



Friendship Home

Empowering freedom from domestic violence

2025 Annual Report

Empowering freedom from domestic violence

Lives You Have Touched



2,772

Survivors received shelter and/or crisis services



1,068

Requests for Safe Shelter



502

Survivors were sheltered.

292 were children.



52,755

Meals were provided.



59,797

Bed nights.

Numbers represent services provided January through December 2025.



Dear Friends,


For 47 years, Friendship Home has been a place of safety and hope for survivors of domestic violence and their children. Individuals and families have turned to us in their most difficult moments, seeking not only shelter but support, understanding, and a path forward. Today, that mission is being put to the test.

Significant cuts and delays in critical public funding have made it more challenging to meet the growing needs in our community. At the same time, more individuals and families are reaching out for help during moments of crisis, increasing the demand for our services.

These challenges affect our people, the advocate answering a desperate late-night call, the child seeking comfort after trauma, and the parent searching for a safe place to rebuild. In response, we are strengthening our collaboration with partner agencies across the community, working together to expand access to care and ensure no one faces these moments alone. By aligning our efforts, sharing resources, and coordinating support, we are better equipped to meet the growing need and create a more connected, responsive network of care for every individual who depends on it.

Despite it all, our commitment has not changed. Every person who comes to Friendship Home deserves safety, dignity, and the opportunity to heal. With the support of our community and partners, we can continue to be there when it matters most, ensuring that no one has to face violence alone.

Thank you for making a difference together!

With
gratitude,


Leah Droge, Chief Executive Officer

Empowering Freedom from Domestic Violence

Friendship Home's vision is that someday, the need for our services will cease to exist, that no one in the community will tolerate domestic violence, and that all homes will be places of love, support and safety.

For over 45 years, Friendship Home has provided support, shelter, and advocacy for survivors and their children who have experienced domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, and stalking. Our staff respects that each survivor knows their situation best and that they have the right to decide what happens next in their journey.

Crisis Services

Friendship Home's crisis services offer caring protection from domestic violence - safety planning, case management, advocacy, crisis counseling, access to medical and behavioral health services, financial aid, transportation, short-term mental health services, and support groups.

24-HOUR SHELTER CRISIS LINE: 402-437-9302



Our Services



Emergency Shelter

Friendship Home is the only emergency domestic violence shelter in Lincoln and Lancaster County, focused on providing safe, secure, and confidential shelter options for survivors and their children when their risk of violence is at its greatest. Trauma-informed shelter options include communal shelter and single-family apartments. During a shelter stay, advocates and case managers work alongside survivors to support and empower them to reach their goals.



Transitional Housing

Survivors focus on financial literacy, learning to track expenses, budget, and build credit. Our transitional shelter program offers direct case management along with assistance navigating community resources. Survivors have the support they need to find a job or obtain job training, locate childcare, and secure permanent housing.



Rapid Rehousing

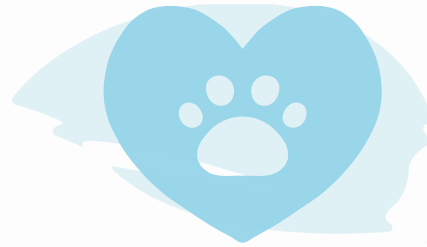
Short-term rental assistance and supportive services are provided to households experiencing homelessness due to domestic violence. The resources and services provided are tailored to the unique needs of each household. Rapid Rehousing is an intervention designed to help survivors quickly exit homelessness and return to permanent housing. Intensive case management services are offered to address barriers to housing stability.

Our Services Continued..



Pre-Shelter Program

Led by a specialized case manager, this program ensures that no one is left without guidance or hope during this critical transition period. Through daily check-ins, personalized safety planning, and connections to local resources such as housing assistance, food, transportation, and counseling services, our pre-shelter support bridges the gap between crisis and stability.



Pet Program

This program provides safe, temporary care and accommodations for animals. This support not only protects animals but also offers comfort and stability during a difficult transition by removing one of the biggest barriers faced when seeking safety: leaving a beloved pet behind.



“ This past year tested us in ways we could not have anticipated. In 2025, our county and state experienced a marked increase in loss of life due to domestic violence. This weighed heavily on our staff, our board, and the community we serve. We saw a marked increase in survivors reaching out for help and our staff rose to handle each of these new stories while they carried that grief, and at times feeling quite overwhelmed.

There were moments when we felt shaken to our core. The emotional toll was real, and it asked much of everyone connected to this mission. And yet, even in that weight, our resolve has not changed.

If anything, it has deepened. We remain committed to providing safe shelter, compassionate advocacy, and a path forward for those impacted by domestic violence. We remain steadfast in our belief that every person deserves to live free from fear.

To our donors and partners: your support has been a steady source of strength during an unsteady time. Because of you, we continue to show up when it matters most.

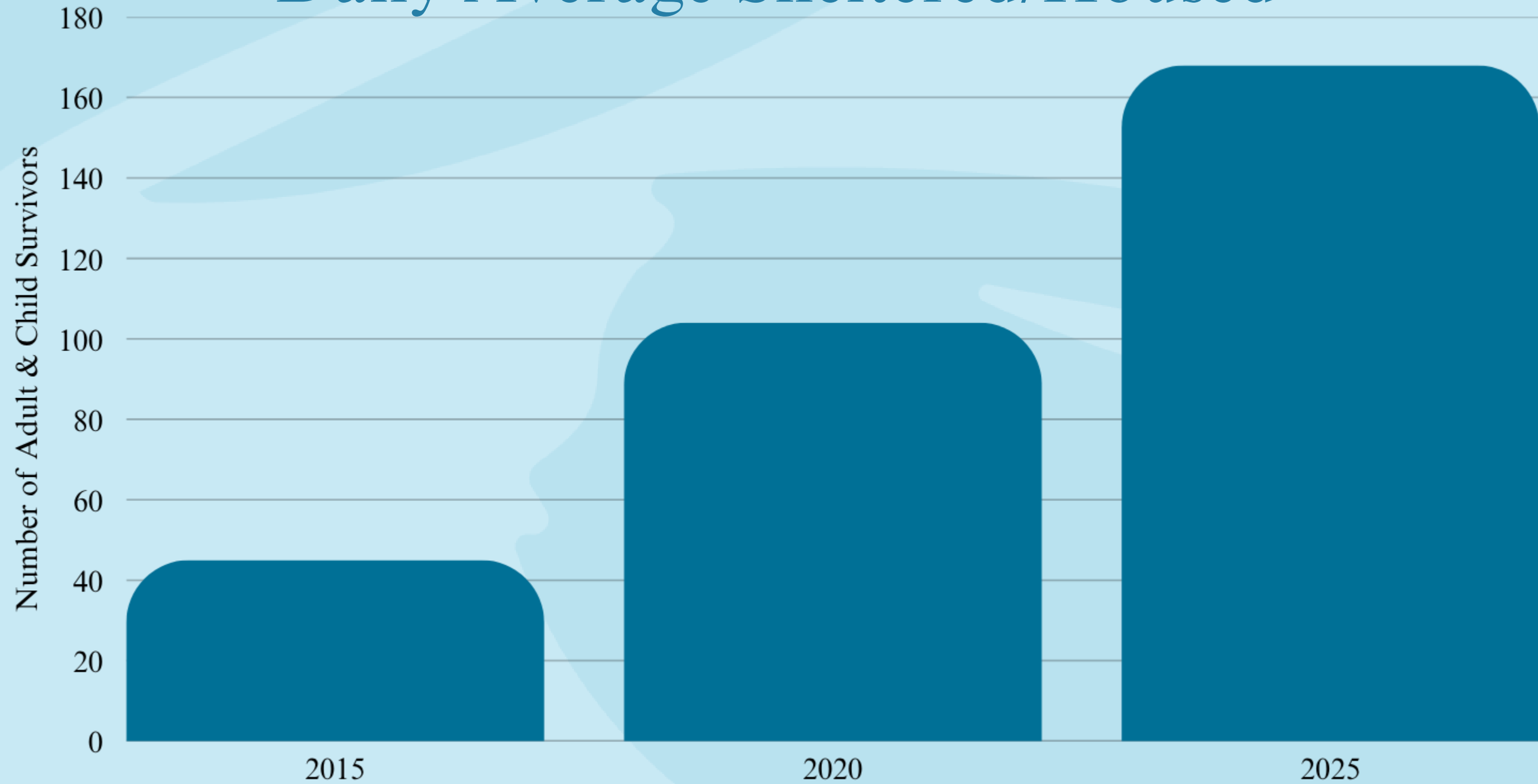
We move forward together, grieving, but resolute.”

**Dr. Beth Lau, *Friendship Home Board
President***






Daily Average Sheltered/Housed



2025 Accomplishments

- To alleviate pressure on community shelters, the Joint Budget Committee allocated funds to Friendship Home from March to May in 2025. Through this project, we provided emergency shelter for 33 additional households and permanent housing for 10 households (10 adults and 19 children).
- Friendship Home absorbed the services ShelterMe Nebraska, expanding pet boarding, veterinary care, and emergency and transitional shelter placement for pets and people together.
- The inaugural *Illuminate; Hope Shines Here* event was held at the Rococo Theatre, replacing Safe Quarters. Alongside supporters and sponsors, the event highlighted the impact domestic violence has while bringing awareness and hope to our community.
- In December, volunteers, supporters, and staff came together to provide Holiday Wishes gifts to 168 survivors and children. A record year of spreading holiday joy!



A young woman with voluminous, curly brown hair is smiling warmly at the camera. She is wearing a black top and large hoop earrings. Her hands are clasped together near her chest. The background is a soft-focus field of tall grasses or crops under a bright, hazy sky, suggesting a late afternoon or early morning setting.

“Friendship Home gave me a place to stay. They surrounded me with support and showed me a strength in myself I didn’t know I had. I found confidence, and now I’m on my own with my kids. What they gave me changed my life forever.”

Former Friendship Home Resident

Money Matters

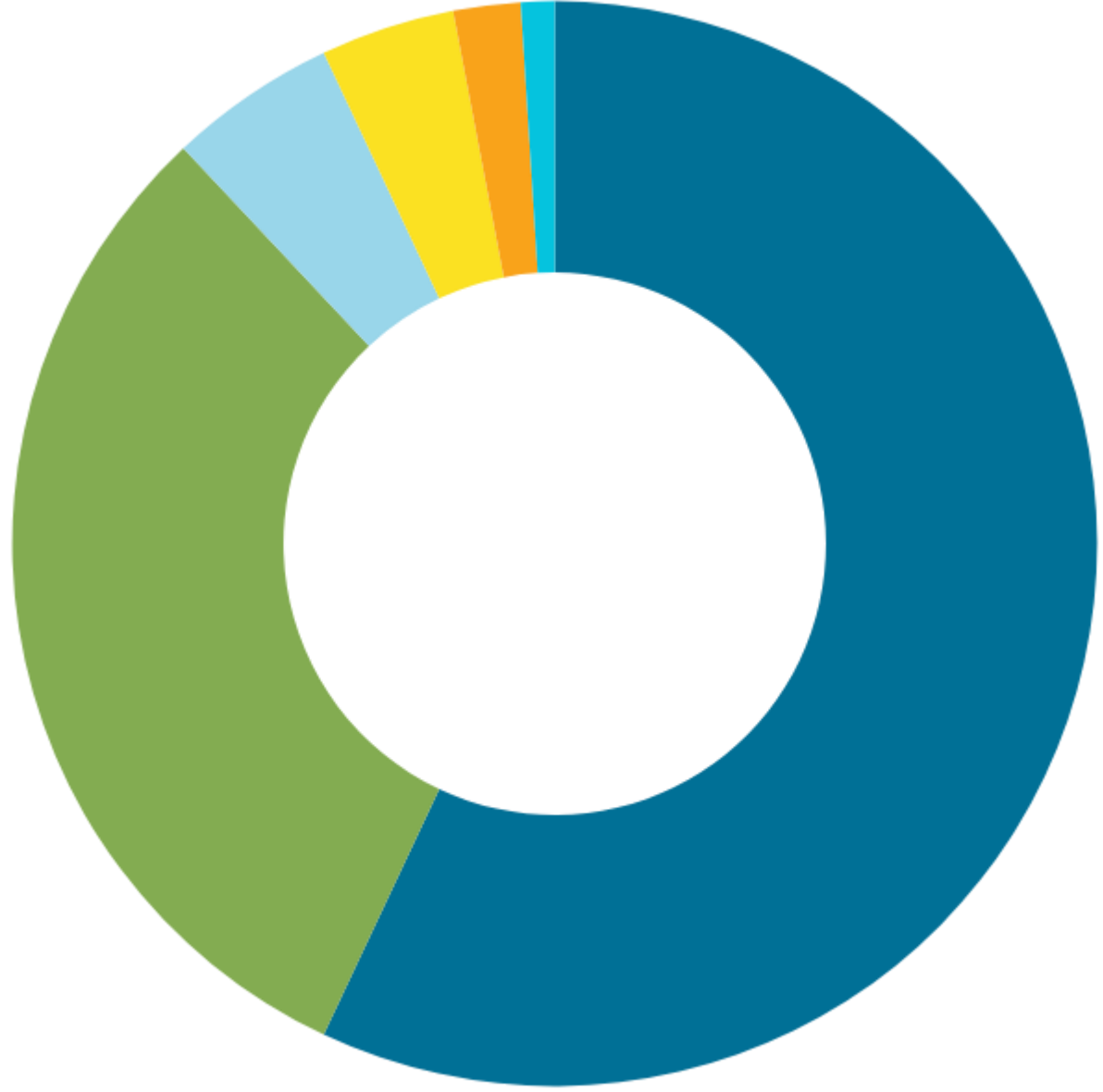
In 2025, 57% of our income came from Grants and Government support, 31% from Donations and Special Events and 11% from United Way, the City of Lincoln, and the State of Nebraska.

Friendship Home is one of only seven Human Service charities of similar size in Lincoln to receive Charity Navigator’s highest rating of four stars - for 10 consecutive years! Charity Navigator is the nation’s most trusted evaluator of nonprofit efficacy. This means that Friendship Home is an excellent steward of financial support, and has sustained and delivered high-quality programs and services for many years. We are committed to good governance and transparency - and trusted to have impactful outcomes on those we serve.



Friendship Home 2025 Income Sources

Total Budget = \$4,250,540



- 57% Grants & Government Support
- 31% Donations & Special Events
- 5% City of Lincoln
- 4% State of Nebraska
- 2% United Way
- 1% Other Income

Board of Directors

Beth Lau

Joel Bacon

Sande Dirks

Perry Haralson

Pat Bennett

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Michelle Keogh

Adam Letheby

Greg Mendoza

Crystal Meyer

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Mary Nelson

Michelle Penn

Sherla Post

Deb Taylor

Denny Van Horn



Friendship
Home

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402.434.6353

402.437.9302 **CRISIS LINE**

FriendshipHome.org