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INSIDE: The latest news and changes at Friendship House

Friendship House began in 1985 when founder, Louise Montgomery, felt the Lord directing her to open a home for the homeless.

Friendship House, Inc. is a non-profit organization, governed by members of a volunteer Board of Directors who are committed to helping men in need by providing shelter and a warm family atmosphere for them in which to grow physically, emotionally and spiritually.



“The A.A. emphasis on personal inventory is heavy because a great many of us have never really acquired the habit of accurate self-appraisal”

Our Wish List!

Thank you to all of our supporters who made donations from our fall wish list, each donation is greatly appreciated and a tremendous help to our house and all of our residents!

- Paper Towels
- Bath Tissue
- Area Rugs or Runners
- 55 Gallon Trash Bags
- Disinfectant Cleaners
- Antibacterial Hand Soaps
 - Dish Detergent
 - Dishwasher Tablets
- Personal Hygiene Items
 - Laundry Detergent

FRIENDSHIP HOUSE

OUR MISSION

To express the love of God through Christ to the poor and disadvantaged, by providing a safe home where hope and healing are extended to those who are broken spiritually, emotionally or physically.

Board of Directors

Ron Nevers - President
Dave Quigley
Ralph Blumenthal
Scott Garland
David Smallwood

Ex Officio

Sidney St. Felix Thaxter

House Manager

Bob Joyce

Executive Director

Herb Blake

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the house news

Fall 2018



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You Are Invited

We are looking forward with great anticipation to our **annual banquet/silent auction scheduled for Friday evening, April 5th at Seasons Event & Conference Center** located at 155 Riverside St. in Portland (just off exit 48 of the Maine Turnpike, located in the Ramada Plaza).

Last year, 180 of our friends and supporters joined us for this special evening. We are hopeful that many more of you will plan to join us for **this year's event, once again highlighted by a delicious buffet meal, resident testimonials and a large silent auction with many great items!**

Just a sampling of the items already donated and secured for our silent auction are an Amtrak Downeaster travel certificate, North Country Rivers Whitewater Rafting voucher, donations from the Boston Red Sox, the Portland Sea Dogs and the Maine Red Claws, gift baskets featuring items from Bath & Body, Yankee Candle, Stonewall Kitchen, American Tourister carry-on luggage, original artwork and decorative wall hangings, Rachel Ray cooking pans, a Patriots remote control car, restaurant and shopping gift certificates, lots of beautiful jewelry, kitchen bakeware and storage, Brookstone wireless TV headphones and we are just getting started with the collection of

items that will be displayed all around the back of the grand ballroom!

Doors open and registration starts at 5:15 PM where you will pick up your own personal number to place bids on items you may have interest in throughout the evening, be directed to your table and begin perusing the displays of great items available (and placing bids if you choose to!). **We will open and welcome everyone at 6 PM and the silent auction ends just before 8PM.** Winning bid numbers of each item will be announced shortly after 8 PM and items paid for at the exit (cash, checks and credit cards are accepted).

There are **3 main ways to participate in this fundraiser:** (1) **Plan on being there** (2) **Consider donating an item/services for our silent auction** (3) **Sponsor a Table (\$250.00 for a table of 8, invite friends and family to join you for this event).** Sponsoring a table is not necessary to attend.

If you would like to join us, **call Herb at 767-7403 to reserve a spot.** We thank all of our supporters who make donations, sponsor tables to help us cover the cost of the delicious meal and come out to support this important annual fundraiser for Friendship House!

Warm Welcome

The main entryway (side entrance off the driveway) as you enter Friendship House has a new fresh look for our residents and visitors! House manager Bob Joyce has been busy revitalizing this area with some sheetrock repair and a new paint job for the walls, ceiling and stairwell. As you can see from the pictures, it came out looking great and gives a whole new appearance and warm feel to our main resident entrance. Plans are in the works for this year for several other revitalization projects inside the house. There are several areas that we look forward to showing you the updates and improvements that are done in future newsletters!



THE DIRECTOR'S TAKE



I would like to thank all of our supporters for your prayers, charitable contributions and acts of kindness that had a lasting impact on the lives of many men and their families over the past year. Your support also helped us meet and surpass our budget and financial goals for 2018. We are trusting that God will continue to show His faithfulness and provision in the coming year and that many more lives will be changed through the opportunities afforded at Friendship House! As many of you know, we have entered our 34th year of operation and providing critical services and residential support to men in recovery in our area. Louise Montgomery and her husband Claude purchased an old house that was in dire need of renovation, oversaw and accomplished much needed repairs and opened the doors on December 23, 1985. This ministry was birthed in the hearts of two women who had become prayer partners after meeting each other about five years earlier. Louise and Allison Kelley were both summer residents of Georgetown and had not met until they were both having their vehicles repaired in Topsham one day. They would both come to see this as more of a Divine encounter rather than a chance happening. During their prayer time,

Allison was inspired to make effort to help those who were poor and in need and this led to her volunteering at Kingston House, a shelter for the homeless in Boston's Combat Zone. In their times of prayer, they came to agreement that Portland was in desperate need of this type of house and shelter. Through hard work, persistence and a series of miracles, Friendship House was born. The series of miracles included God's provision and overcoming many obstacles. Claude (a renowned portrait artist) and Louise determined that they would use their "rainy day" savings fund of \$50,000.00 to purchase a house. After months of searching and not finding any suitable houses under \$100,000.00, they were ready to abandon the plan of acquiring a house for the homeless, changing to a mission to provide clothing for the destitute in the city. As Louise was driving around to churches, looking for a place to distribute clothing, she noticed a woman carrying a load of groceries on Munjoy Hill and stopped to offer her a ride. Some would call this a chance encounter or random act of kindness, but Louise described it as a miracle. When this woman she had assisted asked why she had all of the clothing, Louise told her the full story of their house search and resulting plan to distribute clothing to those in need. She listened intently and then told her of a house that she knew about on Brackett St. that might be in this price range. It took many more miracles, but the house was eventually purchased and became Friendship House. Allison Kelley became the first resident director/manager and lived in the house. While I never had the honor to meet Louise, as she passed away in 1992 in a car accident, I had the



honor and privilege to meet Allison for the first time just prior to writing this article. Along with her daughters and son in law, we visited together for over an hour, after giving them a tour of the current Friendship House. Allison is a humble and unassuming woman of strong faith, who was surprised to hear that many thousands of men, as well as their families have been impacted through the ministry of Friendship House over these past three decades! It is amazing to think of the impact that has been made by two women seeking to hear God's voice, following His leading and committing their plans and idea to Him! We are thankful for the strong foundation that was laid for this house and for everyone who continues to be a part of the ongoing legacy of this ministry. We are confident that God will continue to bless the efforts of so many through this house. "Commit to the Lord whatever you do and He will establish your plans" Proverbs 16:3



Kitchen Completed

Our kitchen renovation project is complete! In November 2017, Friendship House received a \$5,000.00 grant from the Town & Country Better Neighbor Fund contest to accomplish this project. We received this generous grant as a result of many of our supporters voting for Friendship House throughout the month of October. Supporters are encouraged to vote once each day for the organization that you would like to see receive a grant from this fund. As you can see from the pictures it has given our kitchen a fresh new look. Our sincere thanks are extended to Town & Country FCU for their generosity in providing grant support to many non-profit organizations in Maine! Thank you to Trico Millwork for their donation of beautiful cabinetry, thank you to Mike Dolan for installing the cabinetry, as well as our new Corian countertops and thank you to house manager Bob Joyce for giving the entire kitchen a fresh coat of paint which brought the three stages of this year long project together. Look for details in our upcoming newsletters of how you can help Friendship House in this year's contest in October!

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- Thank you to everyone who made donations of items from our Fall Newsletter Wish List, your donations are greatly appreciated
- Thank you to Covenant Family Fellowship for your generous monthly support and for providing gift bags full of presents for each resident for Christmas
- Thank you to all of our supporters who make monthly or quarterly donations, you are greatly appreciated
- A special thanks to the following churches and individuals who continue to provide delicious monthly meals and donations of household items:
 - First Parish Congregational Church UCC (116 Main St, Yarmouth)
 - St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church (396 Gilman Rd, Yarmouth)
 - Trinity Lutheran Church (612 Main St, Westbrook)
 - Congregation Bet Ha'am (81 Westbrook St, South Portland)
 - Holy Martyrs' Parish (266 Foreside Rd, Falmouth)
 - Emmaus Lutheran Church (265 Middle Rd, Falmouth)
 - Robin Goodwin
- Thank you to all of the men who have come to lead our in-house AA meeting on Wednesday evening over the past several months
- Thank you to all of the individuals who have made donations of household items and supplies, as well as clothing over the past 3 months
- Thank you to the Dubuque family for providing Christmas stockings full of gifts for our residents
- Thank you to all of our supporters who made generous year end donations that helped us end 2018 on a strong note
- Thank you to the Narragansett Number One Foundation for their very generous Christmas donation, which included new sheets, blankets, pillows and comforters for all 15 of our resident beds to go along with personal items, household supplies and other items from our wish list
- Thank you to the Scarborough Middle School Builders' Club and Tom Griffin for coming to Friendship House to cook and serve a delicious 4 course meal and spend time afterward talking with our residents in December

Grant Awards

We are pleased to announce the awards of three grants to Friendship House over the past several months! In December, the Margaret E. Burnham Charitable Trust awarded Friendship House a \$2,500.00 grant and Friendship House also received a \$5,000.00 grant from a component fund of the Maine Community Foundation. In January, the Roy A. Hunt Foundation awarded Friendship House a \$2,000.00 grant. We are greatly appreciative of this support from these foundations and trust, which will be integral in our efforts to continue to provide critical supports and assistance to men in recovery at Friendship House! We thank them for their continued commitment to assist and strengthen many organizations in our state. We wish all of the trustees and board of directors continued success in all of their endeavors.

Summer Dreaming

During these frigid winter months in Maine, it is always nice to be looking forward to outdoor activities in some warmer weather. Our 8th annual "Montgomery Classic" Golf Scramble fundraiser is scheduled for Friday, September 13th at Val Halla Golf Course in Cumberland. We are asking golfers of all skill levels and abilities to consider joining us for this great day on the course. The cost to enter is \$100.00 per golfer (\$400.00 for your foursome), which includes 18 holes of golf with cart on the beautiful Val Halla course, delicious luncheon meal put on by Rachel's on the Green and the chance to win many prizes. These include clubhouse certificates for the winning and second place teams, a chance to win \$5,000.00 in cash with a hole in one, \$2,500.00 if the winner of our putting contest makes a 50-foot putt, as well as longest drive and closest to the pin prizes! We are hoping to have a women's division champion also if we are able to have multiple teams of all women enter this year. There will once again be items that will be raffled off to the holder of the winning ticket of each item, also. We are also looking for more sponsors for this year's event. We have sponsorship opportunities at many levels. Look for more information in our spring and summer newsletters. All proceeds benefit men in recovery in our state. Work on your golf game and plan on joining us for this end of summer golf scramble!



Val Halla 15th Green