

1. Who owns the Friendship Home?

The Friendship Home Association is a nonprofit organization, managed by a Board of Directors. There is no formal “owner”—it is a community nursing home and all decisions are made by a group of local citizens who serve on its Board. For several years, the Friendship Home has contracted the services of a management firm, Rural Health Development, out of Nebraska. The management firm is critical for keeping the Board on top of the most current regulations in long-term care and offering expertise in very specialized areas. The management firm, however, has no voting power for decisions made by the group.

2. How did the committee determine the size of 12 beds for the new Memory Care Unit?

No decision was made lightly by the committee who developed the design plan for the new Memory Care Unit. The group took into account costs expected, staff efficiency and the ideal environment for residents. In addition, population trends for Audubon were studied. From research completed by the group, 12 beds were considered by many to be the best size for a Memory Care Unit. Individuals in the very active stages of dementia will be those who live in the Memory Unit, and the goal is to keep the area as “homelike” and calm as possible.

3. Is it really necessary to demolish part of an existing wing to build the new Unit?

Plans for the Memory Unit are part of a long-term plan for the Friendship Home. Down the road, the hope is to build the nursing home (current lower level) of the Friendship Home connected to the new Memory Unit. This would allow all areas of care to be on one level. Because of the lay of the land, groundwork becomes much more extensive as construction moves to the west. Therefore, the most cost-effective and sensible solution is to demolish a section of Wing 1. This is the only demolition planned for the long-range project.

4. Why is the layout of the new Unit and attached garden so important for those with dementia?

For the most part, the Memory Unit is the most active area of the Friendship Home. The residents who live there are up and about, pacing and looking for things to do. The current location for the Memory Unit oftentimes creates anxiety—a single hallway to roam, one large room for meals and activities, and no direct access to the outdoors. The new layout will allow continuous wandering without distractive exit doors. There will be different areas for activities, dining and relaxing. And the secure garden will allow residents the opportunity to spend calm, quality time outdoors.

5. How has the community reacted to the capital campaign?

The Foundation has been thrilled with the community’s response. The goal is to have a relatively short campaign. Since fundraising began at the end of January, \$1.1 million has been committed through personal and business pledges. From those who have been contacted there is an overwhelming emotional attachment to the Friendship Home for the many years of caring service it has provided the community. It is an exciting time to consider how the Home can continue to serve the individuals and families that need specialized long-term care for years to come.

6. What is the most common way to support the campaign?

The Foundation has received outright gifts of cash—either a single gift or a pledge for a number of years (up to 5). They have also received gifts from annuities or retirement plans. Because we live in successful farming community, gifts of commodities have been very popular. The Foundation encourages supporters to work with their financial or tax advisor to make the best gift for each individual’s circumstances.