



**FRIENDS™
of the FAMILY**
Everyone Has A Home

5 Step Proven Process

BEN'S LETTER

A Note from Ben Brustkern, Executive Director

"Friends of the Family. How can I help you?"

These are the first words hundreds of people hear when they come in contact with our staff. Whether they are calling the crisis line to seek safe shelter, staff is engaging a family who has been discovered living outside, or working with an individual on a regular basis to move them towards self-sufficiency.

Part of our 5-step proven process for success with clients involves the assessment phase. This is an opportunity to assess the individual for their level of service need. We use two assessments at FOF:

1. Lethality Assessment - A series of yes/no questions that help us understand if someone's life is at risk. When screened for lethality we are able to provide an immediate response for safety and continue to work with them on safety planning.

2. VI-SPDAT- assesses potential vulnerability for a family or individual if they continue to remain homeless. The VI-SPDAT provides a score that also leads to how the household is prioritized for services in the community.

Assessment is such an important piece of the work we do and helps allocate scarce resources to best solve community issues. We depend so much on our street outreach team and diversion and assessment staff to ensure all people have access to life saving services.

Want to learn more about Friends of the Family and our vision? Reach out to me at ben@fofia.org or 319-576-2241.

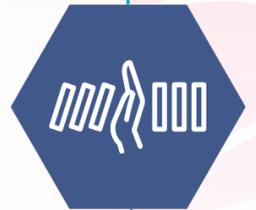


Assessment

Need Identification / Service Access & Eligibility

Crisis Intervention

Safety / Immediate Needs / Diversion



Case Management

Housing Search / Secure Housing / Goals & Empowerment / Wrap Around Services

Permanently Housed

Maintain Housing / Successful Program Exit



Follow-Up

Former Client Check Ins / Track Success / Prevent Homelessness

EVERYONE HAS A HOME

Friends of the Family has been providing housing solutions for over 25 years. What started small in Waverly has become an organization that serves 25 counties throughout North Central and Northeast Iowa.

When people hear housing solutions, they may wonder what that all entails. It goes far beyond providing more buildings and spaces for people to live. It encompasses addressing many factors that include affordability, accessibility, sustainability and inclusion. When we talk about providing housing solutions, we strive to consider all factors that go into addressing housing-related challenges within our community.

You may also hear us say, "Everyone Has a Home." This is our 10-year vision and its a vision that all in our organization work toward achieving everyday. Ending homelessness means achieving what is known as functional zero in our communities, where homelessness is rare, brief, and non-recurring, and when a housing crisis does occur, there is no wait for services - people can immediately access the help they need. You may not realize this, but the list of households waiting to receive services at this moment is around 140. This means that there are 140 families and individuals who may be living outside, in their car, in a shelter, or staying somewhere unsafe because they have no other option. These families and individuals deserve a hand up to help them out of homelessness and into permanent housing.

"Everyone Has a Home" is more than just a goal. It means ensuring that each person in our community has the resources and supports they need in place to not only find a safe and stable place to call home, but to become self sufficient and continue to overcome barriers and reach goals without Friends of the Family.

To learn more, visit www.fofia.org.



FUNDING PARTNERS

Friends of the Family relies on funding from partners to meet the needs of people affected by homelessness and violence.

Thank you!

- *Safely Home*
- *Turning Point Rural Housing Program*
- *Rapid Housing Initiative of North Iowa*
- *Always Home*
- *Emergency Solutions Grant*
- *TruStage Foundation*
- *Fayette Community Foundation*
- *Waterloo Community Foundation*
- *Wavery Shell Rock United Way*

TOP NEEDS:

- **BABY FOOD**
- **BABY FORMULA**
- **DIAPERS SIZE 5 AND 6**
- **BABY WIPES**
- **NEW BRAS AND UNDERWEAR (ALL SIZES)**

Please connect with office manager, Monique, with donation questions or to schedule drop off at 319-576-2200 or Monique@fofia.org

INTERNS

Friends of the Family was lucky to have ten interns over the last semester.

We are always excited to welcome in new interns each semester to Friends of the Family. They are a vital part of our organization and through their experience, they ensure that Friends of the Family can continue to work towards our vision of Everyone Has a Home.

These interns, pictured to the right helped us accomplish important projects. Interns play a big role in helping staff and FOF move projects, programs and goals forward.

This past spring we had a total of 10 interns. These students came from The University of Northern Iowa, Wartburg College, and Walden University, pursuing degrees in Social Work, Psychology, Public Health and Family Services. Interns served in a number of different departments, completing their internships in housing, shelter, hotline, grants, JEDI (justice, equity, diversity and inclusion).

Within our housing department, interns assisted with housing searches for new clients, worked with landlords to house these individuals, as well as checked in with and supported current clients.

Interns helped to support our shelter in a number of ways. They assisted with crisis line calls and assessments as well as welcoming and ensuring new guests in shelter were settled in and had their needs met.

We had two interns help with the housing hotline. They ensured those seeking services were able to get connected and helped with diversion, referring and providing other resources, and completing assessments.

Throughout the semester, interns took part in and assisted with our JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion) Committee. They performed an equity assessment looking at our housing services policies and procedures for accessibility and inclusion, creating next steps for improving these things throughout programs and the agency as a whole.

Grants are a big part of how FOF is able to continue to provide services. Interns in this department helped kick off a new software, did research for grants as well as handbook policies, all to help these areas move forward.

We have seen all of these interns grow and gain knowledge that they can take with them to their future careers. We can only imagine the impact they will have on the world as the impression they made here at Friends of the Family was monumental. Thank you to all of our interns!



CHEFS TAKE A STAND

This year's Chefs Take a Stand was outSTANDING!

We couldn't have asked for a better night and the support we received from those who attended, bid on auction items, chefs, beverage vendors, venue staff and FOF staff was simply amazing.

Chef Jami from Wartburg went home with the Best Dish Award for the second year in a row with her candied bacon BLT. And first time beverage vendor attendee, James, owner of Bremer Brewing Company, walked away with the Best Drink Award.



Every dish and drink was raved about by all who attended this sold out event. Everyone left with a full belly and the knowledge that with their support, even more individuals and families can receive services in the community.

The night was filled with laughter, heartfelt stories, food, drinks and most importantly, people coming together to help us reach our vision of Everyone Has a Home.

With your support, we raised over \$35,000 to be able to continue to provide critical services to the 25 counties that we serve.

We are excited to see what next year holds - make sure to save the date (and get those tickets early!) for 2025, Thursday, April 3 at the Hilton Garden Inn - Cedar Falls.



Volunteer Appreciation Week

“And that is how change happens. One gesture. One person. One moment at a time.”- Libba Bray

During the month of April we celebrated National Volunteer Appreciation Week. Friends of the Family volunteers give so selflessly of their talents and time and are such an essential part of the organization.

Last year 306 volunteers provided 5,930 hours of time to Friends of the Family! And our number for this year continues to grow weekly as more and more give back to FOF and their community.

Volunteers, lets continue the celebration! Make sure to mark your calenders for a Volunteer Open House!

Tuesday, May 21, 4:30-6 at the Waverly office
and Thursday, May 23 4:30-6 at the Waterloo Office. Come anytime for fun, snacks, and giveaways.



WHERE WE'VE BEEN WHERE WE'LL BE



National Night Out

National Night Out is an annual event that enhances the relationship between communities and law enforcement.

Friends of the Family along with the Mason City Police Department will be holding a National Night Out Event on Tuesday, August 6 from 5 to 8 pm at the Mason City Arena.

Join us for free food, kids activities, resource booths, family fun, giveaways and more! Last year we had over 1,000 in attendance with 40 resource booths, bounce houses, police and fire vehicles and lots of fun giveaways for kids and parents.

Save the date for this fun but important event that brings us all together as a community.

We will see you there!



19 EAGLE RIDGE DRIVE, WAVERLY
PRAIRIE LINKS GOLF COURSE



FRIDAY, AUGUST 9, 2024



SAVE THE DATE!!

4TH ANNUAL

PUTT AN END

TO HOMELESSNESS

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of the **FAMILY**
Everyone Has A Home



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