



2024 ANNUAL REPORT



Friends, Inc.

*providing friends
for those in need*





Jan Brewer
Executive Director

Friends, Inc. is a non-profit agency serving Huntsville and Madison County. Through caring volunteers, we provide support and assistance to the seriously ill and disabled in our community. Friends, Inc. was founded in 1998 by a small group of volunteers who recognized that many patients and families dealing with these issues have inadequate support and lack resources.



Debbie Davis
Volunteer Coordinator

Over the years, we have grown to more than 80 volunteers and three part-time staff members. We continue to find many who need the loving care of another person to help meet their needs. Our compassionate volunteers offer emotional, physical, and spiritual support to help patients and their families.



Zoey Davis
Patient Navigator

OUR MISSION:
to provide support to patients with serious illnesses or disabilities, enabling them to maintain their independence through caring volunteers.

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It has been a goal of my life to connect with the communities where my wife and I have lived. Our pastor encouraged us to engage in the community, so I found a volunteer family at Friends Inc. I became aware of an unusual need for an 11-year-old boy who was terminally ill. Jeramyh (Jay) lived in a second-floor apartment in Madison and received treatment at the St. Jude's Clinic in Huntsville. We partnered with the Madison City Fire Department and their firefighters, who met us at the apartment to transfer Jeramyh into our Friends, Inc. van.

His mother said, "Thank you so much. I am incredibly grateful to you and everything you have done for us along this journey. We are taking it one day at a time and making the best of life with broken hearts and the amazing memories since Jay left us!"

The whole endeavor was a blessing because it represented a completed canvas of cooperation between Friends Inc., who cares, and a family in need of the care we could provide.

John Holloway
Friends, Inc. volunteer
(pictured on cover)

Connect with us online at friendsinc.net

 or on Facebook
[@MadisonFriendsInc](https://www.facebook.com/MadisonFriendsInc)

 or scan the QR code to
visit our **YouTube channel**

OUR LEADERSHIP

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SmartBank

Vice President



Jane Diamantis
Advocate & Community Volunteer

Secretary



Stacey Condron
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Afton DeLucca
Alport Syndrome Foundation



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James Starks
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Kavitha Hichkad
Anglin Reichmann
Armstrong, P.C.



Elaine Wales
Retired Electrical Engineer



Judy Wilson
Advocate & Community Volunteer

The term of office for the Board of Directors is three years. Officers may serve consecutive terms as agreed upon by the Board and nominated officers. The Friends, Inc. Board of Directors is scheduled to meet bi-monthly. They met on the following dates: 2/7/2024, 4/3/2024, 6/12/2024, 8/7/2024, 10/9/2024, 12/11/2024.



Jan Brewer
Executive Director

Giving back has always been part of Friends, Inc.'s DNA. It is a commitment that shapes our relationships with our patients and could not be done without the support of our community. I am humbled to be part of an organization that ministers to the needs of this often forgotten group of people. I am immensely grateful for the generosity of community groups, faith-based and civic organizations, volunteers, donors, and other non-profit agencies that join hands with us daily. Friends, Inc. has the opportunity to meet the needs of two groups of people: those who want to volunteer to give back to our community and those who need our services. Thank you for your continued support.

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

COMMUNITY IMPACT

OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

Over 3,000 support services were made possible in 2024 by



80 dedicated, trained, and caring volunteers

who donated

18,803 miles



and



1,602 hours

of their time to provide

- Transportation to medical appointments and cancer treatment centers
- Emotional and spiritual support
- Errand assistance
- Respite care for caregivers
- A wheelchair-accessible van
- Resource referrals
- "HappyMail"
- Commemorative Care
- Porch visits
- Phone-a-Friend outreach
- Yard work
- A durable medical equipment lending closet and food pantry

2024 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

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.



VOLUNTEER SERVICES THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER

Friends for Friends Breakfast

Patients and volunteers met for fellowship and food at Metro Diner.



HFW performed yardwork and pressure washing for several patients.

Hands Free Workcamp



Community In-Kind

Murphy Homes modeled servant hearts by filling our pantry with snacks for our patients and generously donating \$2,000.



We received Lenten in-kind donations from the parishioners at Good Shepherd Catholic Church.

Community In-Kind



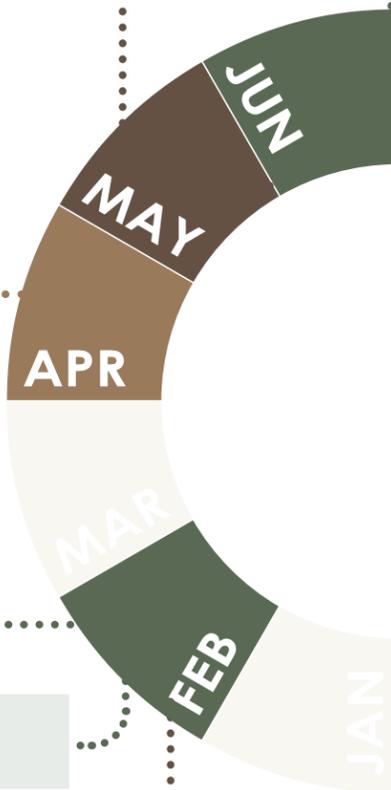
Warm Throws from Warm Hearts

Friends, Inc. volunteers delivered warm throws to 100 Friends, Inc. patients.



Volunteer In-Service

Volunteers attended an online CPR course "Be the Beat."



In-Service Lunch & Learn

Presented by Vanessa Walker (Affinity Hospice and Palliative Care), Linda Killian (Senior Preferred Home Care), and Chris Allen (Southern States Bank).



Friends for Friends Breakfast

Patients and volunteers enjoyed breakfast at City Café.



Central School hosted a Canned Food Drive benefitting our patients.

Community Donations



Bags of Blessings

Through a collaborative effort with various community organizations, Friends, Inc. provided Thanksgiving meal bags to over 230 families in Madison County.



More than 62 patients were eligible to participate in the Be a Santa to a Senior program. Twenty-four volunteer "elves" helped distribute the gifts, which were well-received by the seniors.

Be a Santa to a Senior



FRIENDS, INC. WHEELCHAIR-ACCESSIBLE VAN

ENABLING OUR VOLUNTEERS TO DO EVEN MORE

The van has become a vessel of hope, enabling precious moments and granting access to vital medical care. In 2024, 125 requests for van transport were filled.



AUTUMN EVENING KEY ANNUAL FUNDRAISING EVENT



Presenting Sponsor
Friend of Friends, Inc.

Platinum Sponsors
Clearview Cancer Institute
Bentley Automotive Group
Damson Automotive

Silver Sponsors
Anglin Reichman Armstrong, P.C.
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Torch Technologies

Bronze Sponsors
Aero Thermo Technology, Inc.
CDD NCA, Inc.
Dr. & Mrs. Thomas Griggs
SportsMed
SmartBank
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Vann
Ms. Elaine Wales

Funds raised:
\$68,961

Funds raised:
\$12,298

Funds raised: **\$10,728**
Cosmopolitan Club



8TH ANNUAL FUNDRAISING EVENT NO SHOW GALA

COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING CONTRIBUTION HIGHLIGHTS

Austin Boyd, Dr. Julian Davidson Small Business Award recipient, donated his award of \$2,500 to Friends, Inc.

Chris Allen, March Madness Winner, donated his \$500 award to Friends, Inc.

SUSTAINER \$10,000 AND ABOVE

James Cecil and Margaret G. Ashburn Foundation

Huntsville Cosmopolitan Club

Friend of Friends, Inc.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Griffith

Tinker Murdock Family Fund

BENEFACTOR \$2,000 - \$9,999

Bentley Family Fund

Bentley Buick GMC

Clearview Cancer Institute

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Mr. and Mrs. John Defourneaux

Dr. and Mrs. James McMurray

The Episcopal Church of the Nativity

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Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Robinson

Spectrum Solutions

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Mr. and Mrs. Mike Tilley

SUPPORTING \$1,999 AND BELOW

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Mr. Randall Allen
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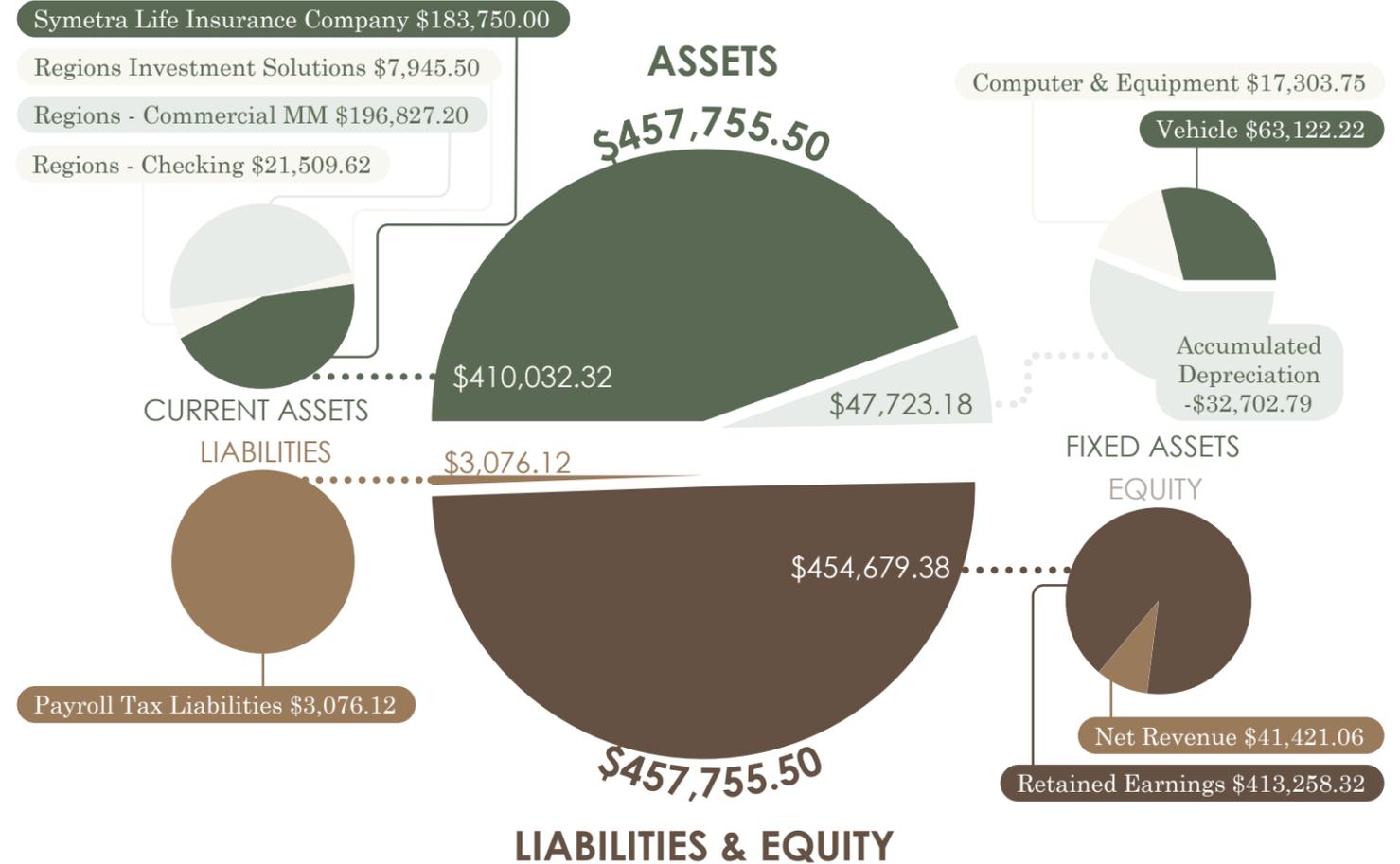
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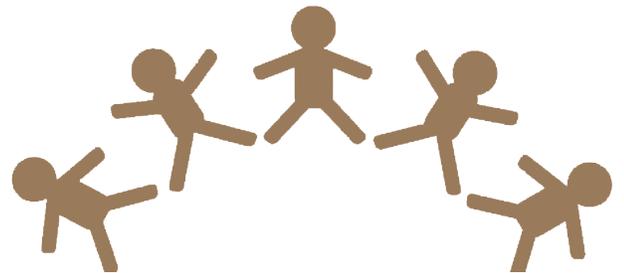


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Serving Madison County

Providing Friends for those in need Since 1998



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