

ANNUAL REPORT

2017



FRIEDMAN
PLACE

A COMMUNITY FOR ADULTS WHO
ARE BLIND OR VISUALLY IMPAIRED



Dear Friends:

At the conclusion of our 82nd year of service to people who are blind or visually impaired, we pause to reflect upon the great traditions that have given rise to our mission and the many transitions from which we have flourished. It is with genuine respect and gratitude that we thank all of our residents for their trust; the staff, board members and volunteers for their integrity and loving dedication; and to you for your loyalty and generous gifts that ensure that our residents have what they need to live their lives to the fullest.

Being a part of Friedman Place is an enriching and life-changing experience that is both humbling and inspiring. We hope you will agree that Friedman Place shares an important place in history. We have given people who are blind and visually impaired a home and place for independence, provided supportive services and raised awareness of issues that face those with blindness and other visual impairments. We have come a long way since our first days in 1930's, when a group of adults who were blind or visually impaired came together to support one another to become a respected leader in Chicago's nonprofit community, with 70 employees, an annual budget of \$3.5 million, 100 residents served annually, and scores of loyal and valuable volunteers.

As we've come to better understand the needs of people who are blind or visually impaired, we have been able to do more and have asked more from all of YOU. You have never let us down. Today we are able to provide housing and person-centered services delivered by caring staff members who firmly believe resident self-determination and independence are of the utmost importance. With your backing we've become a model supportive living program that enriches the lives of more than 100 people who call Friedman Place home each year.

You have helped make this PLACE a HOME.

Thank you,



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President, Board of Directors
2016-2017



Alexander S. Brown,
MBA, PhD, LCSW
Executive Director

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WHAT'S NEW

Friedman Place is constantly changing and growing. The past year brought several positive changes to Friedman Place.

ANNEX

In 2015, the building directly south of Friedman Place went on the market and was subsequently purchased by Friedman Place. The purchase was completed in August 2015, and a plan to renovate the building was put in place.



Renovations to the Annex building were completed in the first half of 2016, and the Annex building officially opened in August, 2016. The first floor is the new home of our popular **Therapeutic Weaving Studio** which now has plenty of space to utilize all of our looms and adds lots of new storage options for weaving supplies. The weaving studio's large storefront window looks out onto Lincoln Avenue, and gives people on the street a peek at residents at work on their looms. The first floor also has flexible additional space for conference rooms or classrooms, and potentially office space if needed in the future. A walkway was installed in November that connects the Annex to our main building, providing shelter and a safe path between the buildings.

The second floor of the Annex has a three-bedroom apartment that is now Friedman Place's new **Transitional Living Program**. This program provides affordable housing and various case management services to its residents who are blind or visually impaired and need less staff support and services than residents of our main building. The program is a path to independent living for its residents. The program provides support to residents as they improve their daily living and mobility skills with a goal that they are able to move out to a home of their own in the community, within two years. The Transitional Living Program Apartment's residents are welcomed and encouraged to be a part of the active community that the residents of our main building enjoy. The apartment's first residents moved in during September 2016.



LIFE AT FRIEDMAN PLACE

Friedman Place is home to more than 85 adults who are blind or visually impaired, most of whom have additional health issues. Residents enjoy the comforts of home and more: three healthy meals a day, enriching social activities, health care including medication and case management, assistance with housekeeping and the activities of daily living that many people take for granted. Friedman Place Residents are a community of adults ranging from 22-90+. They make up a group as diverse as their ages, ethnic backgrounds, and vision issues, yet they live peacefully under the same roof. What weaves them together is their blindness and desire for a more independent, meaningful life. The community they have found at Friedman Place unites, rather than divides, residents. The support and encouragement they receive here transforms their lives as they learn new skills, complete their education, make new friends, explore the neighborhood, and experience Chicago's amazing cultural offerings.

ACTIVITIES

There is always a lot happening inside our building. We offer recreational activities which appeal to a wide range of interests, as well as activities to help residents live healthy, stimulating lives. Our **Therapeutic Weaving Program** is just one of the many options for residents who are interested in learning and living life to the fullest.

Residents this year also enjoyed: Music with Marc, parties with resident DJs, exercise, arts & crafts, computer and technology instruction, special performers, Bingo, Uno, and other games (volunteer groups love to join us for Bingo...).

OUTINGS

We encourage residents to explore Chicago. This amazing city is a great backyard for Friedman Place. Our **Activities Department** plans and leads residents on a variety of adventures in and around the city. Some favorites include: Great America, Old Town School of Folk Music, Chicago Botanic Garden, weekly shopping at Target and Walmart, and Wendella Cruises.

4,200
HOURS OF ACTIVITIES

1,600
HOURS OF WEAVING
(34% OF RESIDENTS
PARTICIPATE)



NEW STAFF FRIEDMAN PLACE



In late 2016 Friedman Place hired its very first Certified Vision Rehabilitation Therapist (CVRT). For years new residents to Friedman Place have met with an Orientation and Mobility specialist to learn how to navigate around our building and grounds. This specialist was a consultant, not a permanent staff member, so her time with residents was limited. Our new staff CVRT replaces the Orientation and Mobility consultant as a permanent position, so now she provides initial assessments, service planning and on-going training and support.

Our CVRT is specially trained to teach residents to use compensatory skills and assistive technology that enables them to live safe, productive lives, as independently as possible. The addition of this position to our staff has been transformative for many of our residents as we learn, together, how much more residents can learn and accomplish with the right support. The CVRT has a very wide variety of responsibilities and no two days are the same. Her work includes administrative work such as vision assessments, service planning and educating staff; but primarily revolves around teaching activities of daily living to residents such as:

- Laundry - from separating colors to folding and organizing clothing, so that residents can dress themselves with ease.
- Use of adaptive devices as simple as a magnifying glass for reading letters, to computers with software that makes a screen speak.
- Navigating their apartments and the building without assistance.

Since our CVRT joined the staff we have noticed more residents doing their own laundry, adaptations to the building that help residents navigate better, introduction of new adaptive devices and products, and new residents becoming orientated to the building more quickly.

This list goes on, these changes have had a very positive impact for the lives of our residents. We are now able to sustain this position permanently, through the support of our donors.

335

HOURS OF
O&M/CVRT SERVICES

105,000

HOURS OF
SERVICE PROVIDED
BY 70 EMPLOYEES

BILL

**Friedman Brings Him a Whole New World
He Would've Missed**

Bill was born on the south side of Chicago, he was 11 years old in 1963, when glaucoma left him blind in both eyes. "Coming from a print or sighted world, as I did as a young boy, life was hard," Bill says. "You miss a lot of the things that were a part of your life – to know the color of the sky or grass."

Yet Bill persisted. He learned to read and write Braille and went on to graduate from Spaulding High School, Chicago's first public school exclusively for children with disabilities. For 30 years, he was employed by a sheltered workshop doing piece work.

When Bill's family was evicted from their home, he moved in with his sister, but her transient lifestyle challenged him. He was tired of bouncing around from place to place.

Bill feels at home here and values the range of services at Friedman Place as well as the many residents from all walks of life. "I feel freer here," Bill notes. "There's privacy and more to do." The stacks of Braille books on his desk are evidence of his favorite pastime – reading books, magazines and listening to audio books.

In terms of his blindness, Bill has come to appreciate his situation and sees it as a means to an end. He has found a community of caring people at Friedman Place who understand and accept him for the person he is today. "What the good Lord did was bring me a whole new world that I would have missed if I did have my sight," he says. "I got to know a lot of good people here. Some of them are blind residents like me and others are staff and volunteers. Getting to know others without sight and being able to learn from them and know them as people that way, this makes me feel like I'm not alone"



Bill dances with a friend.



MARTHA

Discovering in Friedman a Transition to Greater Independence



For Martha, coming to Friedman Place was a game changer. When illness struck in middle age, Martha lost not only her health but her ability to work, her apartment and all of her personal belongings. A series of brain tumors left her unable to walk and took most of her vision. Her family had no idea if and when she would ever be fully independent again. After a long hospital stay and another three-month stay in a nursing home, Martha and her family wanted more for her.

Martha arrived at Friedman Place with nothing more than the wheelchair that carried her. But after seven years of living and working toward independence at Friedman Place she moved into an apartment out in the local community, and Martha is again enjoying many of things that she once was able to do before illness struck.

It was a long way back, but within a few months after her arrival to Friedman Place Martha went from using a wheelchair to a walker. Over time she was then able to orient herself to the building with training from staff and eventually didn't need assistance to get to the dining room or to activities.

Once the walker was retired, she was able to obtain a guide dog; "Gus" became a part of her life. Although Martha always knew that Gus was good at his job, his ability to keep her safe and assured outside has become even more apparent now that they have moved out of Friedman Place and into her new apartment in a subsidized senior-housing building.



Although many Friedman Place residents remain in the building for several decades and even the rest of their lives, some, like Martha, use it as a temporary place to recover and learn the adaptive skills needed for someone recently blind or visually impaired.

Now that she has moved out, it is the people at Friedman Place, her friends that include both residents and staff, who she misses the most. She has come to realize they are what's best about living here. She also recalls the doctors who came to Friedman for vision check-ups and who took it upon themselves to explain clearly to her the details of her vision loss and what was in store for her future. "The news wasn't good," she says. "I will eventually lose all of my vision. That's why I got a guide dog, so I could learn how to get around while I still had some sight. But, it was good to know. There are some things that Friedman Place is so good at. Preparing us for what lies ahead is one of those things."

LUCY'S APARTMENT

The apartments at Friedman Place are homes, each resident has their own, individual unit; most are studios with a kitchenette and full bathroom. Each one reflects the taste and style of its inhabitant. Some residents simply have a bed, chair and dresser with a TV or other media for entertainment, others have set up their apartments with décor and the finishing touches that create a warm, comfortable home. One of our new residents – Lucy – has taken some extra time and care to create a welcoming home. She invites you in for a look...

INSIDE FRIEDMAN PLACE



RESIDENTS SAY:

90%

of residents gave these topics and others the **highest scores possible** on our annual resident survey:

MY APARTMENT IS
HOMELIKE OR VERY
HOMELIKE.

THE HOUSEKEEPING
STAFF KEEP MY
APARTMENT CLEAN OR
VERY CLEAN.

I AGREE OR STRONGLY
AGREE THAT I HAVE
OPPORTUNITIES TO
GIVE INPUT ON
ACTIVITIES AND
OUTINGS.

I FEEL THAT
THE NURSING CARE
IS GOOD OR
USUALLY GOOD.

I AGREE OR STRONGLY
AGREE THAT I MAKE
MY OWN LIFESTYLE
DECISIONS.

I AGREE OR STRONGLY
AGREE THAT THE
AGENCY HAS
IMPROVED MY
QUALITY OF LIFE.

I AGREE OR STRONGLY
AGREE THAT I FEEL
SAFE HERE.

I AGREE OR STRONGLY
AGREE THAT I WOULD
RECOMMEND FRIEDMAN
PLACE TO OTHER
ADULTS WITH VISUAL
IMPAIRMENTS.



On the Annual Review from the State of Illinois we received a **100% score.**

100%

EVENTS

FALL FIESTA

In late October 2016, more than 100 Friedman Place supporters, board members, staff, and residents came together for our **Fall Fiesta**. The fundraising event was held right next door to Friedman Place at Latin Bliss Nightclub, whose generous owners worked with us to create an exciting cocktail party. The Fall Fiesta featured drinks and a festive Pan-Latin menu created by our own talented kitchen, which included empanadas, ceviche and other treats. Additional food items were donated by our friends at El Carrito restaurant and Eli's Cheesecake. In addition to food and drink, guests had an opportunity to learn about residents and their lives through a video presentation and were able to further support our efforts by raising over \$11,000 for programs. Another success!



VISIONS

As part of an on-going effort to reach out to the community we held our very first art exhibition **VISIONS: An Exhibition of Artworks Associated with Vision, Blindness, or Disability**. The show was a juried exhibit of 2-D works by people with some nominal connection to vision, blindness, or disability. It featured artwork of residents, volunteers and artists from the community with themes related to vision, blindness, or disability or the artist had a disability themselves.



The art show was displayed and open to the public during two weeks in May that kicked-off with an Opening Reception on May 18. The Reception was attended by almost 80 friends and family of residents, artists and others, it featured music by residents and refreshments.

One of the highlights of the show was the work of resident Sam – he displayed some examples of photos he took of Chicago as he was losing his vision. He also he worked with volunteer Patty Piexoto on a series of paintings – he described his 'vision' to Patty who then translated them to paintings on canvas. Sam proudly shared his stories with visitors. He had been waiting for years for an opportunity to share his photography.

8,740
HOURS OF
NURSING CARE



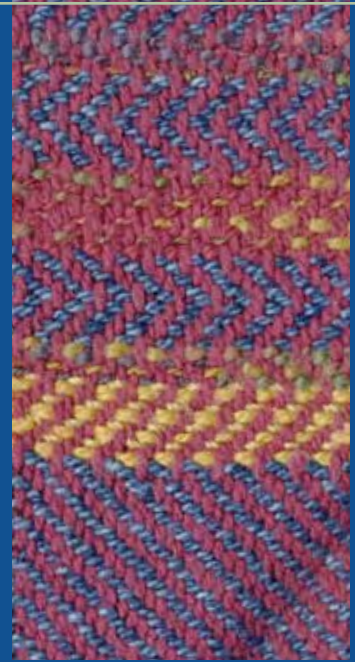
Friedman Place is a Place for...



Fun & Adventures



Love & Sharing



Join us in 2018!

- Volunteer for an outing
- Visit for lunch with residents or tour
- Share your talent
- Attend an event

For more information about volunteering contact **Beth Elman: beth@friedmanplace.org** or (773) 989-9800 ext. 1111.



Hope & Health



Learning

Friedman Place is a place for...

- Music & Art
- Weaving & Bingo
- Games & Food
- Friends & More!!

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Unaudited Fiscal Year 2017 -
Year Ended June 30, 2017

ASSETS

Cash & Equivalents	\$54,719
Cash Held for Residents	3,334
Accounts Receivable	698,560
Prepaid Expenses /Other	6,067
Property & Equipment	5,238,036
Total Assets	6,000,716

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	\$66,616
Accrued Payroll	65,554
Due to Residents	9,596
Long-Term Obligations	2,075,000
Total Liabilities	2,215,756
Net Assets	3,784,960

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

REVENUE

Commercial Insurance	\$1,399,228
Government Fees	619,164
Resident Fee-for-Service	1,031,648
Donations & Grants	373,640
Other	25,895
Total Revenue	3,449,575

EXPENSES

Programs	2,676,694
General/Administrative	617,250
Development	139,514
Total Expenses	3,433,458
Net	16,117

Friedman Place **saves the State of Illinois** and its taxpayers approximately **\$20,000 per resident** per year, which is **over \$1,000,000 per year.**

HONORS AND MEMORIALS

Donations received between
July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017

We are grateful to everyone who thought of Friedman Place when honoring or memorializing someone important to them.

In honor of Martin Cohen
Arnold and Joyce Sklar

In honor of Douglas Dexheimer
Ben Roman

In honor of Beth Elman
Dr. and Mrs. Walter L. Barker
Jason and Susan Levin

In honor and appreciation of the Firm family
Hanna Goldschmidt and
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In honor of Jeff Flodin
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In memory of Paul and Sarah Ziegler
Bob and Rose Colombik

FISCAL YEAR 2017 DONOR LIST

Donations received between
July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017

All activities, programs and services offered at Friedman Place are made possible through the generosity of our donors. We offer our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who made a contribution in Fiscal Year 2017. We would also like to acknowledge our anonymous donors. We offer sincere apologies for any mistakes or omissions in the following list.

Please contact the Development Office to report any errors (773) 989-9800 or development@friedmanplace.org.

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Come join us in 2018!

Volunteers are always welcome at Friedman Place, and there are plenty of opportunities for groups to volunteer and make a difference for our residents.

For more information about volunteering contact
Beth Elman: beth@friedmanplace.org
or (773) 989-9800 ext. 1111.



We are Friedman Place.

Friedman Place is a non-profit Supportive Living Community for adults who are blind or visually impaired. We provide permanent housing and a wide range of social, psychosocial, and medical services to our 85 diverse residents; whose ages range from 22 to over 90. Ninety-percent of residents have a chronic health condition unrelated to blindness – such as diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, or kidney failure. Almost all residents meet the Federal definition of Very Low Income and two-thirds the Poverty Level.

Friedman Place is a Supportive Living Community; however, we function more like an “Assisted Living” Community due to the higher level of services staff provide for our residents. In addition to housing we provide residents a supportive environment to designed to maximize each individual’s independence through the following programs and services:

- Nursing services including medication management, health assessments, and coordination
- Assistance with personal care, such as dressing, bathing, and grooming
- Three meals plus snack daily
- Housekeeping
- Mobility and orientation training, including adaptive technology
- Transportation assistance
- Cable TV, telephone, and utilities
- Counseling services and support groups
- David Herman Learning Center offers Therapeutic Weaving and other educational opportunities and activities