

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

WE NEED NORMAN TO BE AMONG OUR FRIENDS!



Among Friends Activity Center, a Norman Nonprofit, and United Way funded partner, asks for your support to ensure that Adults with physical disabilities and additional needs continue having meaningful daily activity in their lives, a gift so many of us take for granted.

NORMAN, OK, November 16, 2018 - For 15 years Among Friends has provided a service unparalleled to any other in our community for adults with disabilities. The founder, Cathe Fox, started the program when her daughter, who suffered traumatic, life-altering injuries from a car accident completed High School, and was left without an avenue to spend quality time with her friends and other individuals in similar situations. The small (roughly five to seven individuals and their caregivers) weekly gatherings quickly grew as the need for such Program became more apparent, and thus Among Friends was formed.

Over the years, Cathe graciously served as the Executive Director, on a volunteer (non-paid) basis; this allowed for AF to operate on a very low budget and keep membership fees at the nominal cost of \$50 a month, a true blessing for those on a fixed-income. After years of leadership and Center growth, Cathe determined it was time to step-down and for Among Friends to hire a paid, full-time, Executive Director who could further grow the mission of Among Friends as their membership total is now 50 and counting. This transition was critical and the Among Friends Board of Director's worked diligently to ensure the most qualified candidate was hired to propel AF to new heights. The shift in leadership and the cost the Center has incurred in order to pay staff salaries and the increased operational costs has been challenging (Among Friends does not receive any Federal funding and operates solely off of Donor support and grants). The Board of Directors, staff, and valued community partners have worked tirelessly to come up with solutions to the monetary shortfall we are faced with. These efforts included raising the monthly tuition, despite the hardship it was bound to inflict on many of the members; because keeping the Center's doors open is the primary goal for all.

While Among Friends is working relentlessly to cut costs and acquire new funding, they are in a critical place financially and as the year comes to an end, they ask for you, the Norman community, to please consider making a gracious contribution to an agency like no other. Without your support the future of Among Friends hangs in the balance. The members, their families and guardians, and the Norman community needs Among Friends – we all need that “home away from home” and without AF too many will lose out on the opportunity to share, grow, laugh, and learn with their friends, something none of us should be willing to stand for. The time is now, Norman, stand up for those who do not always have a voice and show your commitment to improving the lives of all in our community, you have the power to make and impact and help this outstanding organization continue to better the lives of its members and for those yet to come through the doors.

November 27, 2018 is #GivingTuesday, a global day of giving, kicking off the charitable season and fueled by social media. Specifically, Facebook matches every dollar donated up to 7 million. Therefore, by supporting Among Friends via Facebook by donating, making a reoccurring gift, starting and sharing your own fundraiser, promoting #GivingTuesday, or pledging to match yourself, you will make a huge impact and ensure that visibility and gifts are maximized.

The Board and Staff thank you in advance for your generosity and ask that you please contact them with any questions you may have. You can make your contributions via phone 405.701.2121, online at www.amongfriendsnorman.org/donate, or by mail: Among Friends, 1185 E. Main St., Norman, OK 73071. Among Friends is a 501(c)3, all donations are tax deductible.

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