

# SUMMER NEWSLETTER



A quarterly newsletter for you and your family

### **BEN'S LETTER**

Hope everyone has had a great first half of 2025. Time sure moves quick.

At FOF, we just wrapped up our strategic plan from the last year and I wanted to take a moment and tell you about all of the great things accomplished. As an agency, we brought in over 4 million dollars in resources to bring our vision of "Everyone Has a Home" to life. This includes over 8,000 hours of volunteer work and just shy of \$260,000 in donations, which are all because of you and your willingness to believe in our vision and that ending homelessness is possible.

We were also able to decrease the number of people waiting for housing services from over 170 households to 125 households by the end of the year. This included over 1.5 million dollars in direct client assistance and a dedicated team that met on a regular basis to improve processes and access for clients. This helped us move forward on a lived experience advisory board where we will be able to gather input from the people we serve to ensure they have a voice at the table.

These are just some of the accomplishments from the past year and the impact that we, as a community, have on people experiencing homelessness or fleeing an abusive partner. Without you, Friends of the Family would not be as successful in making our community safer, stronger, and creating opportunity for everyone to have a home.

I look forward to the next year and appreciate you all so much.

Want to learn more about Friends of the Family and our vision? Reach out to me at ben@fofia.org or 319-576-2241.



#### CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

At Friends of the Family, we believe everyone deserves a place to call home. But for many, finding that path isn't always easy. The journey to safety and stability can feel impossible, filled with barriers, uncertainty, and fear. And yet, there is hope.

Every day, your support makes a way for individuals and families experiencing homelessness, fleeing violence, and those facing unimaginable challenges. Together, we walk alongside them, helping them navigate the barriers, providing shelter, and offering them the resources they need to thrive.

Your generosity ensures that more people can find safety, stability, and a fresh start. You help turn moments of fear into moments of hope. You help turn empty spaces into homes. Today, we invite you to renew or increase your commitment by joining our Circle of Friends Annual Giving Campaign.

When you join Circle of Friends, you become part of a community that believes in the power of a safe home. You also receive special benefits as a thank you for your commitment to ending homelessness and supporting survivors in our community. To see benefits, scan the QR code on the last back page.

## PUTT AN END TO HOMELESSNESS



PRESENTING SPONSOR

#### 5TH ANNUAL PUTT AN END TO HOMELESSNESS

Join us on August 15th at Gates Golf Course for Putt an End to Homelessness, a fun and meaningful golf fundraiser hosted by Friends of the Family. The day begins with lunch at 11:00 AM, followed by an 12:00PM shotgun start for a 4-person best shot tournament. Enjoy games, pin events, prizes, and more, plus lunch is included! Team registration is \$400 and all proceeds support our vision to ensure Everyone Has a Home. Your participation helps fund housing assistance, support services, and outreach programs that change lives every day. Sign up today at https://events.golfstatus.com/event/friends-of-the-family-2025-putt-an-end-to-homelessness. We'll see you on the course!

#### **SPONSORS**

We're incredibly grateful to all the sponsors who are helping make Putt an End to Homelessness a success! A special thank you to our **Presenting Sponsor, Scheels**, for their outstanding support and commitment to our mission. We also want to thank our other generous sponsors whose contributions from providing the course and carts to media coverage and more. Your support brings us closer to a future where Everyone Has A Home. We couldn't do it without you!



## WHERE WE HAVE BEEN



It's been a busy and exciting time at Friends of the Family! Our recent Breakfast with Friends outreach event in Mason City was a huge success. We were thrilled to serve over 140 community members. We've also been actively engaging with the public at events like the Juneteenth Unity in the Community where we shared information about our services and the impact of our work. These events are a great way for us to connect, educate, and continue building strong community relationships.





## WHERE YOU CAN FIND US

**FOOD WITH FRIENDS:** JULY 30<sup>TH</sup> AT THE SALVATION ARMY CAFETERIA IN WATERLOO. DROP IN FOR A FREE MEAL, FREE HAIRCUT, AND A CHANCE TO LEARN ABOUT MANY DIFFERENT RESOURCES AVAILABLE IN THE WATERLOO/CEDAR FALLS COMMUNITY!

PIT COUNT: JULY 30<sup>TH</sup>, FOF, VOLUNTEERS AND OTHER SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS THAT ARE OUT IN MANY OF THE COUNTIES WE SERVE TO DO AN ANNUAL POINT-IN-TIME OR PIT CENSUS. THE PURPOSE IS TO CONNECT THOSE WHO MAY BE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS WITH THE RESOURCES THEY NEED. NATIONAL NIGHT OUT: WE ARE SO EXCITED TO BE A PART OF NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AGAIN THIS YEAR! JOIN US WEDNESDAY, JULY 30TH AT THE PRAIRIE RIDGE DROP-IN CENTER IN MASON CITY. THERE WILL BE FREE FOOD, KIDS ACTIVITIES, GIVEAWAYS AND RESOURCE TABLES. BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY FOR THIS COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY EVENT!

**PUTT AN END TO HOMELESSNESS:** MAKE PLANS TO JOIN US FOR OUR 5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GOLF OUTING! SIGN UP YOUR FOURSOME AND JOIN US AT GATES GOLF COURSE IN WATERLOO. FRIDAY, AUGUST 15<sup>TH</sup>, 12PM SHOTGUN WITH LUNCH PROVIDED! QR CODE ON THE BACK PAGE.

CEDAR VALLEY PRIDE FEST: JOIN FOF AND MANY OTHER COMMUNITY PARTNERS AT CV PRIDE! WE WILL HAVE A RESOURCE TABLE OUR STAFF JOINED OTHER COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS AT PRIDE THIS YEAR! EXCITED WHEN WE CAN BE PART OF SUCH A FANTASTIC AND INCLUSIVE EVENT AND ORGANIZATION. FROM 12PM TO 6PM ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 23<sup>RD</sup>.

**WATERLOO FARMERS MARKET:** AUGUST 30<sup>TH</sup> AND SEPTEMBER 13TH, WE WILL BE JOIN AMERICAN SENIOR BENEFITS AT THE WATERLOO LOCAL FARMERS MARKET TO TALK ABOUT OUR SERVICES AN THE WORK WE DO AT FRIENDS OF THE FAMILY.



#### **SUMMER INTERNS**

We're incredibly excited to welcome five passionate and dedicated summer interns to our team! Morgan is supporting our fundraising efforts as our Development Intern. Blake is diving into research and writing as our Grants Intern. Lorelei is out in the community making connections as our Street Outreach Intern. Liza is helping provide vital support to individuals as our Victim Housing Services Intern. And Trevor is lending a hand both in the shelter and out in the field as our Shelter & Street Outreach Intern. Each of them brings unique skills, fresh perspectives, and a strong commitment to our mission!



# 8,688.77 HOURS

We're thrilled to share that over the past fiscal year; our volunteers contributed an incredible 8,688 hours of service! This milestone wouldn't be possible without your dedication and unwavering support. Thank you for making a difference and helping us do what we do best! You can check out our open opportunities on our website. Interested in volunteering? Visit our website or contact Madison, our Volunteer Manager, at <a href="mailto:madison@fofia.org">madison@fofia.org</a> or 319-576-2232.



## FUNDING PARTNERS

Grants from January 2025 - July 2025

THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDING PARTNERS! YOUR PARTNERSHIP MAKES
OUR MISSION POSSIBLE EVERY DAY.

























- Continuum of Care HUD
- National Crime Victims' Rights Week
- Waterloo Housing Trust Fund
- Bremer County Board of Supervisors

United Way of North Central Iowa

# TOP NEEDS



Friends of the Family is currently in need of essential items to support the individuals and families we serve. Your donations make a direct impact! Our most needed items include:

- Full sized personal hygiene items
- Air mattresses
- Box fans
- Cleaning supplies
- Twin XL Sheets

Please connect with office manager, Monique, with donation questions or to schedule drop off at 319-576-2200 or Monique@fofia.org



Waverly, IA 50677



Everyone Has A Home of the FAMILY **EBIENDS**  TO HOMELESSNESS TO HOMELESSNESS

FRIDAY, AUGUST 1514, 2025



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