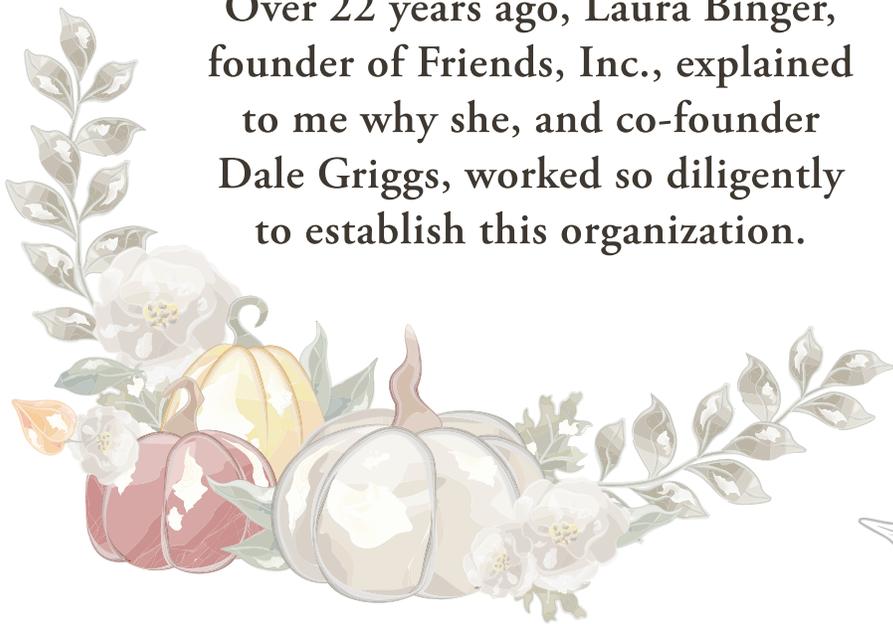


# What is a Friend?

*What does it mean to have a true friend?*

Over 22 years ago, Laura Binger, founder of Friends, Inc., explained to me why she, and co-founder Dale Griggs, worked so diligently to establish this organization.



As nurses, Laura and Dale often heard patients say they had no one to transport them to medical appointments, pick up groceries or prescriptions, or call and check in on them. They heard story after story of someone lacking a true friend who could lend a hand, an ear, or a couple of hours of their time. That conversation stuck with me.

It reminded me that sometimes, what people need most isn't a major solution, it's a true friend. According to the dictionary, a friend is "a person with whom you share a bond of mutual affection, trust, and loyalty—typically outside of family." The wisdom of Proverbs 17:17 says it even more simply, "A friend loveth at all times."

In today's world, we send and receive "friend requests" on social media with a single click. But in real life, when someone is facing a dark season when health fails, when families move away, or when life feels overwhelming—being able to "friend request" someone who will actually show up, "at all times", would mean the world.

I heard a dear friend say to a group of church friends who had gathered at his wife's bedside, "You showed up and that's what matters."

I think it is safe to say that we all want to be good friends and have good friends. At Friends, Inc., we're inviting you to become part of something meaningful. You can be a friend by giving of your means or volunteering your time. Let's ensure that no one ever feels alone and is assured that someone genuinely does care. Together, we can serve as hands and hearts, reassuring others: You are not alone.



**Friends, Inc.**

SUMMER 2025

Currently 85 Dedicated Volunteers

Executive Director, Jan Brewer

Volunteer Coordinator, Kim Houser

## Board Members

President, Rusty Stiles

Vice President, Jane Diamantis

Secretary, Stacey Condon

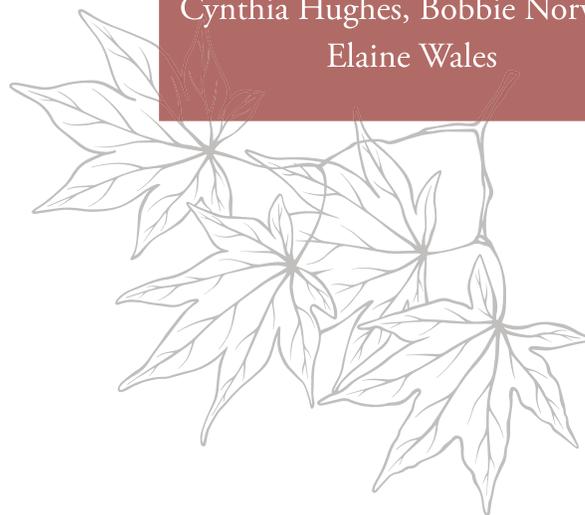
Treasurer, Greg Burgess

Sam Barnes, Afton DeLuca,

Beth Griggs, Kavitha Hichkad,

Cynthia Hughes, Bobbie Norville,

Elaine Wales



OFTENTIMES, WHILE LISTENING TO SOMEONE'S STORY, I HEAR THE PHRASE, "I REALLY DON'T HAVE ANYONE THAT CARES"

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

Providing Friends  
FOR THOSE IN NEED



Jan Brewer  
Executive Director

What I see each day at Friends, Inc. is the heart of friendship. Our volunteers show up with kindness and presence, letting others know they matter.

When we asked our patients to describe Friends, Inc. in just a few words, their responses painted a beautiful picture: friendly, very caring, very helpful, a blessing, comfort, and reliable. Some shared, “They treat me as important to them,” and “They make my loved one feel important.” Others told us that our volunteers are punctual, experienced with patient care, and that their presence has helped ease anxiety and reduce stress.

To me, this is what friendship looks like: being there when someone needs you most, showing up with compassion, and offering comfort in the small, everyday moments. This is where Friends, Inc. is unique, through our volunteers - sitting with a patient during a frightening doctor’s appointment, holding space when devastating news is delivered. It’s being there for radiation treatments, picking up a prescription when eyesight no longer allows safe driving, or dropping off supplies when needs feel overwhelming.

The mission of Friends, Inc. has always been about more than services; it’s about connection. As one patient expressed, our volunteers are “a professional organization willing to help,” but they are also simply friends, extending kindness and reassurance when it’s needed most.

This is what Friends truly is, not a request on a computer, but real people showing up for one another, proving that friendship has the power to change lives. As another patient recently shared, “So many places have turned away from me, but Friends is always there.”



Kim Houser  
Volunteer Coordinator

“We are just grateful. I couldn’t have done it any other way without them. The impact on me as a caregiver is really overwhelming, because I didn’t expect anyone to help at all. I thought it would be just me, alone trying to manage. Some charities care, but really they don’t, with Friends, Inc., they do care.”

These heartfelt words from one of our families remind us why Friends, Inc. exists. For this gentleman, recovering from a stroke, and his devoted wife and caregiver, the presence of our volunteers has been a lifeline. Their gratitude is a powerful reminder that showing up with compassion changes lives. Every act of service brings comfort and eases burdens that should never be carried alone. If you’ve ever wondered how to make a real difference, consider joining us as a volunteer. Your presence could be the very thing a family never expected but needed most.



### How can you join the Circle of Friends, Inc.?

- **Volunteer:** No formal experience needed—just a caring heart and a few hours. Transport, run errands, make calls—however you choose to serve.
- **Donate:** Funds to sustain the lending closet, training, and operations can be sent to P.O. Box 608, Huntsville, AL 35804, or via the Donate page on their site
- **Attend Autumn Evening:** Your presence supports those who need it most while celebrating community.

# Memorials, Honor Gifts, and Donations

In memory of Mrs. Helen Morgan  
Given by Mr. and Mrs. Phil Bentley

In memory of Mr. Jon Mattox  
Given by Mr. and Mrs. Phil Bentley

In memory of Mrs. Linda Hall  
Given by Mr. and Mrs. Phil Bentley

In memory of Mrs. Diane Oliver  
Given by Mr. and Mrs. Phil Bentley

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

In memory of Ms. Ann Brazelton  
Given by Mrs. Jana Brazelton

In memory of Mrs. Nelda Bice  
Given by Mr. and Mrs. Dudley Brewer

In memory of Mr. Wayne Harvell  
Given by Mr. and Mrs. Dudley Brewer

In memory of Mrs. Kim Spencer  
Given by Mr. and Mrs. Dudley Brewer

In memory of Mrs. Bebe Srofe  
Given by Mr. and Mrs. Dudley Brewer

In honor of Mr. Wendall Odom Jr.  
Given by Mrs. Carole Bryant

In memory of Mrs. Edna Martin  
Given by Mrs. Nancy Burg

In memory of Mrs. Kim Spencer  
Given by Mr. and Mrs. Buddy  
Carpenter

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

In memory of Ms. Barbara Moore  
Given by Mrs. Rita Casey

In honor of Mr. William Davis  
Given by Mrs. Brenda Davis

In memory of Mr. Dan Buchanan  
Given by Mr. and Mrs. Gene Ezell

In memory of Mrs. Kim Spencer  
Given by Dr. Tobin Fisher

In memory of Mrs. Edna Martin  
Given by Ms. Cindy Green

In memory of Mrs. Kim Spencer  
Given by Mr. and Mrs. Tony Malone

In memory of Mrs. Kim Spener  
Given by Mr. Lee Mimms

In honor of all God's children  
Given by Ms. Brenda Nichols

In memory of Mrs. Kim Spencer  
Given by Mr. and Mrs. Robby Perry

In honor of Mr. Lewis Ingalls,  
Mrs. Maya Kambeyanda, Mr. David  
Lewis, Mrs. Bobbie Norville, Ms.  
Mary Ann Maher, Mrs. Jeri Miller,  
Mr. Walt Miller, Mr. Michael  
Ragoza, Mrs. Rita Ragoza, Mrs.  
Doris Smith  
Given by Mr. Thomas Robinson

In memory of Mr. Billy Max  
Duncan, Ms. Barbara Maguire,  
Mrs. Anna Taylor Moore,  
Mr. Joseph F. Robinson, Ms. Bettye  
Smith, Mrs. Margaret Robinson,  
Mr. Ronald R. Robinson,  
Mr. Thomas E. Robinson, Sr.  
Given by Mr. Thomas Robinson

In memory of Mr. Kenneth Sanders  
Given by Mrs. Ann Sanders

In memory of Mr. Dan Buchanan  
Given by Ms. Joanne Sanders

In memory of Ms. Jennie Shaw  
Given by Ms. Jamie Simpson

In memory of Mrs. Kim Spencer  
Given by Mr. and Mrs. David Smith

In memory of Mrs. Linda Hall  
Given by Mrs. Linda Smith

In honor of Mrs. Mary Anne Enlow  
Given by Ms. Patricia Sowder

In honor of Mrs. Gayle Duke  
Given by Mr. Luke Spears

In honor of Mrs. Jane Diamantis  
Given by Ms. Marlene Stephenson

In honor of Mrs. Nell Roberts  
Given by Mrs. Janice Turner

In memory of Mr. Dan Buchanan  
Given by Mr. and Mrs. Jim Vann

In memory of Mrs. Barbara Self  
Given by Mr. and Mrs. Jim Vann

In memory of Mr. Wayne Harvell  
Given by Ms. Jan Vencill

In memory of Mr. Jerry Logan  
Given by Ms. Jan Vencill

In memory of Mr. Roland Thornberry  
Given by Ms. Jan Vencill



*Donations: Mrs. Sidney Bailey, Ms. Louise Baird, Mr. and Mrs. Ken Barfield, Ms. Joanne Barksdale, Mrs. Marilyn Bethune, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Brown, Ms. Beverly Carr, Mrs. Jan Coppett, Mrs. Barbara Corfmann, Mrs. Mary Cramer, Mr. and Mrs. William Dunn, Ms. Darlene Elliott, Mr. David Ely, Mr. and Mrs. Scott Field, Mr. and Mrs. David Galloway, Ms. Renee Graham, Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Griffith, Ms. Kathy Hambrick, Mrs. Julie Hawk, Mrs. Susan Holliday, Mrs. Debbie Ivey, Mr. Roman Jennings, Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Jobe, Mr. Roger Kitchen, Mrs. Lydia McDonald, Ms. Kristi Meacham, Ms. Amanda Monroe, Mr. and Mrs. Al Nunley, Mrs. Charlotte Park, Ms. Mary Parks, Mr. and Mrs. Don Pittman, Mrs. Laura Rau, Mrs. Genie Riddle, Dr. and Mrs. Marshall Schreeder, Mrs. Sue Seward, Mrs. Kay Scott, Mr. and Mrs. Denny Sissom, Ms. Deborah Slack, Ms. Joyce Steele, Ms. Diane Strickland, Tinker Murdock Family Fund, Ms. Vicki Upton, Ms. Lisa Warlick, Mr. and Mrs. Dave Wilson*

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

## In Loving Memory:

Mrs. Eloise Boon • Ms. Terry Miller  
Mrs. Alflorene Moore  
Mrs. Peg Ortell • Mr. Charles Rice



## Special Thanks:

Community Foundation - Share your story  
The Church of the Nativity  
Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Griffith  
Mr. and Mrs. Don Pittman  
Tinker Murdock Family Fund



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www.friendsinc.net  
Office: (256) 534-4079

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

# Autumn Evening



OCTOBER 24  
SOCIAL HOUR 6:00PM • DINNER 7:00PM

THE JACKSON CENTER  
6001 MOQUIN DRIVE NW

**REGISTER NOW**

TABLE FOR 8 - \$800 • TICKET PER PERSON - \$100

