

# Heart <sup>to</sup> Heart

*A publication of the Friendship Home Foundation*



## Norlan & Lois Rasmussen It's All About the People

**W**hen Norlan Rasmussen is asked about what makes the Friendship Home special, he's quick to answer. "It's all about the people," he says. "In a small community with a shrinking populace, you have to have something that sets you apart from other places. At the Friendship Home, it's definitely the caregivers."

The Rasmussens have been a part of the Friendship Home family for many years. Norlan's aunt Carrie Jensen lived at the Home for 24 years. A few years ago, both of Norlan's parents—Harry and Ruby Rasmussen—moved into a double room in the Home's Intermediate Care Facility. Norlan could not believe the level of care and compassion shown to Harry and Ruby, especially in their final days. "I don't know how they can do it and be so *caring*," Norlan says of the nurses. "Then they turn around and do it all over again."

Harry and Ruby had a special story—the two died just three days apart, both of natural causes. They were able to have a joint funeral at Ebenezer Lutheran Church, west of Audubon—the same church where they had both been baptized, confirmed and married. When Harry died first, there was no idea that Ruby

would soon follow. But the Rasmussens' experience cannot be forgotten. Added steps to provide comfort, including painting Ruby's fingernails and sitting with her, curling her hair during her final days, kept her peaceful and comforted the entire family.

Norlan also remembers how the Home was so willing to work with his aunt regarding her finances. "There was never a push to move her to a different level of care," Norlan explains, and there was never the thought that she would be turned away. Nurses even put together their own slush fund to

pay for extras she couldn't afford.

This September, Norlan and his wife, Lois, chose to make a \$5,000 donation to the Friendship Home Foundation in memory of Harry and Ruby. The gift had favorable tax incentives, which were important. But most of all, they wanted to give back to the Home and help it plan for the future. They hope to eventually see the Friendship Home move forward on a building project to update rooms and match the facility to

**... Continued on Page 2**



*Harry and Ruby Rasmussen, honeymooning in 1946*

### Friendship Home Foundation Board Members

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# Planning a Gift, Keeping Tomorrow In Mind

**Y**ou'd love to make a charitable gift, but what if you need those funds later in life? Or maybe your family's situation will change, and you will need flexibility.

For many, a difficult part of giving is the uncertainty of tomorrow. There are ways, though, to make a future gift that will leave you with control and flexibility.

## Will or Trust Bequest

A charitable bequest is the most common planned gift. With potential changes in estate tax laws, now may be a good time to revisit your will or trust. During this time, consider writing a few sentences in your will to help those charities that espouse your values. The amount can be any size or percentage of your estate. It can even be

contingent upon certain circumstances—for instance, money could be directed to a relative, but if the individual passes away, you can direct the funds to the organization of your choice.

Best of all, a bequest is not realized until you pass away. Therefore, there are no worries of not being able to use the funds if life circumstances change.

## Beneficiary Designations

One of your most heavily taxed assets—retirement plan assets—would make an excellent charitable gift. Whereas children or heirs will need to pay income and perhaps estate tax on a retirement plan account, charitable organizations like the Friendship Home Foundation would receive the fund completely tax-free. It is also

simple: You need to contact the plan's administrator to request a "change of beneficiary" form. Again, this can be a contingent gift—the plan would go to an individual, if he or she is living, otherwise it passes to a charity. Or, the plan can be divided among several beneficiaries.

Life insurance is also simple to give through the beneficiary designation. Charities can be named the owner and beneficiary of a paid-off policy, or a charity can be named as a beneficiary of the plan.

## Get Advice

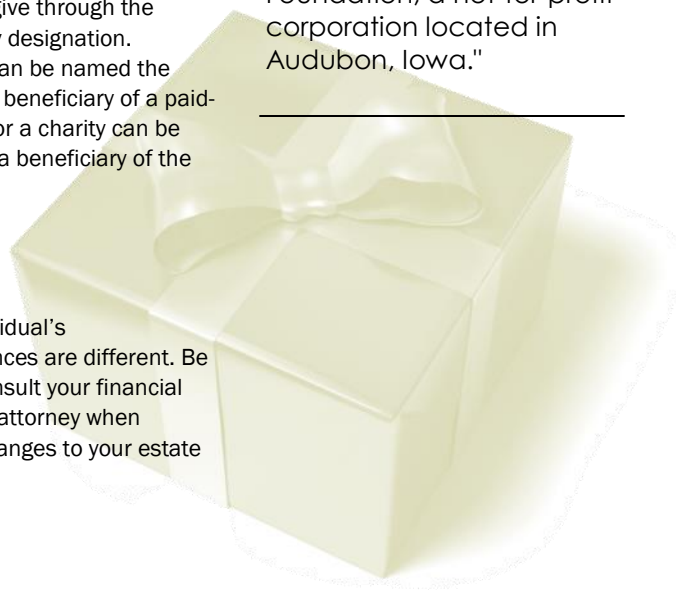
Every individual's circumstances are different. Be sure to consult your financial advisor or attorney when making changes to your estate plan

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## Sample Bequest Language

"I give, devise and bequeath the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ from my estate [or "I give \_\_\_\_\_ percent of my estate"] to the Friendship Home Foundation, a not-for-profit corporation located in Audubon, Iowa."

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## Rasmussen Gift ...Continued from Page 1

*Carrie Jensen, sister to Ruby Rasmussen, poses with Ruby and Harry.*

the quality of care of its workers.

While Norlan was thoroughly impressed with Friendship Home staff, he saw the limitations of an older building firsthand. With both Harry and Ruby needing wheelchairs and lifts, the room and the bathrooms were small and hard to work with.

"It's so nice to have a local place, with local people to take care of you," he says. Having

seen relatives in care centers in large cities, he knows there is no comparison.

As Norlan points to a picture of the three employees who recently received the 2012 State Quality Awards from the Iowa Health Care Association, he says, "That says it all." He, like most people, hopes to not need the services of a nursing home in the future. But if it comes to that point, it means the world to have a place like the Friendship Home in the community.



## 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) since our last mailing (June 2012).

Please go to [friendshiphome.com](http://friendshiphome.com) and click on "Friendship Forum" under the "About Us" link 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

- Anonymous
- Family of Vera Andersen
- Don & Lori Anderson
- Brent & Joan Bauer
- Michael Bauer
- Ted & Donna Bauer
- Brenda Boynton
- Matt & Heather Chambers
- Ron & Paulette Chambers
- Ron & Barb Christensen
- Robert & Esther Dollerschell
- Bill Eich
- Friendship Home Auxiliary
- Don Gibson
- Lou & Kris Herbers
- Family of Donavee Madsen
- Steve & Raydene Mathisen
- Meredith Corporation Foundation

### Gifts of \$300-\$599

- Linda Merk
- Gertrude Mogg
- Larry & Fran Nielsen
- Merle & Norma Petersen
- Roger & Clarene Prothe
- Evelyn Roberts
- Darrell & Paula Rubel
- Darlene Schrader
- Gary Stone
- Armin & Mary Vogt
- Leslie & Ruby Brue
- Paul & Sharon Christensen
- Ron & Barb Christensen
- Family of Mick Pardee
- Christen Skytte, Kirstene Skytte Knudsen, & Inger Skytee Lund
- Betty Zimmer

### Gifts of \$600-\$999

- Dan & Elaine Jorgensen
- Pat & Becky Kaiser

### Gifts of \$1,000+

- Norlan & Lois Rasmussen
- Evelyn Stanley Trust

*"Not what we say about our blessings, but how we use them, is the true measure of our thanksgiving."*

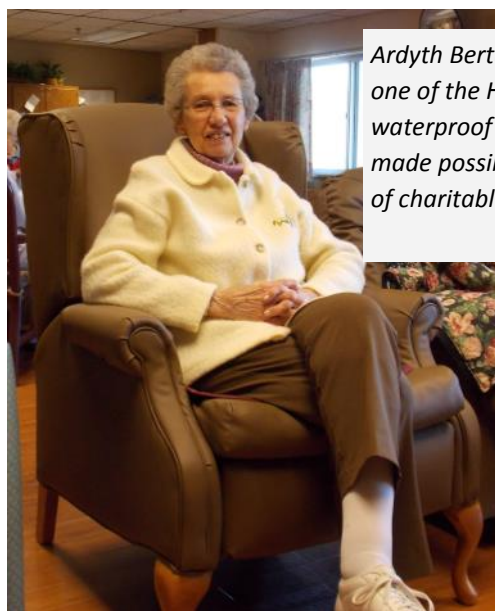
~W.T. Purkiser

## Friendship Home Wish List

When you make a gift to the Friendship Home Foundation, you can make it unrestricted, allowing the Board to direct the funds to the Home's greatest needs. You also have the option of directing your gift to a specific item, department or program. If you would like ideas for how your donation could be spent, following are items on the Friendship Home's current "wish list."

- ◇ Waterproof recliners for resident rooms (\$700/each)
- ◇ White tables and chairs for outdoor activities (\$150/set)
- ◇ Large-print books

*If making a gift for a specific item, it is best to give us the funds to buy the item rather than purchase it for us. Give Genelle a call for more information.*



Ardyth Bertelsen sits in one of the Home's new waterproof recliners, made possible because of charitable donations!

## Friendship Home Foundation

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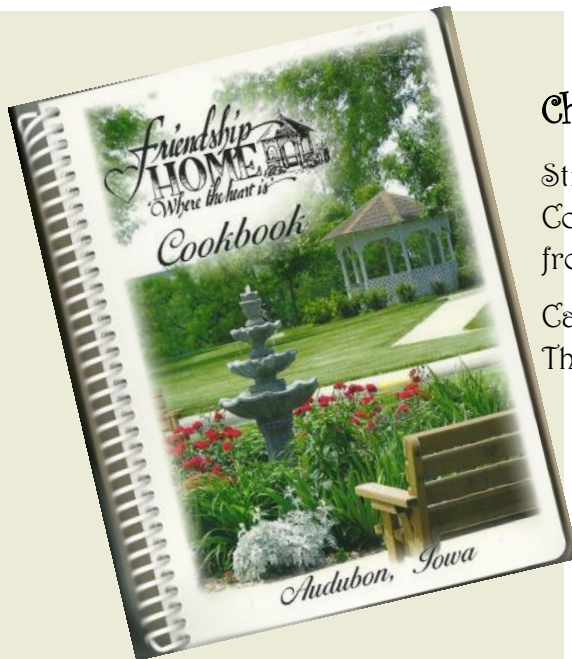
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**The Friendship Home Foundation is a private nonprofit 501(c)3 organization dedicated to securing and stewarding gifts and grants that benefit the Friendship Home.**

**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.”**

## About “Heart to Heart”

This newsletter is a product of the Friendship Home Foundation. 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](mailto:marketing@friendshiphome.com).



## Christmas Is Around the Corner!

Still looking for gift ideas? Friendship Home Cookbooks are beautiful and filled with recipes from residents, families and staff.

Call the Friendship Home to get yours today! They are just \$10/each!

### Did You Know?

Gifts to the Foundation can be made online! Simply go to [www.friendshiphome.com](http://www.friendshiphome.com). Click on “Give Now” under the “Foundation” drop-down menu. Gifts can be made with any major credit card or personal PayPal accounts.



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## Murder Mystery Party & Fundraiser

**Saturday, March 2, 2013**

Save the date for the Foundation’s amazingly fun party and fundraiser. More details to come!