



2021 Year in Review

Friendship Ark, Inc.

HEALTH & COVID

Friendship Ark held 3 separate vaccine clinics in 2021 including: January (1st dose), February (2nd dose), and October (booster). At this time, just over 75% of the staff have completed the 2 dose vaccine series. 100% of the 24-hour SCL core members have completed the 2 dose vaccine series and 97% received the vaccine booster. Throughout 2021, 100% of the core members served had an annual appointment with their primary care physician. Friendship Ark kept health and safety as a high priority for our core members and staff, while still fostering choice, independence, and engagement.

EXPANSION OF SERVICES

Friendship Ark continued to operate 6 separate 24-hour residential homes in 2021, providing services to 30 individuals. There were over 15 individuals served while living in their own private homes or with their families through our Individualized SCL program. In August of 2021, Friendship Ark opened their first ever Intermediate SCL home. This home provides a living arrangement for members who have left 24-hour services but would like more support than can be offered through the Individualized SCL program. There are currently 3 individuals living in this home, with two of them moving out of the 24-hour & Individualized SCL programs. The need for services is ever present with 42 individuals on the waiting list for 24-hour services and 15 on the waiting list for Individualized SCL services. Friendship Ark Day Hab remains closed at this time.

TOTAL SERVED BY PROGRAM



STAFFING

Increase in Numbers

In December of 2021, Friendship Ark had 84 staff on our employee roster. This is an increase from the 72 listed in December of 2020.

Raised Wages

We were able to raise direct support professional wages by 26.4%, coordinator wages by 24.7%, and supervisor wages by 17.6%. All administrative staff received a 5% wage increase.

Two New Positions

While the Recruiter/Scheduler focuses on managing all FA schedules and recruiting new staff, the Registered Nurse is playing an active role in the skills portion of the Iowa Association of Community Providers medication manager course, in which we began enrolling staff in late 2021.

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It is very comforting to know that everyone at Friendship Ark cares for our son so deeply and gives us the peace of mind that he is in good hands.

-Paul S. (guardian)

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GETTING INVOLVED

In 2021, Friendship Ark core members were able to be a part of their community in various ways. Each month, core members and staff prepare a calendar of events/activities to participate in, and core members sign up at their own discretion. Different than our Day Hab program, these activities occur all 7 days out of the week with no time constraints. The activities vary from recreational (Pella Tulip Festival, ISU basketball games), to spiritual (Salt Company & Kairos), to volunteering at places including Overflow Thrift Store, Calvary United Methodist Church, St. Cecilia Church, Ames Public Library, Harmony Closet, and the Ames Animal Shelter. Out of the 47 individuals served, 24 of them held community employment in 2021. Especially fun for our core members in 2021 was delivering Christmas themed baked goods to the Ames Fire Station, Ames Police Department, and our friends at Mary Greeley.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SERIES

After two larger community events in the summer of 2021, Friendship Ark continued to spread awareness in the latter half of the year by hosting two community engagement events - Cider & S'mores and the Gingerbread House Decorating Party. These events involved several core members, staff, board members, and approximately 8 different businesses from the community including Fareway, Todd & Sargent, Mary Greeley, Knapp Tedesco, Burke Corporation, First National Bank, Story Construction and Wolfe Eye Clinic.

WE DID IT!

Friendship Ark core members had an average success rate of **88%** when working on their individualized goals in 2021. Get to know some of our core members and their journey to success:

Erin

In incremental steps, Erin gained the skills and knowledge to be able to prepare and administer her own medications. Previously, staff had been doing all steps of the med management process.

Paul

During the pandemic, Paul relied on staff to do most of his grocery shopping. In 2021, he regained the skills to shop more independently!

Jessica

With being new to Ames, Jessica wanted to learn the area so she could go out on her own. In 2021, Jessica started to walk to the local gas station with limited assistance, and has since mastered the task.



A special thank you to every donor, our sponsors & the Friendship Ark Board of Directors for making this year one of the best yet!