



FRIENDS of the FAMILY™

Take Back Tomorrow. Today.

WINTER NEWSLETTER

ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS

Creating a 10-year goal is exciting, and it can energize an organization. At Friends of the Family, we set a 10-year goal/vision of “Everyone has a home”.

When I share our vision, I get the following questions from people:

1. How the heck are you going to do that?
2. That sounds unrealistic.
3. It would be cool if you could!

In these situations, I immediately feel myself going into defense mode and ready to share solutions. We feel like we have a clear path to making our vision a reality. We have added programming that provides pathways to ending homelessness, such as rapid rehousing, permanent supportive housing, coordinated entry and homeless prevention; while using philosophies built around housing first, trauma informed care, and understanding that shelter is a process and housing is a solution.

So, actions speak louder than words and here is my promise to you! **We are going to decrease the length of stay in shelter by 7% over the next year, and increase the number of permanent housing options by 7% over the next year.** This all ties into a three-year plan of decreasing length of stay by 21% in shelter and increasing housing options by 21% by 2024. In 2024, we will see shorter bouts of homelessness and be able to provide an increased number of housing solutions, which will result in fewer people experiencing homelessness. We can see the path and are dedicated to this vision.

If the idea of ending homelessness in your community speaks to you, as the United States Army used to say, “We want You for OUR Army”! We want to build an army of people who are dedicated to supporting our mission and vision for the betterment of all our citizens in our community. How do you join? Volunteer, Donate, or advocate for Friends of the Family and help us be all that we can be!

- Ben Brustkern, Executive Director



OUR TOP NEEDS:

- ♥ POTS & PANS
- ♥ SILVERWARE
- ♥ TOWELS & WASHCLOTHS
- ♥ TWIN XL SHEETS
- ♥ DIAPERS, SIZES 4 & 5
- ♥ BABY WIPES
- ♥ PILLOWS

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED OUR 13TH ANNUAL ADOPT-A-FAMILY HOLIDAY PROGRAM!

We feel so blessed to be able to brighten the holiday for so many of our friend and neighbors, and we couldn't do it without your generous support. **Your donations provided gifts to 53 adults and 78 children in our housing programs, and 8 adults and 17 children in shelter!** Cheers to a great new year!



January

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH

Most of us assume that human trafficking does not happen in our backyard. That is could not possibly happen to anyone we know. However, it is estimated that 50,000 people are trafficked every year in the United States. Over 50% of the sex trafficking cases involve only children. **Right here in Northeast Iowa, we provided services to 127 human trafficking survivor last year** and anticipate that number to continue growing year over year.

As a community, it is important that we take an active role in the prevention and response to human trafficking in our area. We need to understand the warning signs such as what to look for, red flags or indicators, how traffickers choose their victims, common places for trafficking to occur, and what to do if you suspect human trafficking is happening.

If your business or organization would like to learn more about the signs human trafficking and what you can do to help, please contact us at 319-352-1108 or visit our website at fofia.org.



TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

- 1.5 million teens admit to being intentionally hit or physically harmed by someone they were dating
- 33% of adolescents in the US are victim to sexual, physical, verbal, or emotional abuse while dating
- Teens who suffer dating abuse are more likely to suffer long-term consequences like alcoholism, eating disorders, thoughts of suicide, and violent behavior
- 50% of youth who are victims of rape, and physical or sexual abuse will attempt suicide

Change starts at home. As parents, as good humans, we must commit to challenging the cultural and social norms that support violence and work towards change. Cultural acceptance of violence as a normal method of resolving conflict, or as a usual part of rearing a child, is a risk factor for all types of interpersonal violence. The norms of gender stereotypes, beliefs about masculinity and aggression or violence, and ideas that violence within an intimate or dating relationship is normal must be walked back. (www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/norms.pdf)

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

As we wrap up 2020 and our first two quarters of our Circle of Friends Annual Campaign we are so **THANKFUL** for all of these donors (and those who choose to remain anonymous) for making your donations. **YOU** are the ones making an **IMPACT** in your communities. Our Circle of Friends Annual Campaign will continue to run all year long and we will start again during our fiscal year beginning in July! For more information please visit:

fofia.org/donate/circle-of-friends

LEGACY CIRCLE

Quarter 3 Michelle Jungers & Glen Keith

VISIONARY CIRCLE

Quarter 3 Heather Solomon

Quarter 4 Ted & Deborah Waitman

PARTNER CIRCLE

Quarter 3 Nicole Fens

Annemarie Woods

Quarter 4 Waverly Lyons Club

Kristopher & Cheryl Einsweiler

SUPPORTER CIRCLE

Quarter 3

Michelle Hall

Kim MacLin

Melissa Haberstick

Kaiser-Corson Funeral Home

Gerald Schmitz

Duaine & Charlotte Westpfahl

William & Janet Streipe

Elly Folkers

Cyndi & Lyman Campbell

Larry & Lois Trachte

First Security State Bank

Helen Melichar

Bruce & Diane Holmes

Sara Junaid

Mary Ellinger

Robert & Jolene Wyatt

Jerry & Audrey Elsamiller

Trinity United Methodist Church

Jamie Fens

Roger Peppel

Marsha Koenig

George & Mary Warren

Carol Morgan

Micaela Lorenz

Quarter 4

Erin Hinton

Melinda Wilmer

Rick & Pat Deike

Doug Drape

Richard & Cheryl Jensen

Kathy Folkers

Daniel & Sarah Cooper

Janet & Kevin Sanders

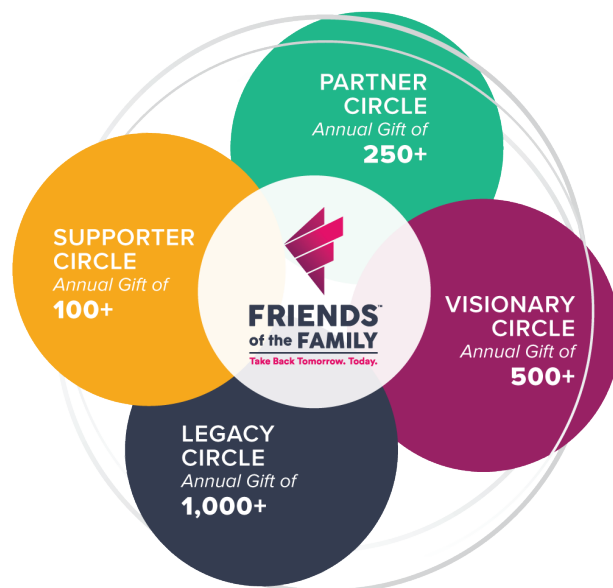
Joseph & Sandra Dunn

Delores Coonradt

Trinity Lutheran Church (WELCA)

Nettie Treloar

Donna Andreessen



LOCAL PARTNER FUNDING

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

- Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) and Iowa Finance Authority (IFA)
- Bremer County FEMA Phase 37
- Bremer County FEMA Phase CARES
- Guernsey Charitable Foundation
- CUNA Mutual Foundation
- Iowa Attorney Generals Office Crime Victim Assistance Division- Northeast Iowa Shelter Services
- Iowa Attorney Generals Office Crime Victim Assistance Division- Human Trafficking Services Program
- Linn County Fund
- Funds for the Community 2020
- Anonymous Fund, A Donor Advised Fund
- Emergency Solutions Grant- CARES Act funds II
- Continuum of Care Northeast Iowa Permanent Housing Program
- Continuum of Care Turning Point Rural Housing Project
- Continuum of Care Rapid Rehousing Initiative of North Iowa



- Wednesday, April 7
- Tuesday, April 13

What's for dinner tonight?
Cook along with the Lark
Brewing Chef from the
convenience of your own home!

**VIRTUAL FUNDRAISER
& LIVE CHEF**



Save the Date



**FRIENDS
of the FAMILY**

Take Back Tomorrow. Today.

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