DIRECTOR’S REPORT

How do I say thanks? For the last 18 months you have seen articles in this newsletter about our building expansion project – the kitchen/cafeteria and educational wing. The building process and the community support were amazing all throughout the process. Now another miracle has occurred. As of the first of the year we are mortgage free. That is right. Because of your generosity, we have paid off our loan and own the property free and clear. Considering the total value of the project was $502,549 – this is amazing. A true miracle of God’s provision and your generosity. We could not have done this without your help. So, how do I say thank you? I guess I’ll do it like this... THANK YOU!

Sincerely,
Rev. Matt Lundgren
Executive Director

The Christmas Season is one of the highlights of the year. Numerous churches, businesses, and community members “adopt” our students for the holidays to ensure they have proper clothing for the winter months. Volunteers from Pilgrim and Mayflower Congregational Churches help over 30 students shop at Kmart. Children are allotted a certain amount of money to buy clothes. The only limitation is that they must spend it on clothes which include: socks, shirts, pants, underwear, shoes, snow gear, etc. American Lutheran Church, Dillard’s, GE Capital, First Interstate Bank, and The Bennet Family were also very generous in supplying clothing and gifts to numerous children in our program. Heartfelt thanks to all who “adopted” our students for the holidays.
I attended Friendship House. It was a place where we could learn, play, and be with our friends. One memory is getting out of school and rushing to the Friendship House. You wanted to be there as soon as possible for the start of some intense kickball games. Then there was Grandma Mary. She would be there with snacks waiting for us. Whether it was ants on a log or my most memorable snack of cheese on a saltine cracker baked in the oven. Grandma Mary was grandma to so many of us.

I think my time at Friendship House has definitely helped shape who I am today. The love, discipline, and education I received have stayed with me all these years. Thanks in part to the familiar faces of Grandma Mary, Paul, and Barb.

Now I am proud father of three teenage daughters Grace 17, Sophia 17, and Laila 15. I’ve been married to my wife Shyla for almost three years now. I graduated from Senior high. I started my own commercial cleaning business in 2004 and two years ago I began selling real estate. I just finished serving on the Billings Catholic School Board for seven years.

The Friendship House has been a fixture in the community that raised me and made me who I am today. And for that I am forever thankful. I’m very thankful that Friendship House is continuing its mission on the South Side. I’m just one of many Friendship House Alumni that have benefited from the Friendship House!

THE GIFT OF TIME

If you are or were a parent of a small child at one point, you probably can recall how hard children can be on everything… scuffs, marks, rips, tears, dents, dirt on your walls, baseboards, toys, books, clothes, tables. Here at Friendship House, we’re no different! Can you help us? Gather some of your friends, your employees, your co-workers, your church…whatever group you belong to volunteer with us. Along with regular individual volunteering, an important gift to Friendship House is one time group volunteering. Many things are able to be renewed through the power of many in just a few hours. If you are interested in getting your group together to volunteer, contact Jessie Heppner, Volunteer Coordinator.

Any size group from 2-100 people, any time.