

Friendly House

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www.friendlyhouseiowa.org

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NEWS FROM FRIENDLY HOUSE, A SETTLEMENT HOUSE SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1896



Friendly Times

Friendly House is a neighborhood center whose mission is to respond to the needs of families and individuals through programs and services that will enrich their lives and strengthen our neighborhoods.

WINTER 2012

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JOIN US FOR A BEACH PARTY

Please join us April 20 at 6pm for our 2012 Friendly House Beach Party at the Golden Leaf Banquet and Convention Center! The party will include a beach themed meal, live music provided by the Fry Daddies, fun beach games and the opportunity to bid on wonderful silent auction items. Guests are encouraged to wear their most fabulous and fun beachwear and participate in the "Fun in the Sun" costume contest. We invite everyone to enjoy a relaxed fun evening. All proceeds will support the programs and services at Friendly House. Visit our website for more details at www.friendlyhouseiowa.org.

Tickets are available for \$50 per person or \$400 for a table. Contact Mikael at (563) 323-1821 ext 28 or email her at mgibson@friendlyhouseiowa.org for more information or to RSVP.

FRIENDLY HOUSE PROGRAMS

Art & Enrichment Classes

Themes vary by month. Call for details.

Ceramic Classes

Wednesday & Friday, 9:00 am - 11:30 am

Class Fees: \$4.00 per class

Firing Fees: per piece

Youth Services

Preschool Program
Afterschool Program
Plus Program
Summer Daycare
Teen Center
Friendly Kid's Corner
(All day care ages 2-5)

Senior Services

Cards
GenAge Meals
Crafts
Bingo
Outings
Low Impact Aerobics

Family & Adult Services

Child and Adult Care Food Program
Food Pantry
Emergency Assistance
Holiday Assistance
Family Interaction Time
Adult Open Gym
Camperships
Educational Scholarships
Childcare Scholarships
Preschool Scholarships
Birth - 24 Month Childcare
Scholarships

Community Services

Community Room and Gym Rental
Special Events and Parties

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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FREE INCOME TAX PREPARATION

Friendly House is offering free tax preparation and online filing for the 2011 tax year. The focus will be on helping taxpayers with household incomes less than \$50,000 a year benefit for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) which provides taxpayers an average return of \$1,500. Friendly House, in collaboration with United Way and other community agencies, will help participants prepare and file their returns at **no cost**.

The VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program is sponsored by the IRS. Last year Friendly House volunteers prepared 899 tax returns, helping families in our community receive \$1,093,773 in tax returns.

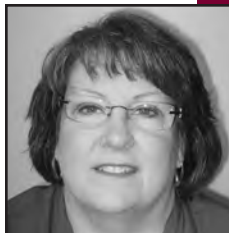
Tax assistance will be available through April 12, 2012. Half-hour appointments will be available on Monday & Thursday 5pm-8pm and Saturday 9am to noon. Tax preparations are **by appointment only**. Call 2-1-1 or 563-355-9900 to make an appointment. Friendly House will also provide a walk-in day where no appointment is necessary, April 7, 9:30am -3:00pm.

Open to all levels of Fitness!



Mondays 6:30-7:30 \$5 per person
(Doors open at 6:15 to register)
Classes held @
Friendly House

The Friendly Times Newsletter is made possible by the generous support of a friend of Friendly House and Doyle & Keenan P.C.



From the Director...

I know many of you receive numerous stories, quotes, inspirational messages through email. This one I will not soon forget. Two men, both seriously ill, occupied the same hospital room. One man was allowed to sit up in his bed for an hour each afternoon. His bed was next to the room's only window. The other man had to spend all his time flat on his back. The men talked for hours on end and spoke of the wives and families, their homes, their lives. Every afternoon, when the man in the bed by the window could sit up, he would pass the time by describing to his roommate all the things he could see outside the window. The man in the other bed began to live for those one hour periods where his world would be broadened and enlivened by all the activity and color of the world outside. The window overlooked a park with a lovely lake. Ducks and swans played on the water, while young children sailed model boats. Young lovers walked arm in arm amidst flowers of every color and a fine view of the city skyline could be seen in the distance. As the man by the window described all this in exquisite detail, the man on the other side would close his eyes and imagine all the wonderful scenes. One afternoon, the man by the window described a parade passing by and although the other man could not hear the band, he could see it in his mind's eye. Sadly, the man by the window passed away and the other man asked if he could now have the bed by the window. Imagine his surprise when he slowly, painfully strained to take his first look and discovered - A blank wall. When he asked the nurse what would have compelled the roommate to describe such wonderful things she replied "I am not sure. The man was blind and could not even see the wall. Perhaps he just wanted to encourage you". Perhaps during this month that is often known for love, we could simply find a way to encourage one another.

Special Thanks to Everyone who helped with 2011 Holiday Baskets!



TYSON FOODS HELPS FRIENDLY HOUSE PROVIDE HOLIDAY MEALS

In an effort to help raise awareness in community, Tyson Foods at the Joslin plant donated 350 hams to the Friendly House as part of their KNOW Hunger campaign. This generous donation to the 2011 Holiday Meal Baskets shows Tyson's deep commitment to hunger relief.

We are so grateful for the support of Tyson!



WEED AND SEED PUSHES FORWARD WITHOUT FEDERAL FUNDS

Our community is a community that gets things done! Weed and Seed is a community lead initiative to aid communities in improving their neighborhood by weeding out undesirable activities using law enforcement and community policing while building resources to improve the outlook of residents through neighborhood restoration and prevention activities. The grant has led to the creation of neighborhood groups that meet regularly, sports leagues for basketball, mushball, and flag football, as well as the creation of a Youth Leadership Academy. Youthbuild continues to be sponsored by Neighborhood Housing Services, and neighbors continue to talk about ways to support positive projects that will encourage families to live in this area. Even though federal funds ended last fall; the City of Davenport, Friendly House, and other agencies from the community have come together to continue to facilitate all the above activities. If you are interested in learning more about Davenport Weed and Seed and upcoming activities please contact Shellie Guy at (563) 323-1821 ext. 27 or Ashley Duggleby at (563) 888-3438.

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PRESCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Friendly House offers preschool scholarships for 3 to 5 year olds through **Scott County Kids Early Childhood Iowa Preschool Scholarship**. Approved scholarships can pay up to 30 hours per week of preschool at approved centers. Income guidelines apply. Please contact Renee at 563-323-1821 ext 11 or email her at reneerankin@friendlyhouseiowa.org for details.

DO YOU NEED CARE FOR YOUR CHILDREN DURING SPRING BREAK?

Before you know it, children will be on spring break, and Friendly House can help provide care for your children on those days. The program will run from Thursday, March 8, through Tuesday, March 20. We offer full day care for elementary school children grades K - 5 on in-service, intercession school days, or holidays when school is out. Organized activities, games and field trips are provided in a fun atmosphere. The cost for this program is \$20 per day per student, and children must bring a sack lunch. Your child does not need to be enrolled in our other youth programs to be eligible. Contact Andi at (563) 323-1821, ext. 29 or email her at aengler@friendlyhouseiowa.org.

RENT REBATE FILING

Iowa residents may be eligible for rent rebates. Total yearly household income must be less than \$20,301, and one of the following applies: 65 years of age or older, or be totally disabled and 18 years of age or older by December 31, 2011. Applicants must have proof of 2011 income, statement of when disability began, a total of rent paid in 2011, and the name, address and phone number of their landlord. Rebate forms are now also available online at <http://www.scottcountyiowa.com/treasurer/>. Contact Jodi at (563) 323-1821, ext. 17 or email her at jstock@friendlyhouseiowa.org for more information.

EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Friendly House offers three educational scholarships. The Ivory/Optimist Scholarship, the Micka Scholarship, and the Mort and Tish Levy Educational Scholarship. Scholarship applications are available at Friendly House (On March 1), through the area Davenport high schools and local colleges, or on the Friendly House website, www.friendlyhouseiowa.org. Deadline for all applications is May 1, 2011. For more information, contact Jodi at (563) 323-1821, ext. 17 or email at jstock@friendlyhouseiowa.org.

CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Is your child under 18, and interested in summer camp? If you are interested in sending your child to camp but can't figure out how to pay for it. Contact Jodi at (563) 323-1821, ext. 17 or jstock@friendlyhouseiowa.org for more information.

PRESCHOOL OPENINGS

We currently have openings in our 3 year old and 4 year old preschool classes which focus on kindergarten readiness, social skills, and language development. Contact Linnea at (563) 323-1821, ext 23 or email her at lfarrell@friendlyhouseiowa.org

FRIENDLY THANK YOU

Friendly House would like to thank the following organizations for their recent support: **Riverboat Development Authority, Per Mar Security, Davenport Printing Company, Golden Leaf Banquet & Conference Center and Raynor Door of the Quad Cities** for already committing to sponsor Friendly House Beach Party 2012. **Community Foundation of the Great River Bend** for \$5,000 toward the purchase of a new cargo van. **Optimist Club of Davenport** for \$1,500 toward 2011 Family Week and Thanksgiving lunch. **Center for Active Seniors, Inc. (CASI)** for the \$1,500 to support our seniors holiday assistance through shared funds from their annual Hat Bash.