



WINTER 2013

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88 Dedicated Volunteers



## SHARING THE CARING

### *In Huntsville and Madison County*

With a new year always comes reflection of the old. We heard several new words last year like “fiscal cliff” and “superstorm”. The news of 2012 was a constant buzz about mass shootings, the U.S. election, Hurricane Sandy, Obamacare, Libya, Penn State, the U.S. economy, gay marriage, Syria, gun control, taxes, and... Someone, please stop me!

Some of the things that you did not see much about in the news of 2012 were the elderly, the lonely, and those needing extra support to maintain their independence. Last year alone Friends, Inc. offered assistance to over 600 clients with resource referrals, transportation, and friendly visits and phone calls. The photo above is one of our very special volunteers, Mrs. Doreen Jurgielewicz. Doreen spends many hours on the phone with patients who need to be reminded that they are not alone. She is a friendly voice that truly cares about who they are, what they need, and how we can help them. Doreen has logged over 150 hours of support services to Friends. Thank you, Doreen, for your servant’s heart and your willingness to brighten the lives of those who are homebound and need a friend.

We receive many referrals from medical facilities concerning patients who are lacking a support system. When a patient or family receives the news of poor health the superstorm begins. So much of the time it snowballs and the family or patient ends up crying out because they feel they are falling physically off a cliff! This is where you and I can provide hope, comfort, and reassurance that they are not alone; just like Doreen does every day with her friendly phone calls.

I told someone the other day that we never have need to recruit patients but are always in need of more volunteers. When asked, “What can we do for Friends?” my response is always: 1. Spread the word of who we are and what we are doing. 2. Donate your time by volunteering. 3. Contribute financially. These three elements are what allow Friends, Inc. to continue our mission in Madison County. Lives are touched and changed daily by your ongoing support.

May you always have love to share, health to spare, and Friends that care,

Jan Brewer



*Jan Brewer, Executive Director*

Amidst all the hustle and bustle of the past few months, it's been an incredible experience watching our awe-inspiring volunteers go above and beyond the call of duty to help deliver our Thanksgiving "Bags of Blessings" and our "Be a Santa to a Senior" Christmas gifts during the holiday season. The "Bags of Blessings" were delivered to all of our patients who otherwise may have gone without a Thanksgiving meal had those meals and groceries not been provided. Our "Be a Santa to a Senior" Christmas gifts were often the only gifts received by most of our senior patients. One patient wrote in her thank you note, thanking Friends for the Thanksgiving food and the Christmas gifts that, "more than anything else, they are a tangible reminder that I'm not alone, but that I can have help." Through Friends, Inc. our volunteers make certain of that.

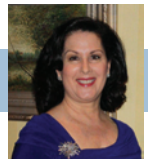
Amazingly, these considerable acts of kindness were performed while still donating hours of assistance in all the other areas of support that Friends, Inc. volunteers provide on a daily basis. It is our volunteers' compassion, dedication, and caring commitment that makes such a difference in our patients' quality of life, yet so many of them tell us that they get more out of volunteering than those they help; that they are the ones that gain the greater blessing.

It has been said that "...in every community there is work to be done, and in every heart there is the power to do it." We are looking for more volunteers with big hearts. We are looking for you! We would be more than honored to have you as a volunteer. There is no time commitment required when you volunteer with Friends, Inc. We offer flexibility at all times, based completely on your personal schedule and desires. As a Friends volunteer, in addition to showing your concern for your community, Friends can also give you an opportunity to share your strengths and skills with others, gain new life experiences and a greater sense of personal accomplishment, meet new people, and all the while making a huge difference in the lives of those in need.

With all the promise that 2013 holds, might you consider donating some of your time towards volunteering? Might you consider becoming a "Friend" with Friends, Inc.?

Grace and peace,  
Sherry Bryant

*Sherry Bryant, Volunteer Coordinator*



Mary with patient Rachel Greenwell



Mary with Regina Steffy

## My Volunteer Story

By Mary McDonald

My name is Mary McDonald and I've been a Friends, Inc. volunteer since 2006. When asked my reason for volunteering, part of the credit is due to wonderful parents who were constantly helping others. One of the unique aspects of volunteering for Friends is the opportunity for a wide variety of assignments with many different people. During my time volunteering, I've transported patients for medical appointments, gone shopping with a visually impaired person, visited patients in their homes and in nursing homes, and delivered Christmas and Thanksgiving gifts. I've also played hymns on my flute for residents in nursing homes. One of my most memorable experiences was the time I played for someone sitting in the small dining area of a nursing home and several others who were also in the dining area decided to join in and sing hymns with us. One woman knew every song I played!

It's often said that when one helps others they help themselves as well. I agree with that. Volunteering for Friends has also made me very thankful for what I sometimes take for granted. I also like to think it has made me a more humble and compassionate person.



## Bags of Blessings

Thanksgiving with Friends



## Santa to a Senior

# Memorials, Honor Gifts, and Donations

In memory of David Napier Sington  
*Given By: Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Anderson*

In memory of Ms. Nadine Wilhelm  
*Given By: Dean Dardin*

In memory of Ms. Barbara Bridwell  
*Given By: Mrs. Mary Manary*

In honor of Sherry Taylor  
*Given By: Ms. Louise Avery*

In memory of Mr. Bill Brumlow  
*Given By: Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Dickerson*

In memory of Mr. Joe May  
*Given By: Mrs. Jewel May*

In memory of Mrs. Cathryn Flowers  
*Given By: Mr. and Mrs. Dudley Brewer*

In memory of B.J. Johnson  
*Given By: Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Ezell*

In memory of Mr. Christopher Griggs  
*Given By: Dr. and Mrs. James McMurray*

In honor of Mr. Jim Vann  
*Given By: Mr. and Mrs. Bob Blankenship*

In memory of Mr. Christopher Griggs  
*Given By: Mr. and Mrs. Bill Godsey*

In memory of Mr. William Heidish  
*Given By: Ms. Sandra Moon*

In Memory of Ms. Ann Koontz  
*Given By: Mr. and Mrs. Duffy Boles*

In memory of Mrs. Judy Gregory  
*Given By: Mr. John Gregory*

In memory of Mr. Christopher Griggs  
*Given By: Mr. and Mrs. Robert Nash*

In memory of Mr. Robert Davis  
*Given By: Mr. and Mrs. Duffy Boles*

In memory of Mr. Christopher Griggs  
*Given By: Mr. Jerry Laurine*

In honor of Mrs. Regina Kelley  
*Given By: Mrs. Sherry Patrick*

In memory of Ms. Kathryn Hearn  
*Given By: Mr. and Mrs. Duffy Boles*

In honor of Dr. and Mrs. Tom Griggs  
*Given By: Mr. Jerry Laurine*

In honor of Mrs. Carmen Maynard  
*Given By: Mr. Thomas Robinson*

In memory of Dr. Pat Burlison  
*Given By: Col. and Mrs. Robert Brown*

In honor of Bob and Jeanine Doyle  
*Given By: Mr. Jerry Laurine*

In memory of Ms. Katherine Hearn  
*Given By: Mrs. Charlotte Schlittler*

In memory of Mrs. Dianne Moon  
*Given By: Col. and Mrs. Robert Brown*

In honor of John and Diane Lynn  
*Given By: Mr. Jerry Laurine*

In honor of David and Janice Moore  
*Given By: Dr. and Mrs. Sidney Smith*

In memory of Mr. Christopher Griggs  
*Given By: Mrs. Robbie Burlison*

In honor of Roy and Pat Martin  
*Given By: Mr. Jerry Laurine*

In memory of Mrs. Carol Spears  
*Given By: Mr. Luke Spears*

In honor of Mrs. Jan Brewer  
*Given By: Mrs. Gloria Caneer*

In honor of Dr. and Mrs. Bob Hale  
*Given By: Dr. and Mrs. Ed Litkenhous*

In honor of our cousins  
*Given By: Mr. and Mrs. David Wilson, Jr.*

*In Loving Memory of*

**Joan Brawner, Vera Hubbard, & Geneva McNair**

*Thank you for allowing Friends, Inc. to be a part of their lives.*

*We want to say thank you to all of our supporters.  
Your gifts do make a difference!*

Donations: All About Baby, Chip Ancel, Sidney Bailey, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Bates, Sara Batson, Mr. and Mrs. Boyce Bazzell, Winifred Beason, Mr. and Mrs. Philip Bentley, Judy Berry, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Bodden, Hannah Boon, Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Bowen, Mr. and Mrs. Austin Boyd, Mr. and Mrs. William Burgess, Misty Burrow, Roger Coupland, Dr. and Mrs. Norton Cowart, Ralph DeSanctis, Mr. and Mrs. Jay Dinerman, Russell Dinwiddie, Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Duerr, Brian Duerr, Ann Elston, Mr. and Mrs. David Ely, Joan Emanuel, Peggy Fambrough, Janice Fowler, Mr. and Mrs. Armand Fux, Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Garrard, Bob Gibbs, Pearlina Gilpin, Mr. and Mrs. Hayden Glenn, Dr. and Mrs. James Goldbach, Pat Golley, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Greer, Hazel Gregory, Dr. Gregory Gum, Paulette Hamblin, Peggy Harrington, Patty Henritz, Mr. and Mrs. Bledsoe Hereford, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Herrin, Mr. and Mrs. R.R. Holaway, Carolyn Holt, Dr. Peggy Huddleston, Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Hutchens, Gregory Hutcherson, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Kip Kendrick, Barbara Kibler, Mr. and Mrs. Niles Klee, Kathrine Lane, Wilma Langford, Teresa Ledbetter, Doris Levinson, Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Lewis, Linda Lockhart, Dr. and Mrs. Peter Loux, Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Manary, Mr. and Mrs. A.O. Maynard, Mr. and Mrs. Harry McCarty III, Patrick McCauley, Mr. and Mrs. Fred McLaurine, Helen Middleton, Monte Sano United Methodist Church, Tiffany Noel, Charlotte Park, Seymour Peckins, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Quackenbush, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Rhoades, Helen Rushing, Deborah Sargent, Dell Segler, Mr. and Mrs. Denny Sissom, Camille Solley, Joyce Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Guy Spencer, Mr. and Mrs. Heinrich Struck, Trustmark National Bank, Janice Turner, United Methodist Women, Sally Upchurch, Mr. and Mrs. John Walker, John Watson, Sara Welch, Nita West, Margaret Yarbrough, Talitha Yokley, Robert Young

*We welcome our new volunteer, Cindy Gregg!*

SHARING THE CARING  
IN HUNTSVILLE AND  
MADISON COUNTY

*It is our mission to provide support to  
patients with serious illnesses or disabilities,  
enabling them to maintain their  
independence through caring volunteers.*



Friends, Inc.  
P.O. Box 608  
Huntsville, AL 35804  
www.friendsinc.net

RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

CFC # 40931



*Together*  
LET'S RESOLVE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN 2013

- Have you made a New Year's resolution to give back and purposed to be more involved in the community?
- Are you looking to find that activity that makes your heart sing and have yet to figure out what it might be?
- What about volunteering with Friends, Inc.?