

FRIEND FOR LIFE

IS TURNING



WE'RE CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF
PROVIDING COST-FREE, COMPASSIONATE,
CONFIDENTIAL SUPPORT TO THOSE
FACING ANY FORM OF CANCER.

The year 2018 marks an incredible milestone for Friend for Life. 2018 signifies the thirtieth year of match-making for support seekers. From its humble beginnings in the late 1980s, to the transition and growth into the new millennium, to the igniting of the founding mission in the last decade, Friend for Life has become one of the leading cancer support networks in the country.

There are many people to thank for the success of the organization: volunteers, donors, staff members, and those who have served on the Board of Directors. However, Friend for Life wouldn't be the same without those for whom the organization was founded – the patients and caregivers. They are the root of Friend for Life and leave a lasting impact on all of the above groups each day.

The mission of Friend for Life has remained unchanged in its thirty-year history. Co-founders Phil Bramlette and Chuck Sandmann laid the foundation. In the 30 years since, and thanks to many, the organization has continued to evolve while holding true to its core.

~ Landon Foster, Marketing Specialist

30 YEARS OF
**FRIEND
FOR LIFE**

I. Humble Beginnings:
1988 - 1999

1988
Incorporated on **March 28, 1988** as a 501 (c) 3 non-profit
Phil Bramblette and **Chuck Sandmann** are founders
Office at **St. Matthews Baptist Church**
Joan Steiner is first **Director**

1989
Co-Founder **Bramblette** passes away
First **Volunteer Trainings**

1990
Moves to **Baptist Hospital East**

1992
Co-Founder **Sandmann** passes away

1995
Included in Louisville's **first Cancer Resource Center** at Baptist Hospital East

1998
Major funding received from **Susan G. Komen Foundation**

30 YEARS OF
**FRIEND
FOR LIFE**

II. A New Era:
2000 - 2007

2000
Joan Steiner retires
Judy Kasey-Houlette is hired as **Director**

2002
Major \$20,000 gift from racehorse training organization, **Estrorace**

2004
First **Friendship Garden** memorializes former **Board President, John Gray**, at **Norton Cancer Institute**

2005
Friendship Gardens established at **CARITAS Medical Center** (Saints Mary & Elizabeth) and **Baptist Health Louisville**

2006
'Remembering Molly' annual fundraiser established

2007
Annual **UofL Medical School Sessions** begin



30 YEARS OF
**FRIEND
 FOR LIFE**

**III. A Mission Ignited:
 2008 - 2017**

- 2008**
 Partnership with **Ignite Louisville**, a young professionals leadership program, leads to hire of new **intern, Nicole (Guffey)Wiseman**
- 2009**
 Wiseman is hired as **Assistant Director**
 Receives **Innovative Nonprofit Award** from **Kentucky Nonprofit Network**
- 2010**
 Receives **Governor's Citation of Excellence Award**
- 2012**
 Receives **American Cancer Society's C.A.R.E. Award**
 'Remembering Molly' changed to 'Evening with Friends'
 Granted **funds** by the **Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels Good Works Program**
- 2013**
 Funding used to create **online training modules** for volunteers to **use anywhere**
 Joins national **Volunteer Management in Cancer Care** consortium and is **co-founder** of national **Peer Mentors Directors Group**
- 2016**
Jordan Bunch hired as **Staff Assistant** during Spring and Summer
Landon Foster hired as **Marketing Specialist** beginning in Fall
 'Evening with Friends' raise **record \$46,750**
Peer Support Requests total **record 1,627** for the year
- 2017**
 Former employee, Bunch, joins **Board of Directors**
 Volunteers top **370**
 Record number of annual matches, **667**

A full narrative version of FFL's 30 year history, written by Landon Foster, is available on request from the FFL office and will soon be available on our website.



A Personal Note of Thanks

Judy Kasey Houlette, Executive Director

As some of you know, my husband of almost 35 years died last September. Throughout Forrest's decline and death, I was overwhelmed and humbled by the caring support extended by loving family and friends.

What touched me most deeply was the outpouring of support that came from Friend for Life volunteers, board members and staff. You made and delivered delicious food, donated money to help us through rough patches, sustained our spirits with calls, texts, cards (some still coming weekly!), emails, and Facebook posts. We received with quiet gratitude your warm thoughts and prayers. It felt like being wrapped in a comforter of compassion. Some volunteers going through their own serious health challenges were right there among our supporters. To each and every one of you – I cannot thank you enough. Your support meant the world and still does.

Assistant Director **Nicole Guffey Wiseman** deserves a special shout-out. She not only kept things running smoothly at the office, but kept others updated, used her online app skills to organize our supporters, and - along with **Landon Foster** and the **Friend for Life Board** - carried off a spectacular annual fundraising event.

In Grateful Remembrance

We treasure fond memories of these beloved volunteers who passed away since the 2017 newsletter:

- Frances Cao
- Kim Farmer
- Barbara Grimes
- Danny Spayd
- Shirley Thomas

"It is the unexpected connections I make. I'll be talking with someone on the phone who lives thousands of miles from me and there will be a pause and I think the conversation is over. But it isn't and we talk some more and some more and some more. I am touched by these strangers who do in fact become friends."

A Year In Snapshots: 2017



Top to bottom, l to r: Board Chair Bart Bushong; volunteer Bill Whittle, visiting from Wyoming, is joined by Judy Kasey Houlette, Teresa McCafferty (graduate intern), & Nicole Guffey Wiseman; dining at Le Moo with Jim & Charlie Leason, Drs. Scott & Barbara Jones, photo-bomber Bart Bushong; Nicole with volunteer and Awakenings Boutique owner Heidi Fuller; Calinda Young represents FFL at an event; Amanda Wilson & Kim Gronefeld, keynote speakers at *An Evening with Friends*; FFL volunteers speak with nursing students at the University of Louisville; Landon Foster & Nicole with a friend at Brackets for Good; Blake Rosbury using a program he created to streamline the checkout process; Board member Nancy Reynolds (in red) with friends.

PLEASE SUPPORT

THE LITTLE NETWORK THAT COULD

NEW SUSTAINER CAMPAIGN!

Help us prepare for the next 30 years by becoming a recurring monthly donor. We welcome gifts at any level from \$5 on up!

WHY BECOME A RECURRING MONTHLY DONOR?

- **It's easy! Set up automatic payments.**
- **You enable FFL to better plan our budget.**
- **You help the staff and board sleep at night.**
- **You ensure that no one faces cancer alone.**

Go to: <http://bit.ly/FFL30years>

or contact us: (502) 893-0643



upcoming events

- May 22 Kentucky Gives Day
- Monday, June 11 Dine at The Village Anchor
- Saturday, August 25 An Evening with Friends
- September 13 Give for Good Louisville
- Monday, October 29 Dine at Le Moo
~ costumes encouraged!

An Evening with Friends 2017 Awards

Special thanks to FFL Volunteer **Kit Fullenlove**, event photographer!

The Friend for Life Bramlette Award **for Outstanding Support by a Business or Corporation**



Kevin Grangier, Belle Noble Entertainment Group
Kevin initiated Celebrity Host Night, a weekly charity night concept at The Village Anchor and Le Moo restaurants, that has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for local nonprofits, by giving up to ten percent of the total revenue for the evening, not just the profit. Since 2011, Friend for Life has raised over \$9,000 from these events.

The Friend for Life Sandmann Award **for Outstanding Support of a Individual or Family**



Tina Toole-Harper(I), oncology nurse and Breast Health Navigator with Baptist Health Louisville, guides patients from diagnosis throughout treatment. Tina faithfully refers patients to Friend for Life, and served 8 years on the FFL Board of Directors. **Michael Erskine** has chaired *An Evening with Friends* for several years and has helped FFL with many projects, resulting in more funds raised than ever before. Michael was recently named Executive Director of Cornerstone Legacies Foundation.

The Bobbi Marrs Daniels Award **for Outstanding Service as a Friend for Life Volunteer**



Sandy Ackerman (I) became a FFL volunteer in 1992. A survivor of early stage breast cancer, Sandy supported many women until 2014, when Sandy's breast cancer returned and metastasized to her bones and liver. Undaunted, Sandy is determined to survive to support others with metastatic breast cancer and has supported over 20 women since this diagnosis. **Beverly Cronk**, survivor of breast cancer and two bouts of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, is known around the FFL office as "The Queen of Follow-up". Bev comes in weekly to follow up with support seekers and peer navigators, making her a superstar in the eyes of FFL staff.

Thank you to our Donors

**In Honor of
Annette Weikel**

Jim & Patsy Catlett

Bruce Goatley

Sandra Rodgers

Jim & Patsy Catlett

Celia Catlett

Donald & Carolyn Snow

Roger Catlett

Sandra Rogers

Steve Catlett

Patsy Catlett

Annette Weikel

Sandra L. Smith

Nancy Reynolds

Joyce E. Seymour

Susan Monks

Charlie & Sharon Guthrie

Susan Booth

Jan Day

My Siblings (we're all cancer survivors)

Marian Lancaster

Ruby Gordon

Alan Glaubinger

Nicole Wiseman

Geneva Robinson

Judy Kasey Houlette

In Memory of

Audrey Pilkington

Bob Pilkington

Bobbi Daniels

Al & Myra Earley

Bart Bushong

Jeri Seidenfaden

Mary Mohr

Bert Monks

Charlie & Sharon Guthrie

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Shirley Paul & Family

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Arthur R. Kasey

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Cindy R. Schroeder

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Jacquelyn Franklin

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James & Rebecca Collings

Jamie L. Studts

Jan Eastburn
Jason & Emmi Howard
Jay Trumbo
Jeffrey Allen
Jenna Bushong
Jessica Sullivan
Jim & Linda Bennett
Jim & Tina Harper
Jimmy Guffey
Jeff Rizzo
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Vangie Rich
Vicki Blevins Booth
Vincent Johnson-Thacker

Grants

Amgen
KAVA
Sam Swope Family Foundation
Sam's Club #4851
St. Edward Parish
Walmart #3610

Sponsors

Norton Cancer Institute
Baptist Health Louisville
RFX Technologies
Nancy C. Reynolds
Tri-Arrows Aluminum
Cornerstone Legacies, LLC

Events

Awakenings Boutique
An Evening with Friends 2017

Big John Richardson's Birthday at
The Caravan
Brackets for Good
Give Local Louisville
Kentucky Gives Day
Le Moo
Village Anchor

Online & Ongoing Fundraisers

Amazon Smile
Kroger Atlanta
Kroger Louisville
Network for Good

In Kind

Baptist Health Louisville
RFX Technologies

Workplace Giving, Matching Gifts

Community Health Charities of
Kentucky
Lilly Oncology
GE Appliances Giving Campaign
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Tri-Arrows Aluminum

Special Thanks to our Sponsors!



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Friend for Life Cancer Support Network

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Come Celebrate The Little Network that Could!

FRIEND FOR LIFE IS TURNING
THIRTY

CELEBRATE AND SUPPORT AT
AN EVENING WITH FRIENDS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 25, 2018
AUDUBON COUNTRY CLUB • 5:30 PM