

Heart to Heart



A publication of the Friendship Home Foundation

No One Is Forgotten: Lavonne Harper's Giving Heart Touches All

Did You Know?

Gifts to the Foundation can now be made online! Simply go to www.friendshiphome.com. Click on "Giving," and then "Give Now" under "Ways to Give."

Gifts can be made with any major credit card or personal PayPal accounts.



"When I went to work at the Friendship Home, it was filling a place in my heart." Lavonne Harper fondly remembers the 11 years she worked as a nurse at the Friendship Home. "They were like family to me because I had lost my parents," she explains. "Some people don't enjoy going to work, but I sure did!"

A few years ago Lavonne moved from Audubon to live in Maine with her son, Donald, and family. Before that, she had lived at Friendship Village and volunteered during supertime at the Friendship Home.

After Lavonne moved, she wanted to make sure she kept in touch. The idea came to her to start sending cards to those who live at the Home. She began collecting recycled cards from her friends and sending

10-12 cards at a time. When a resident celebrates a birthday, he or she receives a card from Lavonne. And, during the Thanksgiving-Christmas season and Easter holiday, she makes sure each resident gets another personal card from her. "Bless Shelly [Davisson] to help me by putting them in the mailbox!" she adds.

"That's my way to keep in touch," Lavonne says. "There are new ones at the Home that I don't know, but that doesn't matter to me! As long as I'm able, I want to keep in touch."

In addition to cards, Lavonne makes a memorial gift for each resident who

passes away. The gifts may be small—but they are given without fail and from the heart. The Friendship Home is forever grateful for Lavonne's thoughtfulness and generosity!



Lavonne Harper shows off the beautiful flowers by her home in Maine.

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Foundation's First Newsletter & Annual Appeal

This issue of "Heart to Heart" marks the first publication of the Friendship Home Foundation. The Foundation was established as a way to raise needed funds for the Friendship Home. Our occasional newsletters, brochures and seminars will be designed to offer our friends

and supporters helpful information. If you ever have questions or would like to discuss specific ways to make a difference, please call Genelle Deist, Foundation Director, at 712.563.2651. If you choose not to receive Foundation mailings, call Genelle or send her an

email at marketing@friendshiphome.com.



Is That Deductible?



As we get close to the end of the year, our tax planning begins. For the majority of taxpayers, if you itemize your deductions you're making a list of all of the charitable gifts you have made in

2011. Because the rules can get complicated, here's a run-down on the basics of deducting charitable gifts.

1. Only gifts to "qualified" 501(c)3 charitable organizations are eligible for a tax deduction.
2. Donors must file a 1040 and itemize contributions on Schedule A to benefit from a charitable deduction.
3. If the donor receives a benefit, such as merchandise, goods or services, the deduction is only allowed for the amount greater than the fair market value of the benefit.
4. Donations of stock or non-

cash items are valued as the fair market value of the good. (Fair market value is generally the price at which the item could be sold.)

5. To deduct a gift of cash, check or other monetary donation, the donor must maintain a bank record, payroll deduction records or a written receipt from the organization containing the organization's name, date of the contribution and amount of the contribution.
6. For deductions of cash or property equaling \$250 or more, the donor must have a bank record, payroll deduction or written receipt from the organization containing the name, date of contribution and amount of contribution, as well as whether any goods or services were provided in exchange for the gift.
7. If the amount of noncash items donated exceeds \$500, form 8283 will need

to be completed.

8. Noncash donations exceeding \$5,000 require a written appraisal.
9. Generally, deductions of cash donations are limited to 50 percent of the donor's adjusted gross income. Donations of property generally cannot exceed 30 percent of AGI, and donations of appreciated capital gains property cannot exceed 20 percent of AGI. (Charitable contributions in excess of these limits can be carried over to the following tax year.) Refer to IRS Publication 526 for the current tax year for specific limits and other information on charitable tax deductions.
10. Don't forget overlooked deductions, such as mileage for driving to a charitable event or to volunteer. For 2011, 14 cents/mile can be deducted.

For more information on the latest rules, go to www.irs.gov.

72%

In a recent study, adults ages 30+ were asked how they felt about sharing their inheritance with charity.

72% of those asked said it was reasonable for parents to leave 5-10% of their estates to a nonprofit.

(Stelter Company 2009 Donor Insight Report)

Donating Land the Future of Rural Giving?

In the October 20, 2011, issue of *Progressive Farming*, Elizabeth Williams addresses the trend in giving land to support small-town nonprofits in her article "Land Owners Share the Wealth."

"Farmland bequests are building medical clinics, sprucing up senior centers, landscaping parks and underwriting child care centers. In other words,

the transfer of farmland wealth aims to reverse rural America's 100-year decline," she explains.

Gifts of farmland can be a great solution, especially for land owners without heirs—allowing them to take advantage of high land prices, reduce capital gains taxes and lower estate taxes. Gifts can also be made creatively. One elderly couple created a life estate in their gift

that allowed their son tenancy for 20 years, then transferred to their charity of choice.

Another popular option is to divide an estate equally to children, counting "charity" as an additional child. While family remains the primary benefactor, individuals can continue contributing to the community that they have loved.

Your Contributions Are Deeply Appreciated!

Each quarter, all donations are recognized in the "Friendship Forum," the newsletter of the Friendship Home Association. For space limitations, in this publication we will recognize those who give \$100 or more (in cumulative giving). Please go to www.friendshiphome.com and click on "Friendship Forum" to look at each quarter's newsletter for an entire listing of donations.

Thank you to all who give of their time, talent or treasure to make the Home great!

Gifts of \$100–\$299

Arch & Violet Andersen
Don & Lori Anderson
Audubon Lion's Club
Sarah Christensen
Neal & Barbara Frederiksen
Russell & Kay Heck
Lois Kness
Knights of Columbus
Joel & Sherry Kreger
Frank Nguyen, Thomas Than & Robert Ho
Larry & Fran Nielsen
Malinda Petersen
Family of Mary Possehn
Family of Sylvia Rattenborg
Irene Schmidt
Irene Starrett
Robert Statzell
Women's Ecumenical Breakfast

Gifts of \$300–\$599

Audubon-Exira Ready Mix
Family of Victor Bauer
Ron & Paulette Chambers
Ron & Barb Christensen
Robert & Esther Dollerschell
Friendship Home Auxiliary
Family of Melvin Jorgensen
Vicky Robinson
Bill Roth

Gifts of \$600–\$999

Dr. R.L. Bartley

Gifts of \$1,000+

Anonymous
Audubon State Bank
Dan & Elaine Jorgensen
Landmands Bank
Family of Norma Ruhs

"Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless."

—Sherry Anderson

The Spirit of Giving—Pass It On!

As Sunday School Superintendent last year, I directed a fun, meaningful way for kids to learn the spirit of giving. Rather than drop a crumpled dollar bill in the donation plate, I had a "Show and Share" offering. Each week kids brought in items of clothing, toys, books—whatever they wanted to give—and shared with the group what the item was and why they wanted to give it. All donations then went to the Stork's Nest.

In today's age of consumerism, it takes an effort to ingrain the importance of giving to others less fortunate than ourselves.

But, the earlier we begin the process, the more likely kids are to become lifelong givers.

As a parent or grandparent, you have a wonderful opportunity to share with younger generations the joy of giving. Here are some ways to get children involved:

- **Be a good example.**

Next time you are planning to make a donation of money or volunteer time, share the experience. Don't be afraid to show that giving can involve sacrifices of time and money—but it's worth it!

- **Get kids involved.**

Everyone gets more excited about giving to something that interests him or her. Ask the child to choose a cause and decide ways to give—of resources or volunteer time. Consider matching the gift—dollar for dollar—to the child's cause.

- **Give together.** Make

giving a fun family tradition. Collect pocket change year-round and choose a charity to which to donate. Or, volunteer as a group and reflect on the good feelings experienced.

*By Genelle Deist,
Foundation/Marketing
Director, and mother of
three boys*

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The Friendship Home Foundation is a private nonprofit 501(c)3 organization dedicated to securing and stewarding gifts and grants that benefit the Friendship Home.

Our vision is “to support the mission of the Friendship Home as it meets the needs of the community as it grows into the future.”

We Need a Logo!

Are you creative? The Friendship Home Foundation would like to have its own logo. While we want the logo to be somehow tied to the Friendship Home Association (see logo below), we'd still like it to be its own!

Please send in any submissions by mailing to our address or emailing marketing@friendshiphome.com.

The winner—chosen by Foundation Board Members—will receive a \$100 prize, given by Herbers Seed!



Christmas is around the corner... Need a great gift idea?

The **Friendship Home Cookbook** is currently on sale. This cookbook was the inception of Friendship Home residents and includes favorite family recipes from residents, families and staff. At just \$10/each, the beautiful cookbook makes a wonderful gift for those on your Christmas list.

Call the Home at 712.563.2651 or stop in to buy one of these cookbooks, while supplies last!

Pictured are (standing, from left) Arlene Fenske Koons and Elsie Porsch, with (sitting, from left) Willa Jensen and Lois Pardee.

These women, together with the late Judy Joens, worked hard as the Cookbook Committee.



Update on Friendship Home Feasibility Study

I know a lot of you are curious as to the status of the Friendship Home future building project. Since the feasibility study was completed, a special Task Force has been working to revise plans based on the Home's needs and what the community can support. During the process, time has been spent studying the demographics of the area, the future of government reimbursements and the associated costs with the project.

The Task Force has reached a point where they have given general guidelines for how they think the project could be revised. The Friendship Home Association Board of Directors has enlisted our architect to come back to the site and create new drawings, with the project happening in phases, on this property and at a smaller scale.

While nothing has been decided, we want you to know that we have not forgotten our important task of making sure our facility can adequately serve the next generation of residents and employees!