



Friends, Inc.

SPRING 2015

Currently 91 Dedicated Volunteers

Executive Director, *Jan Brewer*

Volunteer Coordinator, *Sherry Bryant*

Board Members

President, *Betsy Estopinal*

Vice-President, *Talitha Yokley*

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Jim Vann

**“We make a living by what we get,
but we make a life by what we give.”**

-Winston Churchill



PROVIDING FRIENDS FOR THOSE IN NEED

In Huntsville and Madison County

I was going through past records recently and found that three of our present volunteers are charter Friends, Inc. volunteers, established in 1998 by Laura Binger and Dale Griggs. These three ladies, Barbara Lammers Daniel, Jean Loux, and Sherry Taylor have shown perseverance and kindness, and have provided hope for many Friends, Inc. patients through the years. We are so thankful for them. I can assure you that these three ladies would tell you that by volunteering with Friends, Inc., they have had the opportunity to connect to others and create meaningful and sincere relationships, bringing great fulfillment to their own lives.

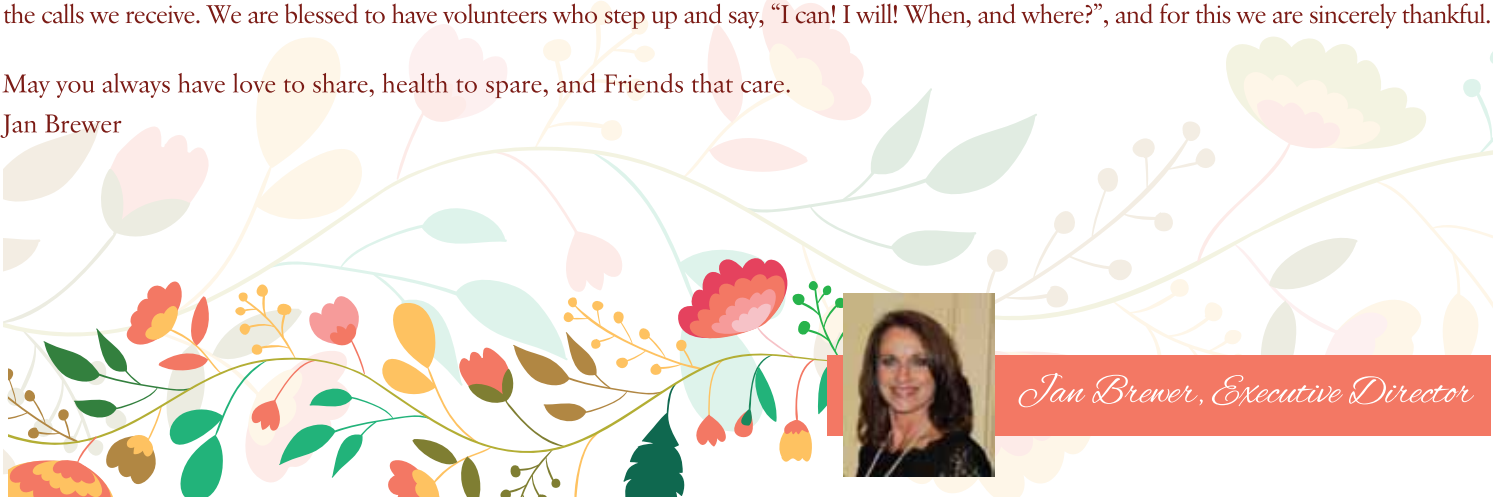
The phone calls that we receive every time we walk in the door are always a new and different story; a plea for help with requests for food, transportation to a much needed medical appointment, errand assistance, or even a request for prayer. Loneliness is the silent cry of many of the calls we receive. We are blessed to have volunteers who step up and say, “I can! I will! When, and where?”, and for this we are sincerely thankful.

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

Jan Brewer



Jan Brewer, Executive Director



Volunteering and Longevity

If living a longer and healthier life interests you, you may want to consider lending a helping hand a bit more. People who regularly volunteer for the pure satisfaction of helping others were shown to improve their longevity compared both to their non-volunteering counterparts and, better yet, even to those who volunteered, but only for a personal benefit.

Whatever the motive, *volunteering* improves the health, happiness, and in some cases, the longevity of *volunteers*.



I moved to Huntsville in 1997 and soon afterwards met Rae Starnes on the tennis court. Rae told me about this wonderful volunteer organization called Friends, Inc. I was immediately attracted to Friends because of the passion and the mission of the founders, Laura Binger and Dale Griggs. Since I was a nurse, I was able to use my skills to help those who needed support but couldn't afford it, and help get them to their medical and personal appointments, all of which gave me a feeling of self-worth beyond my day job. Since those early days the organization has grown and blossomed under the leadership of Jan and Sherry. We are so fortunate to have such a dedicated and caring team. We don't just transport those in need; what gives me the most satisfaction is that we truly care for and are interested in the clients' lives, and can be friends indeed of friends in need.

-Barbara Daniel



I am thankful every day for the blessings in my life and see Friends as a way to give back. In fact, I truly believe that is my purpose: to serve and to find ways to help other people. When I joined Friends many years ago, I quickly discovered how we fulfilled a vital need in our community, one that groups like Salvation Army, Hospice and assisted living facilities did not address or could not address. These were elderly neighbors and community members who relied on family and friends but wanted to hold onto a sense of independence and not burden their loved ones. And that is the beauty of our group; we assist without taking away dignity or spirit. We make

life easier and take away a little of the burden. As the name of our group clearly states, we aren't relief workers or charity helpers... we are friends. It gives me great satisfaction whenever we go out and I hear my elderly companion say, "Here's my friend, Sherry!"

-Sherry Taylor



I was talking with Laura Binger one day and mentioned how I would like to use my nursing skills in a volunteer setting when it was convenient, but that there was no arena to do that in Huntsville. Laura did the work and created an organization that people with any skill could give back to the community. Of course I jumped on board! Laura was a very graceful, loving, private but giving person. I found a place to help people find solutions to their problems and help them navigate social services and often difficult family dynamics. Friends, Inc. has a very broad mission and therefore room for any volunteer! While we may be the heart of Friends, Laura was the brain, and Jan and Sherry and past staff have been the engine that keeps us vital and running smoothly.

-Jean Loux

Memorials, Honor Gifts, and Donations

In honor of Mrs. Jan Brewer & Mrs. Sherry Bryant
Given By: Mrs. Sidney Bailey

In memory of Ms. Robbie Rene Slaughter
Given By: Ms. Barbara Langford

In memory of Mrs. Joan Robinson
Given By: Mr. Thomas Robinson

In memory of Mr. Garland Johnston
Given By: Mr. and Mrs. David Blankenship

In memory of Mrs. Dorothy Cable
Given By: Ms. Barbara Langford

In memory of Ms. Eleanor Maguire
Given By: Mr. Thomas Robinson

In honor of Mr. Paul Kelly
Given By: Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Brady

In memory of Mrs. Mildred Levy
Given By: Ms. Barbara Langford

In memory of Mrs. Phyllis Smith Ray
Given By: Mr. Thomas Robinson

In memory of Ms. Annette Furlong
Given By: Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Brady

In memory of Ms. Maggie Langford
Given By: Ms. Barbara Langford

In memory of Mrs. Elizabeth Ford
Given By: Mr. Thomas Robinson

In memory of Mr. Daniel A. Guy
Given By: Mr. and Mrs. Dudley Brewer

In memory of "My dear wife, Imogene"
Given By: Mr. Pat McCauley

In memory of Mrs. Lois Jortz
Given By: Mr. Thomas Robinson

In memory of Mrs. Rosene Troup
Given By: Mrs. Carole Bryant

In honor of Mrs. Pat Golley
Given By: Ms. Nancy McMahon

In memory of Mr. Jack Ray
Given By: Mr. Thomas Robinson

In memory of Dr. and Mrs. Richard Binger
Given By: Ms. Nancy Campbell

In honor of Mrs. Sallie Estes
Given By: Mrs. Mary McQuinn

In memory of Mr. Harvey Duncan
Given By: Mr. Thomas Robinson

In honor of Jan Brewer & Sherry Bryant
Given By: Ms. Evelyn Golden

In memory of Mrs. Ida Ruth Blake
Given By: Mrs. Pam Patrick

In honor of Mrs. Jan Brewer & Mrs. Sherry Bryant
Given By: Mrs. Evangeline Spillman

In honor of Ms. Nancy Rohr
Given By: Ms. Lynn Jones

In memory of Mrs. Rosene Troup
Given By: Mr. and Mrs. Richard Peck

In memory of Ms. Doris Toftoy Williams
Given By: T & B Girls

In memory of Mr. Conley Langford, Sr.
Given By: Ms. Barbara Langford

In memory of Mrs. Lizzie Duncan
Given By: Mr. Thomas Robinson



Donations: Ms. Claty Clark, Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Dasaro, First Christian Church, Mr. Robert Gibbs, Dr. and Mrs. James Goldbach, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Gooley, Mr. and Mrs. Buddy Guynes, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hackenfort, Mrs. Bertha Hereford, Ms. Lydia Herndon, Mrs. Carolyn Holt, Mr. Gregory Hutcherson, Dr. and Mrs. Claude Kinzer, Mr. and Mrs. A.O. Maynard, Mr. and Mrs. Rex Mills, Mrs. Margaret Milton, Dr. and Mrs. R.E. Rice, Ms. Helen Rushing, Dr. and Mrs. Calame Sammons, Ms. Joyce Scott, Mr. and Mrs. Denny Sissom, Mrs. Pat Skidmore, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Stroud, Mr. and Mrs. Tony Thompson, Ms. Edith Toney, Ms. Sara Welch, Mr. Robert Young

In Loving Memory

Mrs. Jimmie Bandgren, Mr. Martin Chelekis, Ms. Darlene Forsberg, Ms. Avonelle Feller, Mr. Pat McCauley, Mr. Niles Schoening, Mrs. Helen Sommers, Mr. Raymond Taylor, Ms. Dorothy Thompson, and Ms. Dorothy Timmons

"Praise God for Friends. God bless y'all!" - Dorothy Timmons

Thank you for allowing Friends, Inc. to be a part of their lives.

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Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast

Every year we are privileged to celebrate our volunteers, the amazing men and women who daily give of their time and energy to lighten the burden of others. During our recent Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast, Mike Voisin was named Friends, Inc. 2015 Volunteer of the Year. Also in recognition of their caring support and service to our patients, Bill Bodden was honored with the Most Miles Donated Award; Bill Greer received the Most Hours Donated Award; Peter Loux was recognized with the Above and Beyond Award, and Mike Tilly was honored with the Outstanding Service Award. All of our volunteers are invaluable beyond measure, truly transforming the lives of others.

Grace and peace,
Sherry Bryant, Volunteer Coordinator



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR - MIKE VOISIN



MOST DONATED MILES - BILL BODDEN



MOST DONATED HOURS - BILL GREER



OUTSTANDING SERVICE - MIKE TILLY



ABOVE & BEYOND - PETER LOUX