

We are for the child.



Friends of Iowa CASA and ICFCRB™

2020 Year in Review

Friends of Iowa CASA & ICFCRB

Our Event Speakers



“Attending the Light of Hope each year has been touching and inspiring. It was an honor and pleasure to participate in the event this year and further the cause by presenting a story.” – Al Aymar, President and CEO of FiberComm

“I was honored and enlightened to give voice to the Light of Hope event and its most deserving constituents this past December. A truly noble and worthwhile organization, we are all fortunate to have Light of Hope and its CASA volunteers in our community.” – Lisa Stephenson, General Counsel for CRST International



“Taking part in the Light of Hope event was a highlight during what was a very dark year for many. I was honored to help share the stories of some of our most vulnerable children in hopes that others will be inspired and step forward and get involved.” – Heather Gudenkauf, N.Y. Times bestselling author

“I was proud to be considered as a speaker for the virtual Light of Hope. I hope that my participation helped them reach their fundraising goals!” – Joe Kennedy, Dubuque County Sheriff



The process was smooth and rewarding. It’s always nice to share positivity with others.” – Lisa Dodge, former foster youth



**"I really enjoyed participating in the 2020 Light of Hope event. This is a very worthwhile cause to try and help our young people who need an advocate."
– Doug Cropper, President and CEO of Genesis Health System**

**"Kudos to Friends of Iowa CASA and our community for a successful and inspiring Light of Hope event in a virtual setting. It was an honor to participate and to support our CASA volunteers!"
– Connie Cohen, retired juvenile court judge**



"I've been given to emcee Light of Hope events around the state, and our Zoom events this past year are something I am very proud of. I have a front row seat as I watch people discover the Light and the Hope we can bring to our abused and neglected children." – Gary Kroeger, former Saturday Night Live cast member

"I always love being part of CASA. Even in my small part, I love being around Tim and the entire team that is so dedicated to helping kids. They inspire me to do more and I'm thankful for that motivation. Speaking at the last Light of Hope event was something I'll always remember." - Sonny Hall, President and CEO of Absolute Group



"Thank you for the opportunity to share my story at this year's Light of Hope. The event is inspiring every year and I appreciate being part of a worthwhile cause." – Molly Baynes, Collins Aerospace Manager

"I really enjoyed being part of the Light of Hope event. I've heard from several people who were not aware of the need for CASAs in this community. This event helps us get the word out." – Matt Skogman, VP of Sales for Skogman Homes





“Speaking at the Light of Hope event was a rewarding experience. Tim and team made it simple for me to participate and I learned a lot about the Friends organization. It was definitely an eye-opening opportunity.” – Jennifer Darling, executive at Meredith Corporation

“I was honored to be able to participate in the 2020 Sioux City Light of Hope event. It's humbling to see how many lives are touched through the work of CASA.” – Tom Stock, Creative Services Director at KCAU-TV



“I felt blessed to be part of the Fourth Annual Quad Cities Light of Hope event. Listening to the stories of how much CASA has helped Iowa’s abused and neglected children and the increasing need for its services has inspired me to help this incredible organization and its mission!” – Bob Waterman, Managing Partner at Lane & Waterman

Our 2020 Business Sponsors and Partners

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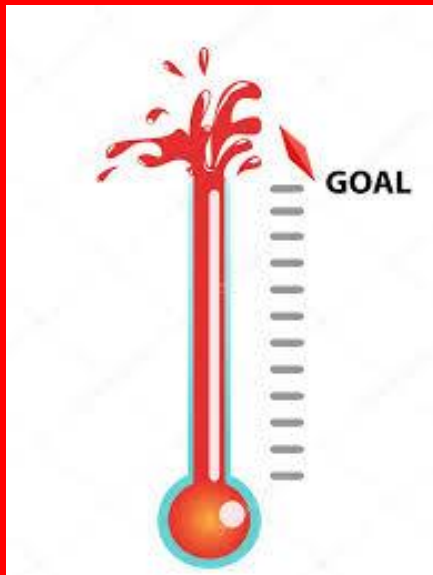
Aureon
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 My Place Hotels
 Westergaard Group
 Hornbuckle Heating & A.C
 Amy Wienands Real Estate
 Tyson Foods
 Sterk Financial Services
 S&S Farms
 CRAAR
 United Fire Group
 Van Meter, Inc

Fundraising

2020 Giving

Des Moines Light of Hope	\$50,025	
Auction	\$16,186	
Sioux City Light of Hope	\$10,446	
Main Donation Page	\$8,170	(includes automatic contributions, website contributions, etc)
Cedar Rapids Light of Hope	\$7,825	
Quad Cities Light of Hope	\$6,650	
Facebook Birthdays	\$3,370	
Evening of Hope	\$2,350	(includes sponsors for an event that has not yet taken place)
Dubuque Light of Hope	\$1,225	
General	\$67,800	(includes Nationwide, Variety, pandemic relief, Hubbell-Waterman, etc)
Total	\$174,047	



2017: \$123,137

2018: \$156,490

2019: \$168,721

2020: \$174,047

Looking Forward

1. Monday, April 12, 7:00 pm – Central Iowa Light of Hope

Notable Cities – Des Moines and suburbs, Osceola, Oskaloosa, Pella, Knoxville, Newton, Grinnell

Counties [18] – Guthrie, Dallas, Polk, Jasper, Poweshiek, Adair, Madison, Warren, Marion, Mahaska, Union, Clarke, Lucas, Monroe, Ringgold, Decatur, Wayne, Appanoose

2. Monday, May 10, 7:00 pm – Missouri Valley Light of Hope

Notable Cities – Sioux City, Spencer, Storm Lake, Council Bluffs, Atlantic, Shenandoah

Counties [30] – Lyon, Sioux, Plymouth, Woodbury, Monona, Harrison, Pottawattamie, Mills, Fremont, Osceola, O'Brien, Cherokee, Ida, Crawford, Shelby, Cass, Montgomery, Page, Dickinson, Clay, Buena Vista, Sac, Emmet, Palo Alto, Pocahontas, Calhoun, Carroll, Audubon, Adams, Taylor

3. Monday, June 7, 7:00 pm – Northeast Iowa

Notable Cities – Waterloo, Cedar Falls, Dubuque, Manchester, Independence, Waverly, Decorah

Counties [13] – Grundy, Black Hawk, Buchanan, Delaware, Dubuque, Butler, Bremer, Fayette, Clayton, Chickasaw, Howard, Winneshiek, Allamakee

4. Monday, July 12, 7:00 pm – Mississippi Valley

Notable Cities – Bettendorf, Davenport, De Witt, Clinton, Maquoketa, Muscatine, Burlington, Fort Madison, Mt. Pleasant, Fairfield, Ottumwa

Counties [14] – Jackson, Clinton, Scott, Jones, Cedar, Muscatine, Louisa, Des Moines, Henry, Jefferson, Wapello, Davis, Van Buren, Lee

5. Monday, August 9, 7:00 pm – North Central Iowa

Notable Cities – Ames, Fort Dodge, Algona, Clear Lake, Mason City, Marshalltown, Iowa Falls, Charles City

Counties [17] – Kossuth, Humboldt, Webster, Greene, Boone, Winnebago, Hancock, Wright, Hamilton, Story, Worth, Cerro Gordo, Franklin, Hardin, Marshall, Mitchell, Floyd

6. Monday, September 13, 7:00 pm – Corridor

Notable Cities – Cedar Rapids, Iowa City, Marion, Vinton, Coralville, Washington

Counties [7] – Tama, Benton, Linn, Iowa, Johnson, Keokuk, Washington

A Personal Message from Friends



Elizabeth Varnon – Board President



Tim Pearson – Executive Director

2020 was a year of weirdness and upheaval. COVID-19 wreaked havoc on normalcy and changed how we lived our lives.

While many businesses and agencies closed their doors, Friends remained vigilant in its mission. We navigated the new challenges and adapted to the changing circumstances in order to INCREASE, RAISE, and INSPIRE – increase awareness, raise funding, and inspire to action.

The platform may have been different this year but the message remained the same. We are dedicated to supporting volunteer advocacy for abused and neglected children and promoting public awareness of the importance of safe and permanent homes.

Our success is tied to the volunteers who work tirelessly to advocate for children in our state, the guests who attend our events, and the donors and business partners that graciously give to our cause. Our growth and success is dependent upon each and every one of you, and you helped us surpass the fundraising efforts from previous years.

On behalf of the Friends Board, we want to say thank you for supporting Friends. Your devotion and generosity allows us to help serve vulnerable and neglected children across Iowa. As we embrace the changes around us, Friends will continue to fight for abused and neglected children with passion and pride.

Elizabeth and Tim

