

VISIONS OF GRACE



FRIEDMAN PLACE
ANNUAL REPORT 2020

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Thank you for your support and good wishes during this most unusual and difficult time for us all. As you may know, all of Friedman Place residents who are blind or visually impaired remain vigilant in their fight keep the virus outside of Friedman Place. Extreme adjustments to daily routines have made all the difference. While these changes caused some consternation, the cooperation and understanding of everyone; residents and their family and friends, staff, volunteers, vendors resulted in a positive outcome in which all residents are healthy. The entire board is especially thankful to the leadership of Alexander Brown and his team for conceiving and implementing an exceptional pandemic plan.

Since Friedman Place is a touch-centric community, isolation became the residents' best defense against contracting the COVID-19 virus. Though the extreme isolation is highly effective, it has a cost unique to people with visual disabilities. Residents' blindness skills have suffered because blindness skills mastery takes practice to maintain. Being in public, navigating and interacting in your world is necessary to maintain your skills for living in world designed for the sighted. This loss is hard on the staff too, who work tirelessly with the residents to establish and work toward achieving new skills and build on others as residents seek to further their independence.

I have been fortunate to participate in past outings and group activities at Friedman Place, and have seen how activities aide in maintaining and building residents skills. I'm confident that if we remain strong, we will enjoy a rewarding comeback.

Thank you for your efforts to help us to keep up residents' spirits, and to ensure they remain well-cared for and secure.

In appreciation of your kindness,

Mary Haley
President

Board of Directors FY21

Mary Haley
President

Ian Kay
Vice-President

Beverly Shapiro
Secretary

Richard Goldberg, CPA
Treasurer

**Michael Glickman, JD,
CPA**

Evelyn Hoffmann, JD

Christophe Quancard

Paul Rink, JD

Jill Strong

Aaron Thompson

Alexander Brown
Executive Director



in the foreground are Mary Haley and Ian Kay, also pictured Evelyn Hoffmann, Rich Goldberg, Paul Rink, Alexander Brown, and the late Arnie Miller.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Obstacles to full inclusion into society as a person who is blind or visually impaired may not ever be fully understood by people with sight. But, the tragedy of COVID-19 and its tangible threat to the health and safety to us all offers a rare glimpse into the life people who are blind or visually impaired. COVID-19 summons up issues of personal freedom, rights, responsibilities and duties to your fellow citizen. Sudden lost income because of illness, or unemployment when businesses fail to incorporate accommodations using new technologies or inclusive ways of providing services are hauntingly similar issues to those of the blind.

The world before COVID-19 seemed limitless and full of possibilities and stark in contrast to a world in quarantine, where there is nowhere to go and nothing to do because everyone is vulnerable to an invisible threat. It's been eight months. Imagine a lifetime living in a world where it's not safe or convenient for you. Would you relent to the allure of isolation? Mitigating this lifelong struggle of the blind is our mission at Friedman Place, to promote and foster the independence of adults who are blind or visually impaired, which is different for each individual who resides here or seek services from the Navigator or Rent Assistance program.

Yes, Friedman Place provides appropriate and affordable housing programs, social services and activities is accurate but not complete. It's a unique place and humbling to work alongside professionals who are brave, kind and dedicated, especially this year. When we say we are a family, we don't mean a quaint euphemism or intend to diminish the residents' sense of agency. While a few residents have family, most do not. On any given day the residents' only human interaction may be a few words with staff, volunteers or each other.

Since isolation is an easy default for the visually disabled. COVID-19 isn't the only invisible enemy. After five years of receiving 100% on annual state reviews, you think you have it all figured out. Then in a matter of days, Friedman Place goes from a bustling and vibrant community of people who are blind or visually impaired exercising their hard fought independence, to a community in lockdown fearful of what even the sighted could not see. As the executive director of this very closely knit community, I acknowledge that this year tested us and it's extreme deference and caution that we follow every local, state and federal mandate knowing full well that negative consequence to each individual resident, will save the community as a whole.

A vision of grace reflects the conundrum of our pandemic plan and its impact on residents who comply. Grace also is present in the staff who put their health and their loved ones health on the line to ensure that of our residents. Grace is evident in the kindness and support from residents' family and friends during times when they can't be physically present, and in the generous gifts given in such uncertain times.

I've never seen such a thing. I am more than grateful, and much obliged.

Sincerely,

Alexander Brown, PhD, MBA, LCSW
Executive Director



Cover photo: Coco provides a socially distanced serenade.

LIFE IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

We Salute our Front line Heros!



Until N95 masks arrived the Friedman Place Nursing Team used cloth masks donated by charitable sewers!

These many months of quarantine have been tough on everyone. The loss of physical contact with family, friends and volunteers, and all the people that make up our community has been terribly hard on Friedman Place residents and staff. Still today, only essential staff, professionals providing essential repairs and medical professionals may enter the building.

During the shutdown, half of the staff was required work from home. The other half dropped everything to quickly set up protocols for contact-free ways to meet the basic needs of our residents. This staff of "essentials" worked diligently and soon a comprehensive pandemic plan was formulated and executed. We are forever grateful to the donations of home-made masks and hand sanitizer. Your donations kept us strong and safe while we

competed with the rest of the world for personal protective equipment and disinfectant. Soon, we realized that round the clock disinfecting would not be enough to protect the residents with so many high touch surfaces at Friedman Place. The best way to protect the residents' health was to sheltering-in-place. All activities were discontinued, and common areas closed.

Friedman Place staff witness firsthand how negatively quarantine isolation effects residents' well-being. Since Friedman Place residents take, on average, nine prescription medications and live with six and a half health issues other than blindness and we now know how dangerous the virus is to those with comorbidities the only way forward was to "stay together, but apart."

Grace Under Pressure

Staff remained flexible and diligent as mandates and the virus evolved



Certified nursing assistants pitched in to deliver meals and housekeepers disinfected around the clock with precious bleach and other disinfectants.



A small conference room converted to a staff retreat in case the virus or social unrest made going home dangerous or overly difficult.



Executive Director, Alexander Brown managed detail after detail. Ford Motors made face shields helped us feel safer before the arrival of N95 masks.

We Are All In This Together!

Finally, in late summer Friedman Place Residents earned a few freedoms.



Outdoor haircuts lifted spirits and a non-residential client qualifies for rent assistance.



Residents enjoy the return of Bingo and Zoom concerts hosted by local students.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Don't touch? At Friedman Place?!



In a community that “sees with their hands” running out of disinfectant was not an option. In the first days of the pandemic, staff searched high and low, called every contact and every potential supplier for bleach and CDC approved disinfectants!

One housekeeper spent her days in the elevator wiping buttons prior to the lockdown. Another disinfected the wooden handrails so much that the varnish wore off. Keeping every common surface clean was and is paramount. But the only way we could keep up after being required to reduce staff to the bare minimum was to set aside some of the little things that make Friedman Place so hospitable. After the citywide shutdown, activities and outings were suspended, and common areas closed. No more hot coffee breaks in the lobby and no communal fruit bowl to stave off hunger pangs. After local authorities suspended communal meals, staff quickly devised a plan to get three meals made and served to 85 residents in their apartments three times a day-every day.

To follow social distancing guidelines and to protect the health of our cooks, the kitchen's configuration would allow only one cook per shift, down from three. The wide variety of daily meal items on the menu were whittled down.

Dietary aides spend most of their days calling residents to place food orders for the next day. This has become the only source of human contact for some residents on any given day.

While delivering meals now is like a well-run production line that McDonald's would envy, it was a lot to get used to and not without a hiccup and laugh or two! Among our many goals over the years, Friedman Place has worked hard to create setting where residents feel comfortable and at home. Never could we have imagined that the pandemic would confirm our success of doing so until we had to establish a dress code for answering the door. For the record, it is much more than skivvies and mask! LOL.

FRIEDMAN FINANCIALS IN GOOD GRACES

Statement of Financial Position

Fiscal Year 2019 Financial Report
Year Ended June 30, 2019

Assets

Cash and Equivalents	\$	236,472
Cash held for Residents		21,225
Accounts Receivable		421,832
Prepaid Expenses/Other		2,693
Property and Equipment		4,746,782
Investments		423,268
Total Assets		5,852,272

Liabilities and Net Assets

Current Portion/Long-Term Debt	\$	1,925,000
Long-Term Debt		1,925,000
Total Liabilities		2,074,862
Net Assets		3,777,410

Statement of Activities

Revenue

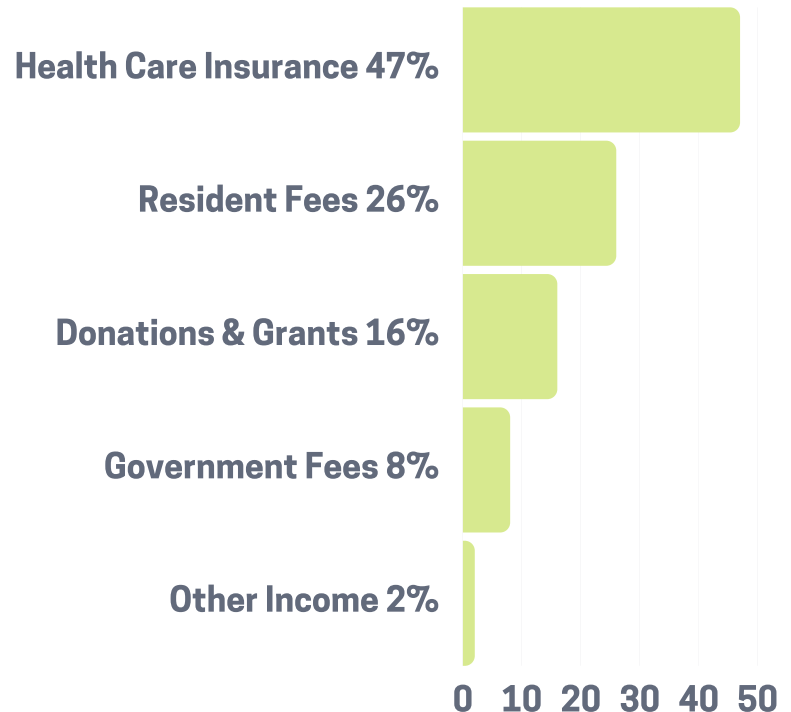
Government Fees	\$	302,967
Resident Fees		871,141
Managed Care Organizations		2,072,558
Donations and Grants		349,985
Other		64,577
Total		3,661,228

Expenses		2,985,482
Programs		503,922
General/Administrative		227,165
Development		3,716,569

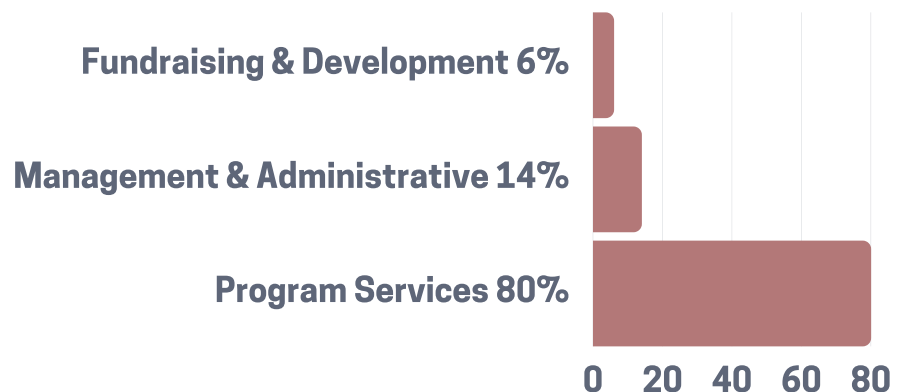
Net		(55,341)
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Where Our Funding Goes

REVENUE



EXPENSES



Why Support Friedman Place?

Friedman Place's grace under pressure has saved the lives of our residents and doubled our reach by extending services into the community. As one of the only residences for people who are blind or visually impaired in the country, Friedman Place continued as a national model and was especially diligent to follow every mandate and sometimes go further to ensure the well-being of our community. Despite all of the changes and new protocols, Friedman Place managed to earn a fifth year in a row of 100% on its annual State review and maintain 100% occupancy and a full waiting list.

The organization is led by a volunteer Board of Directors and specially trained staff who care for the residents' well-being 24 hours a day. Dozens of volunteers found ways to enrich the lives of residents even while out of the building, and generous individuals, philanthropic foundations and corporations entrust us with financial gifts.

Friedman Place receives only 8% of funding from government sources and 100% of charitable donations support programs and services. The Business Bureau's Standard for Charitable Accountability and the American Institute for Philanthropy recommend 60%.

Senior Staff

Alexander Brown, MBA, PhD, LCSW

Executive Director

Beth Elman

Director of Activities and Volunteers

Mary Graf, RN

Director of Nursing

Kathy Gregg

Chief Development Officer

Susan Killelea, LCSW

Quality, Compliance, & Training Manager

Rita Scaletta

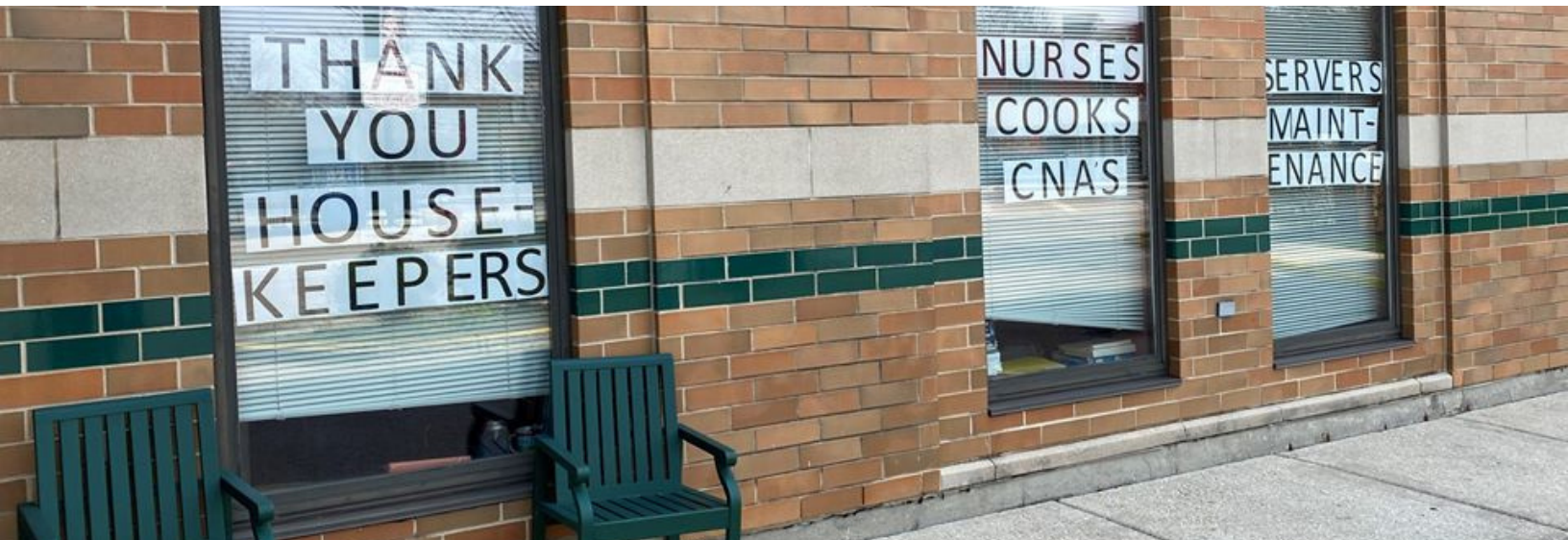
Director of Finance and Operations

Cheryl Zaleski

Director of Food Services

Christian Zapata, LCSW

Social Work Supervisor



No ticker tape, just a small heroes welcome during the early days of the pandemic

Graced with Kind Donors contributions made between July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020

Thank you so much for your generosity to Friedman Place, we do our best to be accurate and apologize for any errors or omissions in the lists below.

GIFTS OF \$20,000 OR ABOVE

AJB
Estate of Roslyn Burnes

GIFTS OF \$10,000 TO \$19,999

Anonymous
Fred J. Brunner Foundation
Commonwealth Edison Company

GIFTS OF \$5,000 TO \$9,999

Sara Edelstein Charitable Trust
Design Museum Of Chicago
Lorraine Trachtenberg and Jeffrey Dankberg
RRF Foundation for Aging
Terrance Electric

GIFTS OF \$2,500 TO \$4,999

Astellas US LLC
George M. Eisenberg Foundation for Charities
Illinois Arts Council
Howard Garoon
Sasha Lee Gerritson George
Franklin D. and Deborah F. Leibow
George Ruge

GIFTS OF \$1,000 TO \$2,499

Ceil Abernathy and Maureen Belluomini
Sarah and Wayne Allen
Elliot D. Baker Charitable Foundation
Naveen & Nitasha Bindra
Edward and Barbara Burnes
Ronald & Ellen Brown
Ruth Fleischer
Jeff Flodin
Lorie and Robert Friedman
Granneman Family Foundation
Evelyn Hoffman
Merrill & Bernette Hoyt
Monica Nelson
Leon and Sharon Oberlander
Philip M. Friedmann Family Charitable Trust
Paul Rink
Lee and Al Skalecke
Bonnie Lucas and Stuart Sondheimer
Special People In Need (SPIN)
Sulzer Family Foundation

GIFTS OF \$500 TO \$999

Richard H. Balin
Daniel and Arlene Bracken
Theresa Busch
Michael Glickman
Bruce and Myla Goldstick
Sylvia G. Gordon
Joseph Heniff
Laurence and Ana Kaufman
Andrea LeBoy
Tom & Janet Leopold
Ethel Meyer
Northern Weathermakers HVAC
Julian Oettinger
Marilyn J. Rogoff
Earl and Rochelle Rubino
Russell Family Charitable Foundation
Jack and Eva Steinberg Endowment Fund
Alice Strayer
Lee Whitcomb
Arnold Zalon

GIFTS OF \$250 TO \$499

Kelem Baya
Marge Blair
Bryn Mawr Terrace Condo Association
Michelle Clyne and John Paprocki
Anita Gerber and Joel Sugar
John and Stephanie Lamperis
Latin Bliss
Sally Levenstam
Medication Management Partners
Donald and Kimberley Meyer
North Suburban Synagogue Beth El
Marilyn Rogoff
Robert Rosen
Daniel and Cindy Safran
Charles and Mickey Silverstein
Chris Sorenson
Paige Stoltenberg

GIFTS TO \$249

Walter and Betty Barker
Frank Bartos
Miles Beermann
Marc Bermann
Phyllis Berzack
Morris Block
Katya Borgos
Ellen Brooderson
Laura Buoscio
Zlota Burd
Katherine & Brian Byrne
Eric Canale
Marilee Cole
Michael Colky
Lee Collier
Pamela Cutaia
Janet Davis
Roger Dawson
Margie Deitch
Mariela Diaz-Linares & Murray Levin
Lionel Dredze and Diane Kagan
Erin Dubnow
Debra Dzialo
Beth Egelske
Joanne Engelke
Laura Fairman
Roger & Eleanor Feldman
Sid Firstman
Alan Jacqueline Fonorow
Rosa Garcia
Deborah Gardiner
Scott Gilbert
Marvin & Sheila Ginsburg
Richard and Lesley Goldberg
Harry Goldin and Jane Kaplan
Susan Goldman
Morton Goldstein
Simone Goodman
Judith Gordon
Kathleen Gorrell
Peter Grafner
Peter & Susan Gray
Greenout Cleanout
Michael and Kathy Gregg
Debbie Grossman
Maurice & Jewel Guysenir
Catherine Guzik
Mary Haley
Mary Halpin
Scott & Elizabeth Hamilton
Chris and Jane Hansen
H Reed Harris & Pamela M. Hoxsey
Joanne Harris
Barbara Heller
Alyce Heman
Julio and Martha Hernandez



Halloween treats made residents days sweeter, homemade masks helped them breathe easier, and echo dots filled their rooms with sound. All are just a few of the many thoughtful gifts from individuals. Corporations pitched in too, including Koval Distillery that turned Lagunitas' beer into hand- sanitizer.

Protective Care Packages from family, friends and corporations!



Tribute Gifts Made In Honor of:

Alexander Brown -3
Barbara Steiner
Beth Elman
Bob O'Malley
Bruce Goldstick MD & Abe Kaplan, MD
David Combs
Douglas Dexheimer
Ian Kay
Janet Kay Tadin
Jean Stoltenberg
Joe Abernathy
Josephine Hirsh
Judy McClung
Kelem Bayu
Lorraine Hanson's 100th birthday
Marge and Jim Blair's 50th
Marion McGuire's 80th birthday
Merrill Hoyt
Noam Zarkowsky
Ross Rogoff
Ruth Kreiter feeling better -2
Activities Department
Patsy Corts - 4

Tribute Gifts Made In Memory of:

Arnie Miller -3
Beverly Rosenstein
Bob O'Malley
Carol Ruge
Dale and Lois Fordyce
Della Rohrs and Ken Kellar
Donna M. Whitcomb -2

More Tributes Gifts Made in Memory of:

Dr. and Mrs. Eli Mandel and Jennie B. Mandel
Erwin Zalon
Eva Neiman
Evelyn Katz
Florence Deitch
Gail Brown -3
Harry Kaufman
Herbert Friedman
Ina Jean
Irene Silverstein
Isadore & Esther Friedman & Dorothy Berke
Jack Block
Leonard Kowynia-4
Lola Slovin, Jennie Newman, and David Herman
Mary Bullamore
Morris Kaiser
Morton J. & Ethel Freed and Phillip LeBoy
Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Corman
Mrs. Saltzman
Nancy Weber
Patsy Wise Corts -4
Paul and Sarah Ziegler
Roslyn Burnes -5
Ruth Schwartz
Sam and Dorothy Linet
Sam and Minnie Goldstein, Benjamin & Zelda Spivack, and Louis & Hannah Spivack
Sam Burnes - 5
Sander M. Goodman
Sharon Tryba
Shirley Bark

More Gifts to \$249

Robin Hershey & Norm Nexon
Goldie Hilgert
Patricia Hogan
Michael Hoit
Patricia Holdrege
Ira & Andrew Holtzman
Jay L. Dolgin
Howard Ross Family Foundation
Sharon Howerton
Carlos Hranicka
Janice Obrand
In Working Order
Benjamin & Denise Isaacson
Jim & Mardonna Isenberg
Judith Jakaitis
Jeffrey Kaiser
Aubrey Kaplan
Debbie & Steve Kellar
Liby Kendler
Peggy Kibler
Martin & Candace Klein
Michael & Elizabeth Kowynia
Thaddeus & Josephine Kowynia
Richard Kraus
Dorothy Larkin
Sandra Lehner
Jennifer Leopold
Barry Levenstam & Betsy Landes
Rochelle Levin
Rachel Lipson
Sherry London
Cheryl Mahon
Craig & Ellen Mandel
Robert Matanky
Natasha Matza
Leslie Susan Mishel
Jan Moore
Edmund and Susan Murphy
Heloise Nathan
Lida Nedilsky
Hyman & Linda Neiman
Rose Nydick
Stephanie Oettinger
Emma Palasz
Jay and Ileene Paul
Sue & Ben Pawlowski
Robert Phifer
James & Barbara Pliml
Helene Pollack
Steve & Penny Pollack
Stuart Reiner
Howard and Beverly Reinglass
Kathleen Rodvold
Sharyl Ross
Sherwin & Natalie Rosset
Dennis & Joyce Ruben
Richard Rubens
Arlen and Elaine Rubin
Iris Rudnick
William & Gail Russell
Thomas Rysz
Ronald & Jane Scheff
Ralph Musicant & Carleen Schreder
Edwin Shinitzsky
Michael & Amy Sobel
Sharyn Sobel
Ernest Spatola
Tom Stark
Leonard & Helene Stone
Gene & Margaret Sullivan
T. Castro Produce
Timber Lanes
Stan and Fran Tryba
Duane Beckett & Beth Weber
Tony Wolf
Richard Zaber
Paul Blum & Ms. Alison Zak
Tony Zapata
Lita Zemel
David and Faye Ziegler

Gifts in Kind

Atour Bethishou
Karen Black-Vetter
Camille Brewer
Doug Buchanan
Rose Caldwell
Jennifer Chou
David Cohen
Wanda Correa & David Torres
Ed Coyne
Pamela Cutaia
Divya Dhall
Manas Dhall
Lily Diego-Johnson & Marcus Johnson
Ellyn Drathring-Jung
Beth Elman
Laura & Ali Fatemi
John Faulkenberry
Sid Firstman
Julie Foster
Josh Franklin
Marcel & Anne Frenkel
Micah Fry
George Gordon
Lauren Gordon
Kathleen Gorrell
Mary Graf
Beatrice Green
Mary Haley
Chris & Jane Hansen
Nancy Hines
Evelyn Hoffmann
Merrill & Bernette Hoyt
Fred Huss
David Johnson
Lamanda Joy
Steven Katz
Ian Kay
Susan Killelea
J. Todd Kloeb
Peter Kraeger
Laura Lagorio
Dorothy Larkin
Denise Lemanski
Joe Lyons
Karan Manocha
Carolyn Marcantonio
Brandon McGhee
Julia Miller
Nita Mukand
Jonathan Muñoz
Max Murphy
Monica Nelson
Keith & Sophie Norbutt
Jeremy O'Keefe
Marylin Okoye
Lisa Oldson
Kay Rathod
Paul Rink
Roger Ruttenberg
Evonne Rutz
Irene Sandler
Adnana Saric
Ronald & Jane Scheff
Alex Schnepf
Myron & Beverly Shapiro
Charles & Mickey Silverstein
Jill Strong
Beverly Thompson
Lorraine Trachtenberg
Binh Tran
Cheryl Zaleski



Friedman Place recently expanded beyond its doors and into the community with two new programs.

The Navigator Programs provides a broad range of case management and social services to people who are blind or visually impaired and living in Illinois.

The Rent Assistance Program (RAP) serves people who are legally blind and of low income living Cook County, though we hope to expand into other counties in the near future.

www.friedmanplace.org. or call 773-989-980 for more details and applications.