

LIVES *You* HAVE TOUCHED

2017 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

Friendship Home's mission is to support, shelter and advocate for victims of domestic violence and their children.



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

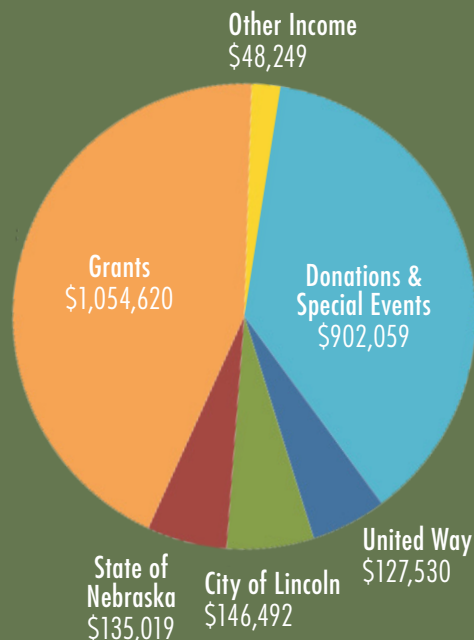
Kirk "Joe" Adams	Mary Nelson
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Kirstie Engel	Brock Shelton
Becky Ferguson	Krystal Siebrandt
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Pat Knapp	Lincoln Zehr
Michon Morrow	

*"I connect with the work of Friendship Home because 62% of those we serve are children. I grew up in a home full of love, support and safety; but not everyone is that fortunate. Empowering women and children to build new lives free from the fear of domestic violence not only positively impacts those families but our community as well - and I am proud to be a part of that."*

- Mary Jo Gillespie,  
Friendship Home Board President

## 2017 FUNDING SOURCES

TOTAL BUDGET = \$2,431,969



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

On an ordinary evening forty years ago, a battered woman knocked on the door at Friendship Home.

Friendship Home wasn't even a domestic violence shelter on that evening in 1978. Instead, it was founded as a hostel for women and children coming to Lincoln to visit their loved ones at the Nebraska Penitentiary, a project of the Daughters of Charity and Catholic Social Services. Sister Janet and Sister Karen invited the Archbishop over to celebrate its opening. They had just sat down for dinner when they heard the knock at the door.

As you can see, Friendship Home was meant to be. It began with one woman simply knocking on a door and asking for safe shelter--and wonderfully, almost miraculously--the people behind that door lovingly responded. They quickly shifted their mission to sheltering battered women and their children. Forty years later, we have changed and we have grown. But our mission remains the same: we will answer each knock with love, support and safety.

We humbly thank you for your support. Your generosity helps us keep our promise to thousands of women and children that we will be there for them, making them safer and helping them rebuild their lives. Our sincere hope is that we will always be here to answer every knock for as long as we are needed.

Sincerely,

Amy Evans

## 2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1,556 victims of domestic violence were provided with supportive services and/or shelter when they fled from an abusive partner.
- A new support group was implemented around the *Bridges out of Poverty* curriculum, designed to assist victims in working toward economic literacy and self-sufficiency.
- Twenty-one facilities were managed and maintained throughout the year.
- In 2016 we collaborated with the Brain Injury Alliance of Nebraska (BIA) in a project to determine how many victims of domestic violence might be suffering from a traumatic brain injury due to the abuse they have experienced. We are privileged to continue offering the survey. A grant awarded to the BIA from Women Investing in Nebraska (WIN) for 2018, will now include a neuro-psychological evaluation for those whose survey results indicate a brain injury. This collaborative project has the potential to positively impact the health and wellbeing of domestic violence victims throughout Nebraska and the nation.

## LIVES YOU HAVE TOUCHED

When we look at our program statistics, each number represents a woman or child Friendship Home helped move beyond a life filled with violence. The need for our services continues to be urgent. Our priority is providing emergency shelter for women and children fleeing from life-threatening abuse. Once safe, Friendship Home and our partners provide families with the tools and resources they need to begin rebuilding their lives. You are helping save lives in our community and beyond! We could not accomplish this without you.

**23,621 safe bed nights** were provided for 1,556 victims of domestic violence.

**62%** of those sheltered were children.

**52,635 nutritious meals** were served.

Friendship Home has one communal shelter, 12 single family shelter apartments and 7 transitional housing apartments for a total of **121 shelter beds**.

**1,268 victims received pre-shelter services**, such as safety planning, counseling and strategizing next steps while waiting for safe shelter.

A 2017 survey of women who stayed at the Friendship Home revealed that **97%** said they knew more ways to plan for their safety and had better knowledge of community resources to assist them.

**1,777 volunteers gave 12,136 hours** of their time to support Friendship Home's programs and services.

## LIVES REBUILT



Children are our future and represent over 60 percent of those we serve -- a huge responsibility we don't take lightly. Along with our own experience, there's a host of research that tells us the single most important indicator for a child's ability to heal and thrive is when they are grounded in caring, safe relationships. With this in mind, Friendship Home offers counseling, education, support groups and opportunities for mothers and their children to bond and learn to trust again in a secure, safe place.

## FROM THOSE WE HAVE SERVED

*"Thank you for providing a place for me to stay. Thank you for listening. Thank you for helping me find the strength, courage, faith, hope and patience that I didn't know I had. Thank you for helping me find me. The Friendship Home was more than just a shelter, it was a home."*

– Dana

*"We left in the middle of the night. My mom and dad were fighting and my little brother was crying. I was scared because I didn't know where we were going but Friendship Home was good because my mom, my brother and I didn't have to be hit if we accidentally broke a dish."*

– Dylan, age 7

*"I wouldn't have made it through this without the Friendship Home. Every day I don't get hit is a good day, and thanks to the Friendship Home all I have is good days."*

– Maggie

# SAFE SHELTER AND *so much more...*

- 24-hour crisis line: 402-437-9302
- Emergency shelter in a communal shelter or individual family apartments
- Transitional shelter apartments
- Pre-shelter Program
- Provision of basic needs
- Safety planning & crisis counseling
- Information & referrals to gain employment, housing, education, etc.
- Individual case management and advocacy for victims and children
- Direct aid money to help with rent, deposit, overdue bills, medication, etc.
- Short-term mental health & substance abuse counseling
- Support groups for adults & children
- Economic empowerment classes
- Health Navigator to connect families to medical resources
- Strength Centered Advocacy
- Ongoing post-shelter support

## OUR MISSION

For 39 years, Friendship Home has provided safe shelter and comprehensive services to victims of domestic violence and their children. Your support empowers the families we serve to build new lives free from violence and fear.



Charity Navigator is the nation's largest and most utilized evaluator of charitable organizations. **Friendship Home is one of only five charities in Lincoln to receive Charity Navigator's highest rating of four stars.** This four-star rating indicates how efficiently we use financial support, how well we have sustained our programs and services over time and our level of commitment to good governance and transparency.



PO BOX 85358 | LINCOLN, NE 68501

DONATION LINE: 402-434-0168

24-HOUR CRISIS LINE: 402-437-9302

WWW.FRIENDSHIPHOME.ORG

