



FRIENDS of the FAMILY

Take Back Tomorrow. Today.

FALL NEWSLETTER

AN UNEXPECTED UPDATE

A Note from Ben Brustkern, Executive Director

We never fully know the impacts we have on the people who come and go throughout our lives. Just like other acquaintances, Friends of the Family clients move on with their lives once they are safe and stable, and we sometimes never hear from them again. Recently, though, I was happy to receive an unexpected update. While running my usual errands, I bumped into a client I had worked with years ago. I would like to share his story.

The first time I met Greg he talked about the feeling of “being at the bottom” and starting over. Greg was in his early 20’s and did not have a place to live. He dropped out of high school to escape an abusive home and had been moving from place to place the past couple of years. At this point, he found himself on the street living behind the library trying to not be noticed. One day, he went into the library and saw the Turning Point Rural Housing brochure. He made a call to Friends of the Family and I talked with him about his situation, his challenges, his hopes, and how our services might be able to help.

Greg told me how “being at the bottom” is scary and overwhelming. You don’t know where to turn and which way to go. He was skeptical about our services because so many other places were unable to meet his needs.

It was my job to convince him that he was longer alone. That we offered incredible services. That if he is ready to trust us, we can make a difference.

So I asked Greg, “What is the ONE most important thing you need?”

He simply replied, “Housing.”

From the time of that initial phone call, it took just 12 days to get Greg into his own apartment.

Thanks to our agency’s resources and landlord relationships, and Greg’s determination, he was able to find and secure a home within the budget we worked on. We were able to provide him with rent and utility assistance, case management, employment services, and get him connected to several other resources.



HOLIDAY DONATIONS

Due to the large quantity of gifts received at FOF offices during the holidays, we will not be accepting donations of clothing or household goods, (unless for Adopt A Family gifts) from December 10th-31st. We will resume our regular donation policy on January 1, 2019. Feel free to call us at 319-352-1108 with any donation-related questions. Thank you for all of your support this year and through the holiday season!

STORY CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

FOSTERING FOR HOPE

Fostering for Hope is a program designed to help domestic violence victims in our shelter find temporary homes for their pets until they are set up with new housing. People in abusive relationships often do not leave the dangerous relationship out of concern for the well-being of their pets. They can be fearful that their abuser may hurt the animal, that they may not find a shelter that accept pets, that they cannot afford costly boarding, and that they have no options to keep their animals safe. Fostering for Hope allows survivors to have safe options for themselves and their pets. No animal deserves to be abused or abandoned, and you can help save and protect these innocent animals while their owners work on healing and recovery until they are able to care for the dogs on their own! Please email Felicia - felicia@fofia.org with your interest in the program, or with any additional questions!



- > Research indicates that **up to 65% of DV victims delay leaving dangerous situations** because they don't know where to place or how to protect their pets. Some survivors return because they fear for the animals' safety.
- > Abusive partners often use the bond between victims and their companion animals to control, manipulate, and isolate the victim. Abusers threaten, injure, and even kill pets so they may create an environment of fear.
- > Up to 83% of women entering domestic violence shelters reported that their partners also abused or killed the family pet.
- > Animal abuse is used as a form of punishment in domestic violence relationships

WAYS YOU CAN HELP:

- Volunteer to be a foster parent
- Donate supplies, toys, food, etc.
- Help provide transportation for the animals
- Donate money to help animals with shots and healthcare

AN UNEXPECTED UPDATE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

After three months in the program, I noticed a significant change in Greg's self-confidence and outlook on life. He had a steady job that he enjoyed, and had started back to school to get his GED. He was volunteering at the library he once slept behind, and was eager to give back to the community.

Greg had gone from homeless to self-sufficient in just 7 months.

This summer, I was walking out of a store and heard someone behind me call my name. I looked around and saw Greg putting his cart away. He wanted to say "thank you" and tell me that he was now employed at a local manufacturing company and engaged to be married. He shared the impact we had on his life and that he was no longer "at the bottom" as he liked to say.

In fact, he was right where he wanted to be.

Every day, the staff at Friends of the Family make an impact on so many people, just like Greg. Sometimes we hear from them years later, and sometimes we don't. It is our goal that each and every one of them meets their highest potential and are healthy and active members of the community.

We hope you recognize the value of this impact and will join us by getting involved. Together, we can find the people "at the bottom," and lift them up.

Note: When sharing client stories, all names and identifying information about current or past clients are changed or omitted for confidentiality purposes.



A NIGHT IN... IRELAND

A NIGHT IN... IRELAND
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2018 | 6PM-9PM

Brought to you by Friends of the Family & The ACCEL Group



This event is critical to helping raise funds and presents attendees with an opportunity to bid on unique items in a silent and live auction. A drawing for a trip for two to Ireland will take place at the end of the evening. All tickets are entered into the drawing for the trip for two. Need not be present to win!

- Prairie Links Golf & Event Center, Waverly
- Irish-themed food and drink
- Silent and live auction
- \$40.00 per ticket - Purchase tickets at fofia.org or call 319-352-1108.

Proceeds benefit Friends of the Family.

LOCAL PARTNER FUNDING

Thank you!

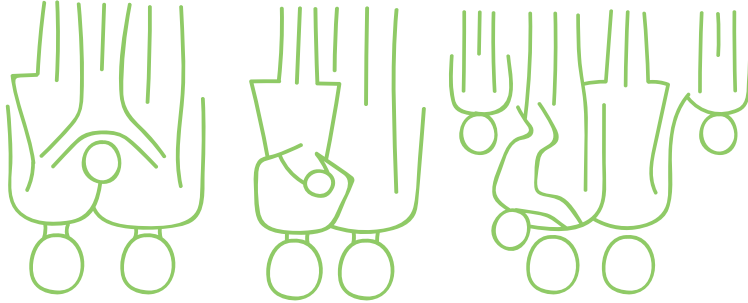
Friends of the Family relies on funding from local partners to meet the needs of people affected by violence and homelessness. Thanks to this quarter's funding partners for supporting our mission!

Waverly-Shell Rock Area United Way
Cedar Valley United Way
United Way of Winneshiek County
Bremer County Community Foundation

Waverly Community Fund
Lincoln Savings Bank Foundation
Benton County Community Foundation
Principal Financial Group



It is time to get our 2018 Holiday Adopt-A-Family program underway! Last year, our program provided gifts to 66 adults and 108 children in the communities we serve. If you are interested in becoming a donor this holiday season, email Danielle Brackin at danielleb@fofia.org or call 319-352-1108, ext. 301.



ADOPT A FAMILY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON



FRIENDS
of the **FAMILY**

Take Back Tomorrow. Today.

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