Orchard School Expansion a SUCCESS!

Added Capacity means Added Success for Added Students

Friendship House expanded our Youth After School program this year by adding a second site location at Orchard School. It is only because of you and your generosity we could expand to a second site location!

We want to tell you, the expansion to Orchard is a success! More kids are receiving tutoring and mentoring after school every day with Friendship House’s intentionally academic and character building program. Parents are thankful to have an affordable, quality option to watch their students after school. Even better, we no longer have a waiting list!

Jeremy Carlson, Principal of Orchard School, says, “Having an After School Program at Orchard has been a gift to these students who often struggle finding a safe place to go. Thank you for supporting this effort!”

And thank you from Friendship House!

You are growing kids and families!

You have done it again! Because of YOU, Friendship House continues to grow and thrive. As you will see in this newsletter, our Youth Program expansion to Orchard School is doing very well. Last year we completed our playground replacement project with your help. Additionally, our Counselling Program and Preschool are also gaining. This is wonderful news.

As a result of growth, we are facing some new challenges. Growth always brings change. Because we see more clients each day than ever before, and because our footprint has expanded, we need a place for people to park. Currently, our fleet of vans and buses take all the on street parking around the perimeter of Friendship House. As a result, when children and families look for a place to park or endeavor to get in and out of the vehicle, we do not always have a safe space for this to happen.

To address this need, the Board of Directors approved our newest project, a safe and secure parking lot. To accommodate this new space, we have purchased a house across the street from our building. Our goal is to raise $175,000 to pay for this project. Thanks to the generosity of a few of our donors, we already have $75,000 committed. Will you help us toward the rest of the $100,000?

As we think about caring for kids and keeping them from being hurt in traffic and continue to serve our community, once again, we need your help. Invite you to consider building on the success you have enabled by donating towards this parking lot project. Your help will not only allow us to be good stewards of our vans and buses by keeping them off the street, but it will also provide for the safety of children and families as they exit and enter vehicles.

Your compassion and care is amazing. What you have accomplished in these last years is nothing short of a miracle. We trust once again that YOU will make this possible.

Thank you for enabling our success.

Rev. Matt Lundgren, Executive Director

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Scan to donate online to Friendship House!
Scott Urlacher

I attended Friendship House as a boy, from ages 10-12, 4th through 6th grade. It was a safe place for me and many of my friends to go after school. And it was fun! We learned a lot of new and different things. One of my favorite memories at Friendship House was learning how to grind and sand an agate stone to make a ring. It had to look just right.

Now, I am married with 3 children. I’m a business owner of Caring Transitions in Billings. We help to transition senior citizens and their families with relocating, downsizing, moving personal belongings, estate sales/auctions, and more.

Friendship House helped me to stay out of trouble at a very impressionable age. They helped give me the focus I needed to get where I am today.

YOUR INVESTMENT IS
Eliminating POVERTY

Have you heard the great news? Poverty on Billings south side neighborhood is declining! The most recent Census data shows it. The steepest reductions in poverty are amongst children and those families with children. You and your investment in Friendship House’s kids and families is working. Can you keep the ball rolling? Your continued support of our children and families will keep this trend moving downward!

ADULT Education

From finances, to parenting, to cooking; Adult Life Skills helps families to grow!

We all know the value of “continuing education” for you, your co-workers, and your employees. At Friendship House, we believe the same is true for parents. 6 nights a week, Friendship House parents have the opportunity to grow their skills. But we don’t serve these parents alone. We do it with our expert community partners such as First Interstate Bank, Nicole King – Realtor, Americans for Prosperity, Riverstone Health, Narcotics Anonymous, Master Gardeners, and Zonta to name a few.

To help our community succeed, we offer a wide range of classes from finances, budgeting, cooking, parenting, recovery, exercise, self-defense, and more. Likewise, we provide incentives such as gift cards to parents who attend. We believe, and we know you do too, that to truly make a difference in the community, you can’t only work with children. You must work with their parents too. Because what is best for families is great parents raising great kids!

Kindergarten READY!

4 and 5 year olds ready to take on the world!

Meet Jolie® - a 5 year old who enrolled in Friendship House’s Preschool this fall. In spending just a little time with Jolie, you know she is a smart and spunky. Her mom drops off Jolie at Friendship House, and races off to her job. You can see the love in her eyes as she hugs Jolie goodbye. She’s giving her the best she can, which is the reason she enrolled Jolie in Friendship House’s Preschool.

While at Friendship House, Jolie and her classmates eat 3 meals a day. They learn their ABC’s and 123’s. Jolie can even write her name! The class listens in rapt attention during story time. She and her classmates play at recess, get strong in PE, and create arts and crafts. On special occasions, they go on field trips.

By the time Jolie’s mom is ready to pick her up at 5:30 p.m., she has had a full day of learning and playing. Jolie excitedly tells her mom everything she did that day. Her mom smiles. We send them on their way with a gallon of milk and a bag of bread, ready to take Jolie in again tomorrow.

When Jolie “graduates” from Preschool in the spring, she will be ready for Kindergarten in the fall! Thanks to you - Friendship House Preschool is making a difference.

*Some details changed to protect identity.