Growth and Change: God Working through You!

To be alive is to grow. To grow is to change. Funny how the things that show us we are alive can be so challenging. Having turned 50 this year, I marvel at the work God has done in my life to bring me to today. Some grey hairs, some new skills, grown daughters, and lots of blessings. I am thankful for my parents and family and the legacy of faith they instilled in me. I wonder, how are you growing and changing?

Friendship House turns 60 this year! (I hope you can join us for our Birthday Party on 10/6) Friendship House has also grown and changed. This fall, we open a second location for our Youth Programming at Orchard Elementary School. We will also move forward with our formal program for full time counseling for the kids and families we serve at both locations. Some new programs, some updated facilities, growing families, and lots of blessings. I marvel at the work God has done through you to bring Friendship House to today.

Thank you for allowing us to serve on your behalf and grow alongside you. Life, growth, and change are happening! I appreciate being on this journey with you. You make it happen!

Sincerely,

Rev. Matt Lundgren, Executive Director
Friendship House has expanded After School Enrichment to Orchard School! This expansion doubles our current capacity of 100 to 200 students we can serve every day. That is up to 100 more at-risk kids receiving tutoring in their academics. 100 more kids being mentored to build their character. 100 more kids getting their basic needs of food, clothing, and school supplies. 100 more kids in the supervision of caring adults.

“Many Orchard students struggle with finding safe places to go after school,” said Jeremy Carlson, Orchard Principal. “Thanks to you, the donors of Friendship House, students can now work on their reading and math in the caring supervision of trusted adults.”

Matt Lundgren, Friendship House Executive Director, says, “After School care is a huge need for many south side working parents. Only because of you, our supporters, can we expand to Orchard.”

Friendship House still needs your support to offer quality care to these 100 at-risk kids and impoverished families. Will you help support up to 100 more kids with your contribution today?

Laura Radke
1967-1979

I began attending Friendship House when I was 5 years old and stayed involved until I graduated high school. This was my “House” because my parents worked. I was blessed because of the caring staff and their willingness to always be there to listen. They helped with homework, made life a little more fun, and filled me with encouragement. I began working at Friendship House starting about 8th grade. I loved getting to do arts and crafts with the kids, and making them snacks just like when I was a kid. I knew in some cases that was the only food they received.

When I graduated high school, Friendship House gave me a scholarship. It was huge for me! I attended Metro State College in Denver and later Eastern Montana College. Today, I am the Regional Operations Manager at Pathology Associates Medical Laboratories (PAML) for Montana and Kansas. I have one daughter, Stephanie, who lives in Missoula and is very successful. I have been married to my husband, Mike, for 34 years. As a member of the Black Sheep Motorcycle Ministry, we continue the tradition of Christian Service by giving back the community, help motorcycle families with life changing events, and visit, help, and pray with individuals and families in the hospital.

Thanks to Friendship House, they gave me a safe place to go and people to talk to when I needed them most.
Did you know there’s more than one way to provide for the kids and families of Friendship House? You support our kids with your donations, time, and gently used items. But there are other ways to give, called “Planned Gifts.” And many of these planned gifts not only benefit Friendship House kids and families, but benefit you and your families.

**THERE ARE GENERALLY 3 TYPES OF PLANNED GIFTS:**
1. Gifts you plan to give later, such as a gift in your will including your funds, home, or other assets.
2. Gifts you give to the charity and can generate income for you now, such as a gift annuity or charitable trust in which you can receive income for the rest of your life, and
3. Gifts that give income to your charity while passing the asset to another person, such as your children.

Planned gifts, when given to Friendship House’s endowment, can qualify you for Montana’s Charitable Endowment Tax Credit, a tax credit worth up to 40% of your gift. Call Friendship House to speak with Matt or Adam if you are interested in considering a planned gift.

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**GIVING YOU Options to Give!**

We invite YOU to celebrate 60 years of Friendship House! We could not have served the tens of thousands of children and families without you.

We will hear about the past from two successful Friendship House Alumni: Johnny McClusky, a community leader a First Interstate Bank, and Jamacona Morrin, a first-generation college graduate now teaching at Newman Elementary in Billings. We will hear from the present children who attend our programs today. And we will look to the future about how we can transform our south side children and families together! The 60th Birthday Celebration will include dinner, silent auction, past recognition, and inspiring speeches.

To purchase tickets, call Friendship House at 406-259-5569 and say, “I’d like to purchase tickets to the 60th Birthday.” We’d love to take care of you!

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**YOU’RE INVITED TO CELEBRATE 60 Years OF FRIENDSHIP HOUSE!**

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**Friendship House’s 60TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**

Friday, October 6th
6:00pm
Billings Hilton Garden Inn

Tickets: $50 each
Reserved Table of 8: $400

Business Sponsorships Still Available!
“This was my BEST. SUMMER. EVER!”

Jillian teared up on the last day of summer program. A 5th grader in our youth program, she hugged her friends tight and waved goodbye. While hugging her teacher, Jillian told Ms. Andy, “This was my best summer ever!” For Ms. Andy, the moment was bittersweet. Bitter for the goodbye, sweet for Jillian’s affirmation.

Your support of Jillian and all Friendship House kids made for an incredible summer of life long memories! Jillian and her friends enjoyed the summer on a brand-new playground; on field trips to Cooney State Park, Red Lodge, and Lake Elmo; attended camps such as Miminogish, Templed Hills, Rocky Mountain Peace Institute, and the Yellowstone Art Museum Camp; built and fired model rockets; learned at Vacation Bible Schools; rode horses and hiked across the Beartooth Mountains; and of course, they were tutored in reading and math and mentored to build character.

Your support provided these life long memories for our kids!

THANK YOU!