightened or lonely.

Open a Door \$1,000

Creates an opportunity for a family to move into a new home — through security deposits, living expenses, and food — enabling them to embrace the hope they found at Friendship Home.

Provide the Key \$500

Supports a woman and her children in their first few days at Friendship Home by providing basic needs, food, and clothing—as well as a safe place to begin to understand the complexities of domestic violence.

Expand the Possibilities \$250

Provides support for women waiting for shelter space to open up.. Allows for case managers to meet with women to develop safety plans, go over options, and prepare them for their journey toward independence.

For nearly thirty years, Friendship Home has provided safe shelter and comprehensive supportive services to battered women and their children. This would have not been possible if not for the generous support of our community. **Please consider a personally significant gift to Friendship Home.** Your support empowers the women and children we serve to build new lives free from violence and fear.



PO Box 85358, Lincoln, NE 68501
Donation Line: 402-434-6599
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www.friendshiphome.org