



**Friends, Inc.**

WINTER 2015



*Looking Back  
and Moving Forward*

Currently 91 Dedicated Volunteers

Executive Director, *Jan Brewer*

Volunteer Coordinator, *Sherry Bryant*

**Board Members**

President, *Betsy Estopinal*

Vice-President, *Talitha Yokley*

Secretary, *Tina Greer*

Treasurer, *Greg Burgess*

*Carl Barton | Jim Daniel*

*Sallie Estes | Sandy Garvey*

*Paulette Hamblin | Tiffany Noel*

*Shannon Siegel*

*Jim Vann | Norm Wolstein*

**PROVIDING FRIENDS FOR THOSE IN NEED**

*In Huntsville and Madison County*

Looking back on 2014 I want to take this opportunity to say thank you for being a part of this caring, charitable, helpful, and sympathetic organization reaching out to bring help and hope to those in need. Over 2000 volunteer support services were provided by 95 dedicated, trained, and compassionate volunteers. We offered three Volunteer In-Services entitled: "Exercising The Golden Rule" with Home Instead; "Five Steps to a Great Attitude" with Miriam Ezell; and "Eat, Share, and Give Thanks" with Mayor Tommy Battle. We joined hands with Hampton Cove Middle School, who provided handmade Valentines and a food drive; Mayfair Church of Christ and NASA, who provided yard clean-up and home repairs; and Home Instead's "Be a Santa to a Senior" program that provided Christmas gifts to 59 of our senior patients. Friends, Inc. also gave 120 Kroger gift cards to all our patients during the holiday season, and our "Bags of Blessings" program provided Thanksgiving dinners for 89 families. Our Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast was sponsored by the Ashburn Foundation and was held at the Huntsville Botanical Gardens. Our annual fundraiser, Autumn Evening, this year held at Barons Bluff, proved to be most successful with 170 attending, with the proceeds benefiting over \$30,000 to be used for volunteer support services.

Friends, Inc. continues to be a blessing to many as daily we continue to do good works in this community. I would like to encourage you to place yourself in the presence of those needing help and hope in maintaining their independence by volunteering, making a donation, or spreading the word to others about our support services. Please know that these many acts of kindness could not happen without the ongoing support of you and our community.

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



*Jan Brewer, Executive Director*

Being a friend, touching a heart, and changing a life, one act of kindness at a time, is what we strive to do at Friends, Inc. every day. It is always our goal to make an emotional connection to those we serve as we purpose to meet their needs. Recently we sent handmade Valentine cards to our patients knowing, that for most, our card would be the only Valentine that they would receive. We put a big smile on one patient's face with a gift of much-needed tennis shoes, and on another's with the surprise of birthday balloons and cake. One of our patients needed home repair help and was delighted when our volunteer raced over to assist. A disabled patient needed to go shopping for special walking shoes, while another elderly patient needed errand assistance for groceries and prescriptions. Imagine their peace of mind when Friends' volunteers called to tell them that they would be glad to take them. Tears of joy were shed when a patient who lives alone learned that our volunteer was coming to make a friendly visit.

Not too long ago we made certain that a patient was able to attend a much loved family member's memorial service by providing transportation in our wheelchair-accessible van. We were also able to donate and deliver a power chair to a patient who had not been out of his home in 14 months; a transport chair to an elderly lady to make it easier for her to go to her medical appointments; a shower chair to an amputee in hopes to make daily living a little less stressful; and a cardiac walker to another patient so that she may sit down and rest every few steps if needed. Our volunteers helped fill out paperwork at doctors' offices because several of our patients can no longer see well enough to do it alone. A volunteer was also there to hold a patient's hand while receiving a devastating diagnosis; and yes, we were also there to rejoice with another patient when given the wonderful news of a scan showing zero cancer cells.

Through Friends, Inc. there are so many opportunities to be extraordinary and make a difference. Be the reason someone smiles today. Become a Friends, Inc. volunteer.

Grace and peace,  
Sherry Bryant

*Sherry Bryant, Volunteer Coordinator*



God BLESS you KATHERINE  
AND I THANK you FOR THE  
LOVELY AND BEAUTIFUL VALENTINE  
CARD YOU SENT ME, AND THANK  
YOU FOR BEING MY VALENTINE  
ON FEB 14, I AM your VALENTINE  
AND you ARE my VALENTINE TOO.  
your CARD WAS THE ONLY ONE I  
got. it mean A LOT TO me.  
MAY God Bless AND keep you,  
Now AND FOREVER MORE.

*Thank You*

Hampton Cove Middle School and  
Mountain Gap School's Kindness Krewe  
for making our handmade  
Valentine cards.



Friends, Inc. In – Service  
Presented by  
CIMA Volunteer Insurance

# Memorials, Honor Gifts, and Donations

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

In memory of Mrs. Betty Huie  
Given By: Mr. and Mrs. Ken Barfield

In honor of Mrs. Gloria Cost  
Given By: Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Barnes

In honor of Mr. Carl Barton  
Given By: Mr. and Mrs. David Blankenship

In memory of Mrs. Betty Huie  
Given By: Mr. and Mrs. Dudley Brewer

In memory of Mr. Ray Renfroe  
Given By: Mr. and Mrs. Dudley Brewer

In honor of Dr. and Mrs. Tom Griggs  
Given By: Mrs. Robbie Burlison

In honor of Mrs. Jessie Fowler  
Given By: Ms. Doris Fowler

In honor of Dr. and Mrs. Tom Griggs  
Given By: Mrs. Beth Griggs

In memory of Mr. Jerry Storie  
Given By: Ms. Marie Guthrie

In memory of Dr. and Mrs. Dick Binger  
Given By: Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Hayden

In memory of Ms. Mary Jo Taylor  
Given By: Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lewis

In memory of Ms. Doris Toftoy Williams  
Given By: Ms. Helen McBride

In memory of Ms. Elnora Burns  
Given By: Ms. Helen McBride

In memory of Mr. Christopher Griggs  
Given By: Mrs. Janice McMurray

In memory of Dr. and Mrs. Dick Binger  
Given By: Ms. Janet Moragues

In memory of Ms. Virginia Brown  
Given By: Ms. Janet Moragues

In memory of Mr. Johnny Barnett  
Given By: Ms. Patti Patrick

In memory of Mrs. Jean Harris  
Given By: Mrs. Nell Roberts

In honor of Jan Brewer & Sherry Bryant  
Given By: Mr. Thomas Robinson

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

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

In memory of Mrs. Linda Lambert  
Given By: Mr. Thomas Robinson

In memory of Mrs. Anna May Robinson  
Given By: Mr. Thomas Robinson

In memory of Ms. Mae Belle Buckelew  
Given By: Mrs. Helen Rushing

In memory of Ms. Carol Spears  
Given By: Mr. L.T. Spears

Donations: Alacare Home Health and Hospice, Ashburn Foundation, Ms. Carole Bryant, Church of the Nativity, Mr. and Mrs. David Ely, Fidelity Charitable Donation, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Goldbach, Ms. Evelyn Golden, Mrs. Renee Graham, Mr. and Mrs. William Huddleston, Dr. Eugene Hutchens, Mr. Gregory Hutcherson, Ms. Betty Jones, Ms. Doris Levinson, Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Lewis, Mentor Graphics Foundation, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Robby Perry, Mrs. Mary Anne Peterson, Mrs. Marianne Quackenbush, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Rau, Ms. Deborah Sargent, Mr. and Mrs. Ken Shannon, Mr. and Mrs. Denny Sissom, Mrs. Pat Skidmore, Mrs. E. H. Spillman, Trustmark Bank, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Vann, Mr. and Mrs. Philip Vest, Ms. Sara Welch, Mr. and Mrs. Russell Yokley, Mr. Robert Young

## *In Loving Memory*

Mrs. Dorothy Cable, Mrs. Edith Chasteen, Mrs. Jean Harris, Mrs. Willa Matthews,  
Ms. Doris McLemore, Ms. Charlotte Newsome, Ms. Doris Sims,  
Mrs. Rosene Troup, Mr. Wynton Williams

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

Friends, Inc.  
P.O. Box 608  
Huntsville, AL 35804  
www.friendsinc.net

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RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED



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# Who, You? Yes, You!

We continue to grow and need more volunteers. Give us a call! We give a **HOOT!**

(256) 534-4079



How can so few people mean so much to those reaching out and needing assistance? Why do the volunteers choose to work closely and get involved in the lives of those whom they do not know?

Our volunteers choose to volunteer because they want to help others, but we have also learned that it is okay to benefit from volunteering. Volunteering can give you the opportunity to do for others as we would desire for ourselves. Today, you may be the person who can help someone in need, but tomorrow you may be the person receiving someone else's volunteer effort. So instead of thinking that volunteering is something we do for those who can't do for themselves, let's think of it as an exchange. We are all in this together, making tomorrow a brighter day.