

8.8.25 Friends Homes Greensboro NC

Carson Spering

We distributed our scholarship awards at last month's monthly resident meeting, and I wanted to share an update with you. First, let me say that many of our residents, board members, and team members have expressed both gratitude for your support of our employee scholarship program and appreciation for the partnership with another Quaker organization. Your assistance in helping us establish our employee scholarship program means a great deal to us.

As for the update, we were able to award scholarships to five full time employees, totaling \$10,000. I have attached a few pictures from the event. I am also including two quotes that I feel you will appreciate. The first is from one of our award winners, Reggie (second from the left in the 4th image named IMG_4633). Reggie is our Data Electrician Tech and balances working full-time at Friends Homes, pursuing degrees in Criminal Justice/Cybersecurity, and caring for his children. Here is what he shared at the event:

"I am deeply honored and grateful to be chosen as one of the recipients of the Friends Homes Scholarship, this generous support means so much because it shows that someone believes in me and my potential. I have been able to focus more fully on my studies, research, and campus involvement thanks to this award. It has open doors to new opportunities, and I'm excited to pay it forward by investing in our Friends Homes community and backing those who come after me. Your generosity inspires me to persevere, excel and one day serve others in meaningful ways. Thank you – this award isn't just financial assistance; it's a gift of confidence and motivation. I will work hard to honor your investment."

The second is from an anonymous donor who has played a vital role in helping us build our employee scholarship program. She gave generously to help us meet the match opportunity. Here is what she shared with me recently:

"I feel without the proper education young people today are unable to live to their potential. Since I was raised in a family with quite a few educators, it gives me great pleasure to know that I am helping young people further their education."

Our conversations about the matching grant led to this donor including Friends Homes in her estate plans to benefit the employee scholarship program.

Also, our Employee Scholarship Task Force decided to expand the application process to allow part-time team members to apply in 2026. We are very excited to provide scholarship opportunities to additional team members. We expect a significant increase in the number of applicants, but by leveraging your match opportunity, our new scholarship endowments now total more than \$300,000. We had a number of first-time donors help us meet the match, and as we hoped, a significant portion of the donations we received were

QCDs from IRAs. After seeing this response, it may come as no surprise to you that we are eager to discuss the possibility of partnering with Friends Foundation for the Aging again. Thank you again for supporting Friends Homes and our team members!

Carson

