



**Friends, Inc.**

FALL 2024

Currently 89 Dedicated Volunteers  
Executive Director, Jan Brewer  
Volunteer Coordinator, Debbie Davis  
Patient Navigator, Zoey Davis

Board Members

President, Rusty Stiles  
Vice President, Jane Diamantis  
Secretary, Stacey Condron  
Treasurer, Greg Burgess  
Sam Barnes, Afton DeLuca,  
Beth Griggs, Kavitha Hichkad,  
James Starks, Elaine Wales,  
Judy Wilson

I love sitting at my kitchen table, watching hummingbirds dart around the small red feeder on my back porch. They're so tiny, yet so bold, fiercely defending their turn for a sweet sip of nectar. I hold my breath, careful not to move, as they finally pause, hovering to drink deeply from the feeder. Watching these little "hummers," as my mother used to call them, I realize how much they remind me of myself. I'm always on the go, rarely slowing down, constantly thinking about what's next.

In a world full of busyness, stress, and anxiety, we're all like those hummingbirds, darting around, trying to get everything done. Today, from my kitchen table, a scripture comes to mind: "Be still, and know that I am God." As I reflect on my own life, I realize that I'm rarely still—unless I'm sitting at my desk at Friends, Inc.

Each day, I listen to stories, hearing the pain in the voices of people seeking help. They call in need of assistance, asking for information about home care, hospice, or better facilities for their loved ones. Some need resources like food, medical supplies, or equipment. Others simply need

a listening ear. Our volunteers do an incredible job of being present and listening as patients share their fears and worries—about their declining health, their many medical appointments, or the sadness of feeling forgotten by family.

Watching these tiny, colorful birds teaches me about perseverance, energy, independence, patience, uniqueness, resilience, and adaptability. Yet, the greatest lesson they offer is slowing down, being still, and drinking deeply from God's righteousness. Join me in becoming a better listener by slowing down and opening our hearts to others' stories with empathy and understanding.

"No one is more cherished in this world than someone who lightens the burden of another." Our volunteers are truly cherished for their compassion, generosity, and selflessness as they help lighten the load for those in need at Friends, Inc. If you're looking for a place to make a difference, I encourage you to volunteer with us.

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

*Providing Friends* FOR THOSE IN NEED



*Jan Brewer*  
Executive Director

As I write this, we are still watching the news for updates on neighboring states dealing with Helene's flood damage. It is heartbreaking. And by the time you read this, yet another storm may have been hot on Helene's heels.

It can be easy to get caught up in the everyday onslaught of bad news. I don't want to trivialize any life-altering events, but I want to share some good, uplifting news with you.

Our Friends, Inc. Volunteer of the Year for 2024 is Carole Bryant. Carole joined Friends, Inc. in 2020. She has helped with many office projects and never blinks when I send one of my "ALL HANDS ON DECK" emails requesting help. Recently, Carole offered to be responsible for sending birthday cards to all our patients. Her work is done with precision and joy. We hear from patients who receive the cards, expressing their gratitude. Many have indicated that it is the only card they receive.

As we enter a season that will remind us to give thanks for what we have, let's do just that. When we can share our gifts with others, whether material gifts or simply listening ears and helping hands, let us be those Friends who help others "Be still" and know they are cared for.



*Debbie Davis*  
Volunteer Coordinator

## 2024 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

*Mrs. Carole Bryant*



Carole is not just a volunteer but an integral part of the Friends, Inc. family. Her unique role and exceptional dedication make us feel blessed to have her with us, and we are most grateful for her service and dedication.

*Welcome*  
Migdalia Gomez and Keren Hilliar



## Meet Our New Patient Care Navigator

My name is Zoey Davis, and I have the privilege of serving as the new Patient Care Navigator at Friends, Inc. I was born and raised here in Huntsville and have loved every moment of giving back to the community that has given me so much! I am deeply passionate about my role here at Friends, Inc., where I have the opportunity to use my social work background to conduct home visits and assess the needs of our patients.

Visiting patients in their homes offers me the opportunity to listen to their unique stories, giving me invaluable insight into their challenges, hopes, trials, and joys, helping Friends, Inc. find new and inspired ways to connect with and care for our patients. This position allows me to form meaningful connections with our patients, and it has been such a joy to spend quality time with so many incredible people.

So often, I hear our patients speak of how lonely they are and of their need for connection and community. I love that we at Friends, Inc. get to play a part in bringing that sense of belonging back to their lives. Every day, we think of new and fun ways to spark joy into the lives of those we serve, and I feel blessed to be a part of the mission... a mission that means so much to this community:

*providing a friend for those in need.*

## *In Loving Memory*

- Mrs. Joyce Bishop
- Mr. Arthur Drapkin
- Mr. Tim Hendel
- Mr. Jimmy Leslie
- Mr. Jim McAnally
- Ms. Sherri Mitchell
- Ms. Pamela Slay
- Mrs. Ruth Friday
- Mr. Jeramyh Williams





# Memorials, Honor Gifts, and Donations

In memory of Mrs. Dorothy (Dee) Darwin  
Given by Mrs. Sara Batson

In honor of Mrs. Joyce Hall  
Given by Mr. and Mrs. Phil Bentley

In memory of Mrs. Jane Ann Blankenship  
Given by Mr. David Blankenship

In memory of Mr. Malcolm Rives  
Given by Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Brady

In memory of Mr. B. J. Strickland  
Given by Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Brady

In memory of Mr. Norman Forsythe  
Given by Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Brady

In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Kilpatrick  
Given by Mrs. Jan Brewer

In honor of Mrs. Margaret Kelly  
Given by Ms. Mary Cotton

In memory of Mrs. Mickie Harrison  
Given by Mr. and Mrs. Dwayne Duke

In memory of Mrs. Eunice J. Merrell  
Given by Mrs. Doris Elkins

In honor of Mr. Walter Fletcher  
Given by Ms. Rosie Fletcher

In memory of Ms. Susan Bowser  
Dr. and Mrs. Jerry Green

In honor of Mr. Jim Vann  
Given by Ms. Beth Griggs

In memory of Mrs. Tommie Jean Seitz  
Given by Mr. and Mrs. Larry Hayes

In honor of Mr. Jack Lee  
Given by Mr. and Mrs. Toney Hill

In memory of Mrs. Sue Lee  
Given by Mr. and Mrs. Toney Hill

In memory of Mrs. Sandra Hill  
Given by Mr. and Mrs. Toney Hill

In memory of Mrs. Erika Kurzius  
Given by Mr. Shelby Kurzius

In honor of Mr. Don Becht  
Given by Mrs. Mildred Lancaster

In honor of Mrs. Ida Shipman  
Given by Mrs. Mildred Lancaster

In memory of Mr. Guy J. Spencer Jr.  
Given by Mrs. Sally Noori

In memory of Mrs. Kathy Albers  
Given by Mrs. Judy Post

In memory of Mr. John Tuley  
Given by Mr. and Mrs. Dane Richardson  
In honor of Mr. Ron Carter, Ms. Tameron Harvell,  
Ms. Maya Kambeyanda, Mr. Dan Shedroff  
Given by Mr. Thomas Robinson

In memory of Mr. Billy Duncan, Mr. Harvey  
Duncan, Mr. Lowell Duncan, Ms. Lois Jortz, Ms.  
Anna Taylor Moore, Mr. Joseph F. Robinson, Mrs.  
Bettye Smith, Mr. J.R. Ray, Mr. Ronald Robinson,  
Mrs. Thomas E. Robinson Sr.  
Given by Mr. Thomas Robinson

In honor of Mrs. Barbara Daniel  
Given by Mrs. Sue Seward

In honor of Mr. James Hoffman  
Given by Mrs. Patricia Sowder

In honor of Mr. Austin Boyd  
Given by Space and Missile Defense

In memory of Mr. and Mrs. William Malcolm  
Given by Ms. Edith Toney

In honor of Jan Brewer and Sherry Bryant  
Given by Ms. Edith Toney

In memory of Mr. Walter Batson, Mrs. Peggy  
Monroe, Mrs. Marianne Jones,  
Mrs. Marie Buist, Dr. Rao Kakani  
Given by Mr. and Mrs. Jim Vann



*Donations:* Mrs. Sidney Bailey, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bryant, Mr. and Mrs. William Burgess, Mrs. Eleanor Davidson, Mr. and Mrs. Dwayne Duke, Mr. and Mrs. Chip Enlow, Ms. Vicki Eversmyer, Ms. Renee Graham, Dr. and Mrs. Jerry Graham, Mr. Wayne Greeson, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Griffith, Ms. Tameron Harvell, Ms. Viki Hayes, Mrs. Debbie Ivey, Mr. Roman Jennings, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Jones, Lemon & Lavender, Mrs. Doris Levinson, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Lowe, Ms. Patrica Lummus, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Nelson, Ms. Kathryn Pace, Ms. Charlotte Park, Mr. and Mrs. Don Pittman, Mrs. Laura Rau, Dr. and Mrs. Calame Sammons, Senior Preferred Homecare, Mr. and Mrs. Denny Sissom, Mrs. Kathy Skaggs, Mrs. Kim Spencer, Mrs. Lane Thomas, Tinker Murdock Family Fund, Mr. and Mrs. David Wilson

*-Please contact us with information regarding unintentional omissions or misspelled names on these lists.*

## Special Thanks:

Big Cove Women's Group, Bruce and Jacquie Thompson Foundation, Church of the Nativity, Huntsville Cosmopolitan Club, Thomas and Susan Griffith Charity Fund, Murphy Homes, Mr. and Mrs. Don Pittman, Austin Boyd, recipient of the Davidson Award, and Tinker Murdock Family Fund



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RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED



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

# AUTUMN *with Friends, Inc.* EVENING

NOVEMBER 16

THE JACKSON CENTER  
6001 MOQUIN DRIVE NW

SOCIAL HOUR 6:00PM  
DINNER 7:00PM

SCAN TO  
PURCHASE A TABLE



OR INDIVIDUAL SEATS

