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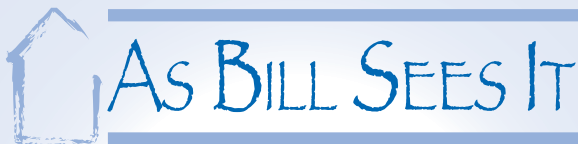
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INSIDE: The latest news and changes at Friendship House

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.



“During the day, we can pause where situations must be met and decisions made and renew the simple request ‘Thy will, not mine, be done’”.

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
Ralph Blumenthal
Bryan Emma
Scott Garland
Bill Kronmaier
Steve Martin

Ex Officio

Sidney St. Felix Thaxter

House Manager

James Barnett

Executive Director

Herb Blake

12th Annual Montgomery Classic Golf Scramble August 17, 2023

Our 12th Annual Friendship House Golf Scramble Fundraiser is happening on Thursday, August 17th at the beautiful Toddy Brook Golf Course in North Yarmouth.

It is a scenic venue with an array of challenging holes and shots. The island green on the 18th hole may be short but the water surrounding the hole can make it much more difficult. The elevated tee on the par 4, 14th hole is 150 feet above the green and is a favorite for golfers looking to crack a long drive. Participating golfers in this year's scramble will receive a gift bag, prepared lunch, enjoy a round of golf with their team and be eligible to win one of many awards and prizes available.

We are very appreciative of our 10 sponsors of this year's event: **Town & Country FCU, Bath Savings Institution, Saco & Biddeford Savings Institution, Rowe Ford, Hutchins Trucking, R. M. Davis, Printmail of Maine, Donny & Kim Nevers, Dean & Kim Walker, and Todd & Renee Walker.**

We will have a detailed recap of this fundraiser in our Fall Newsletter, including highlights of the day, the award winners and the amount raised to benefit men in recovery at Friendship House! **Thank you to all of the golfers, sponsors, volunteers and friends who have helped us build this event for the past 12 years!**



the house news

Summer 2023



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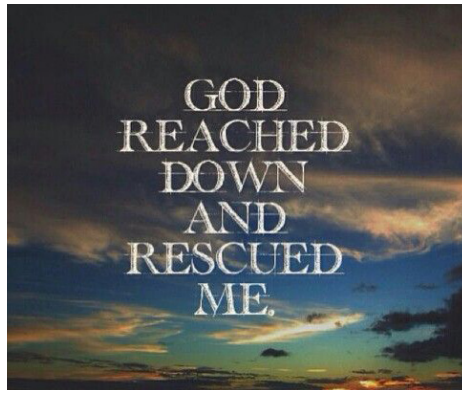
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It has been great to see a little more sunshine in recent weeks after a very rainy start to our Maine summer. Our fifteen residents continue to make strides

in their recovery and build a strong foundation for their future! Summer has been busy and full of activity, our annual golf scramble fundraiser is taking place this month and preparations for our banquet/silent auction in October have been in motion for many months. If you have attended in the past, we trust you will want to return for this year's event. If you have not been to our annual banquet, we extend an invitation to join us this year. It is a fun filled evening and we believe you will be happy that you did!



Anita Alvarez is an American synchronized swimmer who has competed in two Olympic Games. She has won numerous medals at the World Championships held each year. On June 22, 2022, she was representing our country at the World Championships in Budapest, Hungary. At the end of her solo routine, out of clear sight to fans in the stands, she began to sink to the bottom of the pool. While synchronized swimmers are known for their extraordinary ability to hold their breath for long periods of time, only moments had passed before her coach, Andrea Fuentes, sensed that Anita was underwater too long. Fully

clothed, she dove in the pool and found her unconscious, unable to help herself in any way. Andrea rescued her, pulling her to safety on the pool deck, where medics were able to assist her. She was cleared for competition not long after. When Andrea was interviewed and asked how she was able to recognize so quickly that Anita was in trouble, she replied, "I know her better than anyone and I knew that she was under too long". In the recovery world, if lives are going to be saved, it is imperative that there be friends, family, coworkers, who have the awareness to recognize warning signs, when someone has been "under too long". On many occasions, I have heard how a phone call, wellness check or an intervention, has had life changing consequences for someone in recovery. Thank God for the people in our lives who look after us, have concern for us and are willing to help when things seem hopeless! May we all experience this kind of friendship and also be willing to come to the aid and rescue of those around us who feel helpless. Have a great rest of your summer!



Save the Date: Banquet Silent Auction

Our annual banquet/silent auction is being planned for Friday, October 27th at the Italian Heritage Center in Portland.

This event has become a special night we look forward to all year long, gathering with our supporters and sharing a wonderful evening! This event has become the cornerstone for our annual fundraising efforts. What to expect: Resident testimonials, a delicious buffet meal, a fantastic silent auction with a wide variety of unique and special items, having great fellowship and an exciting raffle with great items. Our table sponsors have been a tremendous help in making this fundraiser so successful each year. A table sponsorship for \$300.00 allows you to invite family and friends to sit at your table (8 seated per table) and enjoy

all of the festivities! We have lots of desirable items and will be continuing to gather items, certificates, gift cards, gift baskets, etc., over the next two months. The items will be colorfully and decoratively displayed on our auction tables. If you have not yet joined us for this annual event, we extend a warm invitation to join us this year, we are sure that you will want to come back!

Call the Friendship House office phone at 767-7403 or email friend1@maine.rr.com to sponsor a table, donate an item, reserve a spot or to get more information. Registration opens at 5:00 PM (Preview items and get an early start on bidding for items if you would like) and the banquet starts promptly at 6:00 PM!

Our Summer Wish List

- Paper Towels
- Bath Tissue
- Laundry Detergent
- 55 Gallon Trash Bags
- Disinfectant Cleaners
- Antibacterial Hand Soaps
- Personal Hygiene Items
- Dishwashing Liquid
- Coffee
- Dry Erase Markers

A special thanks to all of our supporters who make monthly/quarterly donations, the churches that continue to provide delicious monthly meals and donations of household items and supplies, individuals who make food/clothing/household supplies donations and all of you who support us with your prayers, time and thoughtfulness. You provide a strong foundation for this ministry and all of the great opportunities that are provided to many men in recovery!

A Moment with the Manager

Hello to our families, friends and countless supporters! We hope you and your families are healthy and well. I can't begin to tell you how grateful we are for your continued support. Your generosity and thoughtfulness are second to none. Your kindness goes a long way in helping the men at Friendship House to recover. Because of you, we're able to provide a safe, healthy home, which is a huge factor when you are trying to remain sober. As a result, our residents are building a solid foundation in their recoveries. Many of our men are also building a strong relationship with Jesus. Our newer residents, some of them who were not believers, are considering a life with Christ. I continue to encourage them to build and maintain a relationship with Him. We currently have a very solid core group of men who turn their own will over to Him daily. This is evident in their strong participation in group discussions. On Tuesday evenings we are watching the series, The Chosen. This is about the life of Christ and the calling of His initial disciples. We are in season three and then we will be waiting for the intended seasons four through seven to be produced. Season four is scheduled to be out by 2024. We highly recommend this series to anyone interested. We are also working on a weekly Bible study for residents that want to participate. I am confident that our faith based approach will continue to gather momentum, as it is being well received by most residents. In May, we enjoyed LOL, a juggling show put on by middle school students from Windham Christian Academy. Rick Hagerstrom, a professional juggler/illusionist, who also teaches at the school, does a fantastic job putting the shows together and teaching the skills to them. We were also thankful to have two women from Town & Country FCU come and give two presentations to the men in recent months. They covered financial planning, budgeting, understanding and building credit, as well as many other areas, which

has been very helpful to our men. We appreciate them volunteering their time to provide this important information to our men. We received Sea Dogs tickets to opening night, we thank the Portland Sea Dogs and the organizations that have made this possible! I want to take a moment to recognize several of our alumni. Mike D. came by with his sister and brought delicious pulled pork and macaroni and cheese, which she had catered. Our thanks and prayers to Mike and his family. John B. and Patrick F. come by often and we are thankful to see them and how well they are doing. We have been able to bless a few people in the community by moving some furniture lately and we encourage them to call on us if needed. It is a way that we can give back for all of the blessings that we receive. That brings us to our most famous resident, our beloved dog, Lucas. He continues to spread his love and he is quick to alert us when we have visitors. His bark is loud but with his tail wagging uncontrollably, he is probably less intimidating than he thinks. In closing, we say thanks again! We thank God for His provision, all things are possible with Him! Your generosity and support have made life changing experiences for many men here. I wish you and your loved ones, good health and an abundance of God's blessings, we love you.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- **THANK YOU** to the following churches and individuals for your generosity through monthly support, donations and meals: Covenant Family Fellowship (Windham), Holy Martyrs Church (Falmouth), First Parish Church UCC (Yarmouth), St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church (Yarmouth), Trinity Lutheran Church (Westbrook), Mountainside Community Church (Falmouth), Jen York, Tree of Life Church A/G (Windham), Julie Gillies and Family, Crossroads Community Church A/G (Gray)
- **THANK YOU** to all of our supporters who made donations to provide for resident needs and also from our Summer Wish List
- **THANK YOU** to our supporters who provide generous financial support
- **THANK YOU** to Journey Magazine and Publisher Carolyn Delaney for featuring a story about Friendship House in the most recent edition of your publication
- **THANK YOU** to Deering Center Community Church and Pastor Don Drake for your invitation to worship with you and have a resident share his testimony
- **THANK YOU** to Brittany and Lyndsey from Town & Country FCU for volunteering your time and expertise and for coming to Friendship House to give three presentations on financial management and surrounding issues
- **THANK YOU** to Rick Hagerstrom and LOL (middle school juggling team) from Windham Christian Academy who came to Friendship House and put on a great show and delivered a Gospel message to all of our residents



A Life Well Lived

It is with great sadness that we share that Alison Kelley passed away on June 1, 2023. Alison was Louise Montgomery's prayer partner and was very influential in helping to found Friendship House in 1985. It was a pleasure to visit with her several years back and hear her recount what the early days of Friendship House were like. We remain indebted and grateful to Claude, Louise and Alison for laying a strong foundation that continues to impact many lives! We extend our deepest sympathy and condolences to her daughters, Karen, Janet and Anita, as well as her entire family. We join all of you in remembering and celebrating her life and legacy.