



WE ALL BELONG spotlight

July/August 2026

WE ARE COMMITTED TO MAKING BRIO LIVING SERVICES A
WELCOMING PLACE FOR ALL TO LIVE AND WORK

RECOMMENDED
Read



The Power of friendship

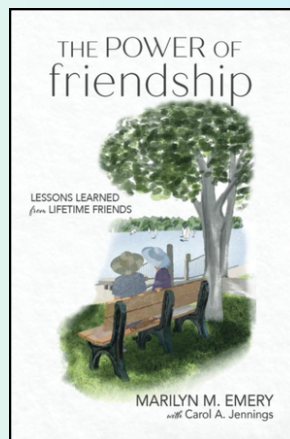
by Marilyn Emery and Carol Jennings

(Carol Jennings is a resident of Cook Valley Estates)

Embark on an inspirational journey with this heartwarming memoir that invites readers to cherish their own friendships.

Friendship holds a unique and profound place in our lives. It's more than just companionship; it's a cornerstone of emotional support, a refuge during life's storms, and a source of immeasurable joy during sunny days. This remarkable book, which chronicles the stories of two friends spanning over 75 years, promises to inspire audiences with its touching narrative and profound insights into the enduring strength of true friendship.

After an ischemic stroke, Carol's right side was paralyzed, and she struggled to speak more than one or two words due to aphasia. Marilyn was at her side throughout her recovery. They would meet on park benches and Carol would practice her speech. In addition to rehabilitation at Mary Free Bed, the support of her family, friendships, and community, Carol now leads a full life.



Aristotle's 3 Classifications of Friendship

Utility friendship – Co-worker, a business partner, another professional in which the purpose of the friendship is a mutual objective.

Pleasure friendship – A person whom others enjoy being with because they have a quick wit or an uplifting attitude. A person with whom the purpose of the friendship is to explore a mutual pleasure such as fishing, bowling, or other hobbies.

Good friend – Mutual respect, and admiration for each other's qualities, though there may be differences.

Nicomachean Ethics, Aristotle

<https://nationaldaycalendar.com/celebrations/international-day-of-friendship-july-30>

July 30th is: INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FRIENDSHIP

The **International Day of Friendship** was established by the United Nations in 2011 to recognize how friendships between people, cultures, and countries can promote peace and build stronger communities. The observance encourages young people to engage with diverse cultures and foster understanding and respect. The day builds on UNESCO's Culture of Peace initiative, which promotes values and behaviors that reject violence and address the root causes of conflict through dialogue, mutual understanding, and cooperation.



4 Ways to CELEBRATE



#InternationalDayOfFriendship

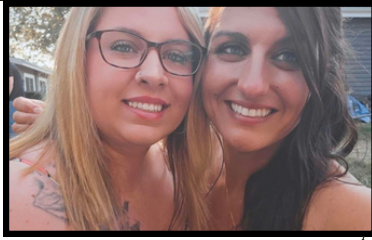
- Call or write a note to that friend you've not heard from in a few weeks or longer.
- Host a dinner party with friends from different communities or cultures.
- Play a board game or card game with someone who has recently immigrated. The game will facilitate learning both language and culture.
- Make friends! Share your international friendships on social media by tagging #InternationalDayOfFriendship.

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Read two powerful
stories of friendship
on page 2



WE ALL BELONG *spotlight*



Celeste Schroeder, Kaitlin Janik, Stephanie Goodell
***Some friendships are built around convenience.
Ours were built in the trenches.***

Stephanie and I go all the way back to high school, and life surprised us when we unknowingly started our LPN programs at the same time. Around then, Kaitlin and I were building our friendship after meeting as CNAs at the Motherhouse in 2017. Eventually, all three of us found our way to Kresge, where coworkers became family.

Over the years, we've grown up together, both professionally and personally. We were baby nurses during COVID, trying to care for residents, support families, and survive one of healthcare's most difficult seasons. We learned, cried, laughed, and held each other together with caffeine, sarcasm, and stubbornness.

Life hasn't been gentle with any of us. We've stood beside one another through unimaginable losses, including the deaths of my mom, Kaitlin's dad, and Stephanie's mom. Those aren't the kinds of things you forget. When life gets heavy, you find out who shows up, and these two always have.

Kaitlin has helped me through pregnancy, motherhood, moving while nine months pregnant, divorce, grief, and every crisis in between. She always knows what to buy, where to buy it, and whether it's actually worth the money. She's wicked smart, endlessly capable, and despite being nine years younger than me—a fact she reminds me of often—has wisdom beyond her years.

Stephanie has been just as constant. She's always willing to help, listen, hold me accountable, laugh, and remind us not to take ourselves too seriously. The three of us have spent years covering for one another, encouraging each other, and surviving the chaos of healthcare and life.

What makes them special isn't that they were there for the good times. It's that they stayed through the hard times. Through grief, stress, burnout, and major life changes, we've continued to show up for one another.

Some people have coworkers. Some people have friends. I somehow ended up with sisters I wasn't related to.

Happy Friendship Day to two of the strongest, smartest, funniest women I know. Thank you for the years of friendship, loyalty, support, and laughter. I wouldn't be who I am without you. Every goblin needs their emotional support goblins. Somehow, I got two.

David & Peter

Their international story of friendship shows how friendship can bridge oceans, cultures, and generations and sparked a family bond that has endured for more than half a century.



Peter Kress(left); David Hatfield(right), Illinois 1963

UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation team member Rachel Kress-Hatfield Webster owes her middle name to a decades-long international friendship. Her godfather, Peter Kress, entered her family's life as a foreign exchange student from Brugg, Switzerland, living for a year with the Hatfield family in Park Forest, Illinois, as part of a program promoting global peace and understanding.

At the time, international air travel was rare. About 50,000 passengers flew from the U.S. to Switzerland in a year; today, roughly that many fly from London to New York each day. The Hatfields and Kresses came from very different worlds but quickly connected. Peter won over young David Hatfield by sharing comic books and showing him a forbidden Frankenstein movie. Their bond deepened when Peter pulled David from a pool after he struggled to swim. As the year reached an end, they had one last big summer party featuring grilled meat and an epic croquet match. Their lives went separate ways, but they didn't know that their adventures were far from over.

Thanks to a job promotion, the Hatfields briefly lived in the Netherlands. When David struggled with the move and making new friends, they sent him to spend time with Peter in Switzerland. It was his turn to learn all about Peter's family and their 500-year-old home and barn full of pigs.

Years later as an adult, David's boss asked if he would move to Switzerland of all places. David replied that his wife, Leslie, was pregnant with their first child, Jon. His boss answered, "So what? Don't they have babies in Switzerland?" and gave him until 1 p.m. to decide.

Once again, the Hatfields and Kresses were reunited, this time in Switzerland. To honor the families' bond, Rachel was named Rachel Kress Hatfield. David, Leslie, Jon, and Rachel returned to the U.S. in 1990, but the godparent relationship remained strong. To this day the families visit one another and welcome new generations into an international extended family.