

I remember last year saying, "Let's not look back because we aren't going that way!" Well, it's 2024, and it's pleasant to look back at 2023 and see all the many acts of kindness this small organization accomplished. A multitude of hands served many in our community. I'm not much on New Year's resolutions, but I hold to the same one every year: I want to be a better person and be used to the fullest in serving others.

I have always been fascinated with hands. I love to see elderly people's hands and think of all the many things they have accomplished. When I look at my hands now, wearing my parent's rings, I can still visualize their hands and how they served so willingly. Stop and think about how your hands have served you, as well as others. Though our hands are similar in physical appearance, they are different because of how they are used. Our hands reflect our innermost selves. We clench our fists when we are angry. We wring our hands when we are stressed or worried. As children, we were taught to fold our hands to pray. We wipe tears from our eyes when we are sad. Hands can appear beautiful even when calloused and soiled after a hard day's work. My husband's hands consistently show how hard he worked to provide for our family.



Our hands shrivel as we wash dishes. Our warm hands hold newborn babies. Gentle hands caress the heads of our loved ones as they leave this earth. We use them to extend for a warm handshake, write letters, stroke the face of a child, hold a hand, put food in our mouths and clothes on our back. Our hands hold us up, lay us down, and, at the end of the day, fold in prayer. When you look at your hands, realize the great potential within them. I hope you will look for resourceful ways to use them positively and creatively in 2024 to serve others. Being part of Friends, Inc. allows us to be better people by using our hands to give of our means, push a wheelchair, carry groceries, write letters and pick up a phone to say hello to a friend. Thank you for joining hands with Friends, Inc. in 2023. I hope you will continue as we move forward into the new year.

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



Tie a bow on it...

2023 is a wrap! These years have a way of speeding up, don't they? As I am writing this, it is already mid-January. Looking back on the last quarter of our year at Friends, Inc. it seems that it was many months ago that we were in the middle of Autumn Evening, Bag of Blessings, and Be a Santa to a Senior.

We have been blessed to add new volunteers to our group! I hope many of you will have the opportunity to meet Doris Briggins, John Holloway, Jeri and Walt Miller, and Sandra and David Lewis. They bring wonderful skill sets, and years of volunteer and life experiences to Friends, Inc.

During the last quarter of 2023, our volunteers

- helped organize and made more than 150 deliveries to patients for Bag of Blessings and Be a Santa to a Senior
- sent hand-written cards to patients
- called patients to check on them just to make sure they were okay
- took packages of medical supplies to patients when there was too much month at the end
  of the money
- sent birthday cards to patients, many of whom wouldn't hear from anyone else
- picked up medical supplies that were donated to Friends, Inc.

Pebbie Davis

These and many other tasks will continue to be completed month after month because our volunteers care. They care about others, and they care about this organization.

If you're wondering how you, too, can help, think about how you WANT to help.

Call me. Email me. There's a place for you at the Friends table. Join us, won't you:



Mr. James Campbell

Mrs. Linda Bearden

Mr. Brian Ellingson

Mr. Bill Greer

Ms. Shilda Cowan

Mr. Orvell Jackson

Ms. Sheryl Stubbs





/olunteer

256.534.4079 debbie@friendsinc.net



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