



DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

Friends of the Family focuses on providing services that end violence and homelessness. It is not possible to work toward ending homelessness and violence in our communities without understanding the intersection of race, housing, and intimate partner violence. Housing and safety are basic rights that FOF believes all should have access to without stipulations. People and organizations with privilege have the obligation to be active in the fight toward racial equality. At Friends of the Family we recognize we have privilege. As an organization, we have been vocal about our stance, but that has not always been supported by action.

The violence that is taking place in our communities is an exposure of the broken system, that has been built on racism and inequality. Without confronting the macro and micro levels of oppression that occur, our vision as an agency, will never be achievable. FOF believes in a diverse and inclusive work environment that supports staff and people seeking services. Our Core Values include diversity, equity, and inclusion to ensure that we are always intentional moving forward. We commit to embracing people from different identities, races, cultures, and ethnicities. We commit to action: to continue to evaluate who is being served by FOF, ensuring the inclusivity of our services and staff culture, intentionally investing in BIPOC (black, indigenous, people of color) organizations and experts to provide training to staff.

We commit to being part of the solution.

- FOF Board & Staff

LOCAL PARTNER FUNDING

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!

- COVID-19 Cooperative Disaster Response Fund Black Hawk County
- Teen Trust Grant
- United Way of Dubuque Area Tri-States
- Principal Financial Group Foundation
- Waterloo Housing Trust Fund
- LSB Foundation
- Otto Shoitz Foundation
- Wells Fargo
- Waverly Shell Rock United Way
- United Way of Winneshiek County
- Cedar Valley United Way
- Alliant Energy Foundation
- Dupaco R.W. Hoefer Foundation
- Buchanan County Community Foundation
- Bremer & Readlyn Community Foundation
- Leighty Fund "Advised" (Quasi) Donor Advised Fund
- Gordon Flesch Charitable Foundation
- Black Hawk County FEMA Phase 37
- Black Hawk County FEMA Phase CARES
- Wheaton Franciscan Sisters Ministry Fund



AIR MATTRESS DRIVE

Taking the steps to leave a violent household can be scary and filled with challenges. Our advocates walk with survivors on their journey to safety and independence, with the ultimate goal being stable housing. Often times, families will move into their new homes without many necessary household items.

Here's where you come in: we are looking for your support to purchase new air mattresses. An air mattress can provide a temporary bit of comfort and keep folks from sleeping on the floor, while working to furnish their new home.

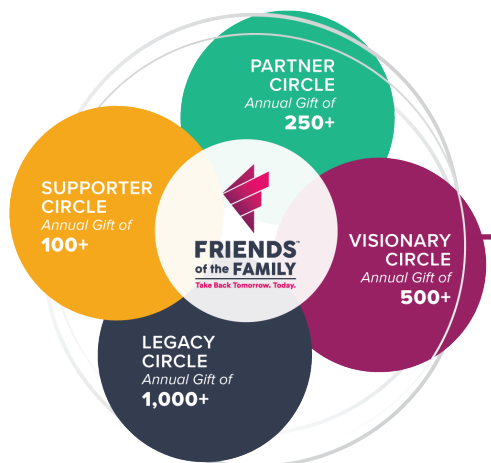
If you are able to help, please visit our website, fofia.org/make-a-donation, to make a donation. If you would like to donate a new air mattress, please call 319-352-1108 to arrange drop off.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Volunteers play a significant role in our offices and when we shifted to working from home due to COVID-19, it was necessary to suspend volunteer time to keep folks safe. But through the chaos, one amazing supporter decided to give back to her community, and FOF, in a huge way.

Kim Brustkern enjoys crafting and knew she had the skills to take on a new project. With supplies ordered, patterns made, and her sewing machine ready, she set to work on providing masks to the community to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. She made hundreds of mask, and did not take payment for any of them. Instead, Kim asked each recipient to make a donation to FOF, and to date, Kim's mask initiative has brought in over \$3200!! THANK YOU Kim for helping to keep our community safe and for your support of FOF!!



CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

We are so excited to announce our annual drive: Circle of Friends! We are currently working with our staff and board, and will be releasing to the public this fall. Stay tuned for details on how you can be involved and help make an impact by joining our Circle of Friends!

FINDING HERSELF

Teresa, a mother of three, endured six years of violence that often included strangulation. Last year, she was finally able to get her abuser removed from the home. But without him there to watch the kids while she worked, she struggled to keep up and fell behind on her rent. This resulted in their eviction and led Teresa to reaching out for help.

Once in our homeless prevention program Teresa worked with her advocate to prioritize her debt. It was clear that childcare expenses and late fees were her greatest strain. She was able to qualify for childcare assistance and reorganize, which allowed her to stabilize her bills and create a budget that allowed for financial growth and stability. We also assisted her with rental assistance, financial literacy support, child advocacy, legal advocacy, medical advocacy, and tenant rights/responsibility education.

Through this journey, Teresa talked about the consistent pain she had in her neck. After several months, the pain worsened, prompting her to see a doctor. It was discovered that during one of the many violent episodes she endured, a vertebra was broken in her neck, and surgery was necessary to remove bone fragments that were pressing into her spinal cord.

Today, Teresa is healthy and pain free. She no longer lives in fear and her children are growing up safe and supported in their home and community. Perhaps most important, Teresa is starting to recover her dignity and self-worth. She now knows that the violence she experienced was not her fault.

CHEFS TAKE A STAND THANK YOU!

Even though we were unable to have our Chefs Take a Stand fundraiser in April, we wanted to extend a huge THANK YOU to all of the food and beverage vendors who were going to participate: The Brew Brothers Waterloo Iowa, Fox Ridge Golf Course, Bien Venu, Iowa Brewing Company, Lark Brewing, Moment in Thyme, Rodney Lewis, Sasquatch Jacks, and Five Sullivan Brothers Convention Center.



And a special THANK YOU to Sarah Grapp Hellman from Sarah's Personalized Gifts for making commemorative cutting boards that Erin Hinton, Development Director, was able to present to each location!! We appreciate all of you and look forward to Chefs Take a Stand 2021!

Save the Date 11.6.2020

A Night In...
NVAPDA



FRIENDS
of the **FAMILY**

Take Back Tomorrow. Today.

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