The Next 60 Years: Because of You!

Because of you, Friendship House will be celebrating 60 years of serving our God and His most vulnerable – at-risk children and families – on Billings’ south side in 2017. Because of you, Friendship House will go on another 60 years of serving, long after you and me! You may be asking, “How can I keep serving these kids long after I’m gone?” I’ll tell you. Because you decided to invest in the future now with your planned gift. Will you provide a planned gift to serve kids and families for our next 60 years?

Your planned gift to Friendship House’s endowment helps you to make larger gifts than you could otherwise do. Depending on your planned gift, you will qualify for the Montana Endowment Tax Credit, a tax credit of up to 40% making the actual cost of your gift cheaper. Your planned gift can take many forms: annuities, trusts, unitrusts, pooled income funds, estate agreements, and paid-up life insurance. Your planned gifts can provide you income for the rest of your life and reduce tax liability for your children.

Because of you, Friendship House will be serving children and families for another 60 years, long after you and me. Will you help serve kids and families another 60 years with your planned gift?

To learn more, speak with your financial advisor about your planned giving to Friendship House, or call to speak with Matt Lundgren or Adam Liberty.
NEW READING PROGRAM

Alejandro reads a grade level reading passage out loud to his friend Tommy for one minute. He will try to read as fast and accurately as he can. Tommy will count the number of mistakes and give his feedback to Alejandro. Afterward, Tommy and Alejandro switch. As you know, Friendship house nurtures academic success for children’s success. Over the summer, we implemented an evidence based reading fluency program called the Six Minute Solution. As it’s name suggests, all a teacher needs is six minutes to select the students’ passages, read out loud with a partner, graph their growth, and be done. Doing this small bit every day builds big results over time in reading fluency, and we saw the difference. Your support makes the difference in these students’ lives!

WILL YOU VOLUNTEER?

Every day Friendship House works with youth and families struggling because of their home life, family dysfunction, social, emotional, and mental health, and academic issues. If you would like to get involved, will you consider volunteering for the counseling/chaplain program by talking and listening to youth who may be struggling. A caring, listening adult can make all the difference!

SUMMER PROGRAM 2016

You did it! You gave our students the best summer possible with your support. Students engaged in numerous activities ranging from horseback riding and hiking with our friends at Hope Ranch of Montana, a week long bible camp at Templed Hills thanks to our friends at First Baptist Church, Art Camp at the Yellowstone Art Museum, the Museum of the Rockies, weekly visits to Audubon, numerous fishing trips, Rocket Camp, and Summer Counts tutoring program to help keep our kids from experiencing the summer slide. Did you know that during the summer, children are most vulnerable to lose an average of 1.5 grade levels in reading? With our daily academic lessons, Six Minute Reading Solutions, and Summer Counts tutoring program, our students stayed on track and even grew in their reading goals! Because your generous support, our children have experienced some of their most memorable life events, and it’s all because of you!

TEEN PROGRAM

Teen Café and Open Gym is open for the school year! Are you a teen who want to get out and get moving, Open Gym is Tuesdays 5:30 to 7:00; or needs a place to hangout, have some coffee and food, and share your love of music and art, Friendship Café is Fridays from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. You can learn how to make your favorite coffees, lattes, and smoothies by volunteering at Café! Come and see!

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Johnny McClusky  1983-1992

I started going to Friendship House as a Kindergartener at Garfield Elementary. My sister and I would go after school. Later as a teen, my friends and I would use the gym to choreograph dances and practice for talent show competitions. My favorite memories are Grandma Mary who made us snacks and was so kind to all of us kids. Friendship House has provided myself and many others a safe place to learn and to have fun. It has definitely had an effect on who I am today.

Not only is Friendship House a safe haven for children, but a community center. We had my son’s baby shower, my cousin’s wedding reception, and my grandfather’s funeral reception all at Friendship House. Recently, I pulled together First Interstate Bank employees, the Billings Home Center, and Friendship House to present financial literacy classes. Today, I am married with 6 children. In 2000, My wife and I both graduated college from Dickinson State University. I work as the Community Development Officer at First Interstate Bank. This position allows me to continue to be involved with the community of Billings. I have been on the Mayor’s Committee on Homelessness as well as numerous other boards and committees.

Friendship House has seen a lot of changes over the years. At the end of the day, they continue to be a constant with in the South Side community.