The Journey of Friendship
Commitment to Our Mission
Friendship Community is a Christian ministry cultivating capabilities of Individuals with Intellectual Disability and Autism.

Living Our Vision
Impacting the World with Capabilities

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The Journey of Friendship is published quarterly. Email your comments and suggestions to - reception@friendshipcommunity.net

FC is a 501 (C)(3) tax exempt organization. Official registration and financial information can be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling 800.732.0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Visit our websites for additional information:
FriendshipCommunity.net
FriendshipArt.net

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Hope

With the hope of spring bursting forth, I am invigorated with such freshness of life. I have been so encouraged by the strength of “overcomers”. I recently observed those that were affected by the sudden illness and loss of a resident of Friendship Community, as well as the Old Mill Apartment fire. There are many obstacles throughout each of our lives, but amidst all of the inevitable twists and turns, Hope is like a beautiful sunrise on a warm spring morning.

Hope enables us to approach problems with an ability to dream of something better and to become motivated to navigate new paths, new ways, new beginnings...

As Individuals, Team Members, families and friends faced several challenges over the past few months, I saw lives that were transformed! When human beings were weak, God was strong! Hope was alive!

Overwhelming compassion and love were demonstrated during such challenging times to those enduring hardship. But then what I observed was such tenderness, kindness and love that sprang forth to others. Out of weakness, came strength because no one was alone.

Hope, together with faith, melted the heaviness. Confidence grew as people simply cared for each other. There was a newness of life. Togetherness fostered courage to overcome as gratitude emerged.

We wish to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who extended themselves to Friendship Community Individuals and Team Members during, and after, the Old Mill Apartment fire. It was such a community-wide caring effort, which we will never forget. Love prevailed!

We also want to THANK all of the incredible Team Members who went above and beyond to provide hospice support to Christie, one of our incredible residents, who lived a life of joyful exuberance.

We sing praises to God for all of the many blessings we have experienced the past few months!

This spring, we “overcomers” are exploring new possibilities together! We are dreaming of new opportunities, desiring growth in relationships, aiming for new horizons, expecting abundance in various ways and we go forth with great … Hope

Gwen Schuit, CEO

Artwork available at Heart Gallery Art Auction on March 28th

Cover Art: “Foxglove Love” Pam Rohrer (available at Art Auction)
Annual Art Auction
Benefiting Artists with Intellectual Disability and Autism
March 28, 2019

Pennsylvania College of Health Sciences
850 Greenfield Road, Lancaster PA 17601 Rear Entrance
Silent Auction 6:30 PM | Live Auction 7:30 PM
Semi-Formal Dress Attire | Light hors d’oeuvres
RSVP March 14th
Eventbrite.com search for Friendship Heart Gallery
FriendshipArt.net 717.945.6904
Price Per Ticket $35
Support Friendship Community at a night of fellowship, dinner and entertainment at

The Wenger Foundation’s 24th Annual Praise Dinner

Tuesday, April 16, 2019 at 6:00 PM
Lebanon Expo Center, Lebanon, PA

Buffet Style Meal Tickets: $125 per person; $1250 per table of 10

The Wenger Foundation, Inc. was founded in January 1996 as a private, non-profit organization. The mission of The Wenger Foundation, Inc. is to support religious, educational and community service programs. The most notable event of the Foundation is the annual Praise Dinner.

This event, begun in 1996, has raised an excess of $1.9 million for the benefit of Christian Ministries, including Friendship Community. 100% of the contributions directly benefit the following ministries: Friendship Community, COBYS Family Services, Evangelical Seminary & On Fire Youth Ministry.

Dr. Tony Blair
President of Evangelical Seminary
Sanctuary Quartet
Southern Gospel Quartet

To make your reservations, mail your tax-deductible check by April 1st to:
The Wenger Foundation, Inc.
PO Box 409 Myerstown, PA 17067

To ensure that your contribution benefits Friendship Community, please indicate so with your reservation. Not able to attend? We will gladly accept your Praise Dinner donation of any amount!

For more information, you may contact The Wenger Foundation at 717.866.2130 or Friendship Community at 717.656.2466.
Friendship Community presents

FEST, AUCTION & 5K RUN

SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2019, 7 AM - 2 PM

Friendship Community Main Campus
1149 East Oregon Rd, Lititz, PA 17543

7am-10am - Pancake & Sausage Breakfast
7am-? - Plant Tent
8am-9am - 5K Run/Walk for Capabilities
9am-2pm - General Auction
  - Friendship Heart Gallery Tent
  - Meaningful Day Academy Tent
10am-2pm - Food Court/Chicken BBQ
  - Kids’ Rides & Activities & Kids’ Tent

Friendship Community is a Christian ministry cultivating capabilities of Individuals with Intellectual Disability and Autism in Lancaster and Lebanon Counties since 1972.

"Impacting the World with Capabilities"

WWW.FRIENDSHIPCOMMUNITY.NET  717.656.2466

Sponsorship opportunities are available!
New Beginnings

By Michelle Butler, Director of Operations

Did you ever look back on a situation and find yourself in awe of God’s provision, even at the most inopportune times? Friendship Community recently experienced one of those times and we continue to experience deep gratitude for how God orchestrated a truly amazing story!

In the fall of 2018, Friendship Community was offered a unique opportunity to lease a gorgeous, newly updated, and completely accessible home from an endearing couple familiar with our organization. After careful contemplation, our Executive Team respectfully declined the offer due to uncertainty posed by ongoing staffing challenges.

Shortly thereafter, five Individuals supported by Friendship Community faced the sudden and unfortunate loss of housing when an Old Mill Apartment building in Ephrata was destroyed by fire on October 25, 2018. Of the five Individuals impacted by this devastating event, two had been supported in Residential Services in the Old Mill Waiver apartment.

Although incredibly challenging were the days and weeks following the fire, we could not have been more blessed throughout the recovery process with the outpouring of support from the greater community!

Among the abundant blessings we experienced during this time, we were elated to learn that the home previously offered to us for lease was still available. The home owners had not secured tenants, although they continued to trust God’s plan. Once they were contacted regarding our interest to further explore the option of leasing their home, God’s plan became evident to all involved. To our amazement, Friendship Community entered into a lease agreement with the owners of a wonderful home in Manheim, licensed the home to operate as a 6400 Waiver Residential program, and assisted 2 Individuals to move into the home, all within 5 days following the fire!

We are so grateful for the opportunity to experience this new beginning as a reminder of God’s unwavering love and the truly compassionate community that surrounds and supports us.
We wish to take this opportunity to thank the Lancaster County Community Foundation, Rodgers & Associates, and the High Foundation for all of their efforts to make the 2018 ExtraOrdinary Give such a blessing for so many non-profit organizations! We also thank everyone who supported Friendship Community during this event! We are truly grateful for the 249 donors who lovingly raised $60,362.00 for Friendship Community!

“We give thanks to God always for all of you!” ~1 Thessalonians 1:2

Friendship Community’s 40th Annual Talent Night

Celebrating Joy! Showcasing the unique talents of individuals expressing their capabilities! April 1st, 2019 at 7:00 pm at Mellinger Mennonite Church 1916 Lincoln Hwy East, Lancaster.
The Meaningful Day Academy continues to make an impact in the community. Partnering with local businesses and organizations through volunteering. We have bakers, flower arrangers, gardeners and many other talented individuals.

If you know of a business or organization that would benefit from these enthusiastic individuals, please contact Claudia at the Meaningful Day Academy.

(above) MDA individuals participated for a few months stuffing mailers for Select Security. They enjoyed it and it made them feel like they had a purpose.

(above) The Warwick Girls Soccer Team gladly agreed to have a picture taken with some of our participants during halftime.

In Memory
Christina "Christie" Dochter
April 12, 1982 - January 25, 2019

I will enter His gates with thanksgiving in my heart;
I will enter His courts with praise.
I will say this is the day that the Lord has made.
I will rejoice for He has made me glad.
He has made me glad, He has made me glad,
I will rejoice for He has made me glad.
He has made me glad, He has made me glad,
I will rejoice for He has made me glad.

(Christie’s favorite song)