

To everything there is a season

Spring is a season of renewal — a time when what has been planted begins to bloom, and new growth stretches toward the light.



Friends, Inc.

SPRING 2026

Currently 85 Dedicated Volunteers

Executive Director, Kim Houser
Volunteer Coordinator, Beth Haynes

Board Members

President, Rusty Stiles

Vice President, Jane Diamantis

Secretary, Stacey Condon

Treasurer, Greg Burgess

Sam Barnes, Afton DeLucca,
Beth Griggs, Kavitha Hichkad,
Cynthia Hughes, Bobbie Norville,
Elaine Wales

Dear Friends,

As I step into the role of Executive Director at Friends Inc., I do so with deep gratitude and a profound sense of responsibility. For years, this organization has been nurtured by steady leadership, faithful volunteers, generous donors, and a community that believes in walking alongside those facing illness, hardship, and uncertainty.

Friends Inc. was built on compassion — and compassion remains our foundation.

Every phone call we answer carries a story. A caregiver overwhelmed. A patient needing transportation to treatment. A family navigating unexpected change. In each of those moments, Friends Inc. is more than a service — it is reassurance, dignity, and hope.

I am honored to continue this mission in partnership with you.

As we look ahead, our commitment remains clear:

- To serve with integrity.
- To respond with urgency and kindness.
- To ensure that no one in our community faces a difficult season alone.

This new chapter is about continuing what has been faithfully cultivated — and allowing it to grow.

Thank you for your trust. Thank you for your prayers. Thank you for being the hands and feet that carry this mission forward.

With gratitude and hope,

Kim Houser
Executive Director


IN EVERY SEASON,
friends
WALK BESIDE YOU.




I want to take a moment to thank everyone for the incredibly warm welcome into the Volunteer Coordinator role. I have been truly amazed watching how this organization functions and by how supportive, engaged, and compassionate our volunteers are. It already feels like I have known many of you for years.

Thank you for the trust you've placed in me to help support the mission of this organization. Every day I am reminded just how meaningful this work is. Almost daily, I find myself moved to tears while talking with our patients who are so grateful for the care and companionship they receive. And when I go home at night, I often find myself reflecting on the day and the hardships many of our patients face. Loneliness can be incredibly heavy, and sometimes simply having someone show up, make a call, or lend a helping hand can make all the difference.

One of our patients, Ms. June Denson, said something to me that I will never forget: "You have no idea how important this work is. I couldn't have gotten through this mess without Davie (Lewis). When you have a friend who calls to help, it means so much. It makes you want to get up in the morning."

That is the heart of our mission. Our volunteers are not just providing services — they are providing dignity, connection, and hope to people who might otherwise feel forgotten.

Because of that, this mission matters deeply. It takes volunteers, but it also takes financial support to keep this work going — coordinating volunteers, reaching more patients, and ensuring no one in our community has to face loneliness alone.

Thank you to every volunteer who gives their time and heart, and to everyone who supports this work financially. Together, you make this mission possible, and I am honored to serve alongside you.



Beth Haynes
Volunteer Coordinator



In February, volunteers gathered for our "Fall in Love with Volgistics" in-service — a fun and informative training designed to help everyone feel confident using our volunteer management system.



Scan the QR code to learn more about volunteering, connect with us, and become part of the Friends, Inc. volunteer family.

"In every season, our volunteers serve with heart — and we are profoundly grateful for the light they bring."

*"To everything there is a season, and a time
to every purpose under heaven."*

— Ecclesiastes 3:1



This past February, we celebrated Jan and the beautiful season of service she has given to Friends Inc.

For years, Jan has been a steady presence — a calm voice, a compassionate listener, and a faithful leader. She treated every patient with dignity and every situation with grace.

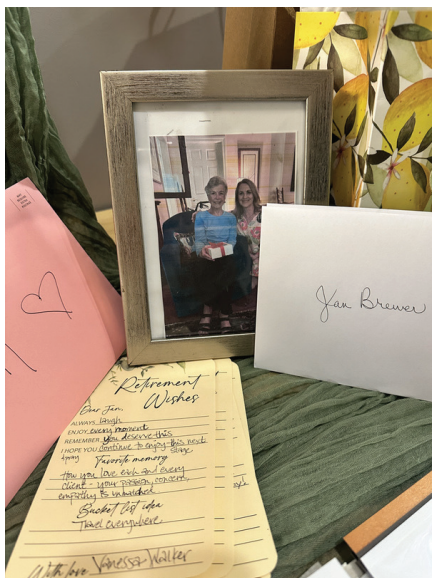
"Let all that you do be done in love."

— 1 Corinthians 16:14

Jan lives that verse daily. Her kindness has shaped our ministry. Her leadership has strengthened our mission and her heart has touched countless lives.

As she steps into retirement, we pray blessings over this next chapter — rest, joy, and the deep knowledge that her work has made a lasting difference. Jan, thank you for walking faithfully with us. We are grateful beyond words.

With love,
Your Friends Inc. Family





Memorials, Honor Gifts, and Donations

*IN MEMORY OF

Mr. Billy Adkins
Given by Ms. Janet Vencill

Ms. Lizzie Duncan
Given by Mr. Thomas Robinson

Ms. Ann Horn
Given by Mr. Danny Spencer

Ms. Janice Fowler
Given by Mr. and Mrs. Jerry and
Charlene Graham

Mr. Kenneth Sanders
Given by Mrs. Ann Sanders

Ms. Ruth Thompson
Given by Ms. Lisa Nacarato

Ms. Ruth Thompson
Given by Mrs. Denise Goska

Ms. Ruth Thompson
Given by Mr. and Mrs. Kent
Pendergrass

Ms. Ruth Thompson
Given by Mr. Brian Hinson

Ms. Ruth Thompson
Given by Mr. and Mrs.
Rodney Steger

Ms. Ruth Thompson
Given by Mr. and Mrs.
Dudley Brewer

Ms. Ruth Thompson
Given by Ms. Rita
Limbaugh

Ms. Ruth Thompson
Given by Ms. Beverly Carr

Ms. Ruth Thompson
Given by Mrs. Mildred
Lancaster

Mrs. Ruth Thompson
Given by Grace Class,
Willowbrook Baptist
Church
Jan, Kim, and Rita Ragoza

Ms. Jane Ann Blankenship
Given by Mr. David
Blankenship

Ms. Linda Alt
Given by Mr. and
Mrs. Gene Ezell

Mr. Larry Larsen
Given by Mr. and
Mrs. Toney Hill

Mr. George McCanless, Jr.
Given by Mrs. Christel
McCanless

Ms. Eloise Boon
Given by Ms. Linda
Wallace



*IN HONOR OF

Mrs. Jan Brewer, Mrs. Kim Houser,
Mrs. Rita Ragoza
Given by Mr. Thomas Robinson

Mr. and Mrs. David and
Sandra Lewis
Given by Ms. June Denson

Mrs. Diane Adkins
Given by Ms. Janet Vencill

Mrs. Jan Brewer
Given by Mrs. Mildred Lancaster

Ms. Maya Kambeyanda and
Ms. Mary Ann Maher
Given by Mr. Thomas Robinson

Dr. and Mrs. Tom Griggs
Given by Ms. Robbie Burlison

The Griggs and Vanns families
Given by Ms. Beth Griggs

Mr. Jim Hoffman
Given by Ms. Patricia Sowder

Ms. Gayle Duke
Given by Mr. Luke Spears

*Donations:

Mr. Randall Allen, Mr. Sam Barnes, Ms. Hannah Boon, Mrs. Beatrice Bowen,
Mr. and Mrs. John Bradley, Mr. Edward Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Broyles, Jr.,
Mrs. Brooke Chandler, Mrs. Carol Dean, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Deep, Mr. David Ely,
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Mr. Roman Jennings, Ms. Sophia Turner, Mr. and Mrs. William Herrin,
Mrs. Molly Hollaway, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Tilley, Mr. Denny Sissom,
Ms. Mary Gray, Ms. Shelby Kurzius

*Special Thanks:

First Christian Church
Church of the Nativity
Ashburn Foundation
Redstone Federal Credit Union
Tinker Murdock Family Fund

*In Loving Memory:

Ms. Joyce Steele
Ms. Ella Christa
Ms. Louisiana Jordan
Mr. Roger Kitchen
Mr. Larry Pearson

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



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Friends, Inc.

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



This is what compassion looks like.

*A life honored. A hand held.
A season shared.*

Because of faithful volunteers and generous donors,
no one faces illness or hardship alone.



Join us in sharing
compassion — through
your generosity, your time,
and your willingness
to walk beside someone
who needs a friend.
Your gift brings help and
hope to someone who
needs it most. Scan the
QR code to donate and
support the mission
of Friends, Inc.



billy