



FAMILY PICNIC RECAP

Written by: Will B.

Towards the end of June, Synapse House staff and its Members were thrilled to plan and attend the annual Synapse House family picnic! There, everyone brought food, drinks, or picnic items for a potluck-style gathering that everyone enjoyed. How could we not? There were dishes like mo-staccioli, sandwiches, chip dip, pasta salad, fruit salad, and many different types of dessert for afterwards! All of us also washed down our meals with different types of soda, water and juice that were provided and available for everyone to enjoy.

Everyone contributed in their own way, and we were delighted to host such a large group of attendees on a beautiful day of nice weather and sunshine at a local park. It's not often that we get to engage with everyone's friends and family outside of Synapse House, so we always welcome this opportunity to do so, especially when the season just changed to Summer, including warm sunlight and blue skies that we had that afternoon at the local park. We were all grateful that it didn't storm there like it had been forecasted to do!



PLEASE CONSIDER SERVING ON OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Impact our future & be a part of our growth

We Engage, Empower and Employ individuals affected by brain injury

INTERESTED?

Visit: www.synapsehouse.org



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Join our Board of Directors or a volunteer committee.

Governance Committee · Gala Committee · Golf Committee

Synapse House continues to grow. Expanded program and service offerings are now available to members.

Interested? Please contact Deborah@synapsehouse.org



10th Annual Golf Fundraiser

Written by: Will B.

In mid-June, attendees were thrilled to attend and participate in our 10th annual golf fundraiser. This year, we hosted our event in nearby Addison, at The Preserve at Oak Meadows. This golf course was accommodating enough to provide everyone with an open bar, buffet-style lunch and a beautiful course to play. When speaking to other golfers, I heard that most of them positively commented on the nice weather and course. We had several holes on the course sponsored by different organizations that donated money, time and resources to support the fundraiser. One or more of their employees were stationed at each tee to greet the golfers and explain their business to them.

The standard for the outing is to play a scramble together (best ball), which is why we also sell foursome tickets for those that have enough golfers to play for a scramble. Personally, I found other Synapse House Members there and played a scramble with them. This helped us improve our score on each hole, as well as go quicker through the course.

We are grateful for every golfer, sponsor and attendee that purchased tickets to play golf or enjoy lunch that day. We all look forward to this event every year, which is why we spend so much time planning and organizing this fundraiser for everyone interested in participating. If you're reading this and weren't there that day, please stay tuned next year for our announcement on the venue and ticket sales, which will include both golf and lunch tickets, as usual.



2026 Golf Fundraiser stats:

78 Golfers
25 additional lunches sold
\$22,572 in sponsorships
\$4,092 in game cards & putting contest

SYNAPSE HOUSE

10TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!



Christopher & Pattie Zinski



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!



If you know someone in need of services or would like to share information about Synapse House with your healthcare provider, please contact

deborah@synapsehouse.org

**If you couldn't attend our Golf Outing,
join us instead for our Fall Fundraiser in
September.**

**If you can't join us in person,
consider donating a raffle item or directly
to our Clubhouse.**

**Tickets are on sale NOW.
Scan the QR code or go directly to our web-
site to purchase (www.synapsehouse.org)**

YOU ARE INVITED TO

FALLING "FORE"
SYNAPSE HOUSE
FUNDRAISER
Event

FRIDAY | 25 SEPTEMBER 2026 | 7:00 PM
TOP GOLF-NAPERVILLE
3211 ODYSSEY COURT, NAPERVILLE IL 60563

SECURE YOUR TICKETS
WITH EASE ~ SCAN
THE QR CODE TO THE RIGHT

INTERESTED IN SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES, WANT TO DONATE AN AUCTION
PRIZE OR LOOKING FOR MORE INFORMATION? REACH OUT TO VERA KRAMER,
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR AT VERA@SYNAPSEHOUSE.ORG

www.synapsehouse.org

**The Cranium Chronicles is
published by Synapse House**

3130 Finley Rd
Suite 520
Downers Grove, IL 60515
630-297-8002



www.synapsehouse.org

Our Support Team

Deborah Giesler, Ex. Director, MS, CCC/
SLP

Vera Kramer, Development Director
James Farrell, Business Office

Clubhouse Work Unit Coordinators

Megan McClain MS, OTR/L
Erika Panatera MS, OTR/L
Angel Lucena-Johnson COTA
Megan Gassel

Employment Services

Ashley Gieschen

Transportation

LaShelle Morrow
LaTonya Davis

Veterans Program

Sparsh Amin
Tony Chairez
Katie Justice
Darla Kucera
Jeff Smitley

2026 Board of Directors

Marilyn Dingens, Board Chair

Nancy D'Andrea,

Secretary

Actively Seeking-Treasurer

Irene Abrons

Will Booth

Joe Bretz

Melissa Johnson

Lynn Klassman

John Leone

Kelly Snow

Brian White



**Visit our website to learn more about our programs,
volunteering and donating.**

www.synapsehouse.org

VETERANS PROGRAM UPDATES

At Synapse House, recovery extends far beyond the walls of our Clubhouse. Through our Veterans Program, Veterans living with brain injuries are encouraged to reconnect with their communities by participating in meaningful outings that promote independence, confidence, and enjoyment.

Community integration is an essential part of the rehabilitation journey. Whether visiting local parks, museums, sporting events, restaurants, or other recreational destinations, these experiences allow Veterans to explore leisure activities, strengthen social connections, and practice everyday life skills in real-world settings to improve their overall independence.



PICTURED ABOVE FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Veteran **Tony** at his art show; Executive Director, **Deborah** and Development Director, **Vera** supporting Salute, Inc.; Veteran **Yuriy** at the Evanescence concert with his Life Skills Coach, **Ashley**; Veteran **Kevin** at Wrigley field to watch the Cubs with his Life Skills Coach, **Jeff**; Veteran **Jeremy** getting in a round of golf.

JOIN US FOR A VETERAN'S DAY CELEBRATION

What: PANCAKE BREAKFAST!!!

When: Wednesday, November 11, 2026

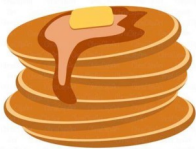
**Where: Synapse House Clubhouse
3130 Finley Rd, Suite 530
Downers Grove, IL 60515**

Time: 9AM-11AM (open house style)

FREE EVENT

SUGGESTED DONATION OF AN ITEM FOR THE CLUBHOUSE

(paper, stamps, cleaning supplies, toilet paper, etc.—see back page for more options)



If you know someone in need of services or would like to share information about Synapse House with your healthcare provider, please contact

deborah@synapsehouse.org

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deborah@synapsehouse.org

A donation was made in loving memory of Joe Musso by Barbara Meccia

A donation was made in loving memory of Peter Palumbo by Michael Meccia



WHAT'S COOKING IN THE CLUBHOUSE?...

Written by: Cathy T.

Will, Ski, and Cathy were making loaded mac and cheese. Cathy was cooking the noodles and making sure that the noodles were done. Will and Ski both grated 2 types of different cheese. Lunch was Delicious! Every day, the Members make lunch and every month the Members get to choose what they want to eat as a group.



IN MEMORIUM

The Synapse House family was deeply saddened to learn of the unexpected passing of Tom from Allegra Printing. Tom was more than a trusted printing partner—he was a generous supporter whose kindness and commitment helped us share our mission with countless individuals throughout our community.



Over the years, Tom graciously assisted us with the printing of our newsletters, greeting cards, informational pamphlets, event materials, and many other resources that allowed us to educate, connect, and inspire others. His generosity enabled Synapse House to direct more of our resources toward the programs and services that make a meaningful difference in the lives of individuals living with brain injuries.

Tom's kindness, compassion, and unwavering support will be remembered with deep gratitude. We extend our heartfelt condolences to everyone at Allegra Printing and to Tom's family and loved ones during this difficult time.

In support of Tom's wife, Michelle, and their two young sons, a GOFUNDME page has been established.

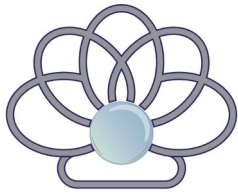
Please consider a donation to their family to help offset expenses endured during this time and beyond.



Visit our website to learn more about our programs, volunteering and donating.

www.synapsehouse.org

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO?...



THE PEARL
of Downers Grove

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

Interviewed by: Gabe E.; Typed by: Will B.

Frank is a longtime member of Synapse House and an active member of our Employment Program that recently started volunteering twice a week as a Bingo caller at a local retirement home with the residents and staff there.

By doing this, Frank is improving his speech and his ability to follow a regular schedule, which were both affected by his brain injury.

On his first day volunteering there, Frank reflected on how funny and happy the residents are there, as they interact with him every time that he is there playing with them. In the near future, Frank is excited to continue playing Bingo with them, and interacting with everyone there that will with him. He hopes that they will also offer him additional opportunities to engage with everyone, such as different games or by running groups that the staff plan and schedule for him. By doing this, Frank will continue to improve his affected speech and be able to act like his true self with others, which he enjoys most.

COMMUNITY INTEGRATION

Written by: Will B.

Inside and outside of Synapse House, all the Members, caregivers, and family members enjoy getting together to socialize and participate in the fundraisers that we host throughout the year! Outside of these opportunities, some Members have started planning and organizing get-togethers with each other outside of Synapse House. We all enjoy seeing our Members spend time together inside and outside of the Clubhouse. This means that they're friends because of our program and want to hangout outside of the Clubhouse during the week or weekend. As a community, we want to encourage Members to spend more time together, especially outside of the Clubhouse.

Shown above, Members recently enjoyed two separate outings to lunch at Culvers and then again at Lou Malnati's. The tasty options are endless when you put your heads together and plan an outing together! Everyone also attends our organized outings every year, which include Bingo, Golf, our Fall Fundraiser, dine-and-donate fundraisers and hopefully more as planned. Maybe we'll see you out on the town one afternoon.



If you know someone in need of services or would like to share information about Synapse House with your healthcare provider, please contact

deborah@synapsehouse.org

SYNAPSE HOUSE IN THE COMMUNITY

AN OLYMPIAN AMONG US

Written by: Gabriel E.

My name is Gabriel and over the weekend, I participated in the Special Olympics for track and field for the first time. I participated in a motorized wheelchair race, and I won gold for the wheelchair race, I placed first in the event. I also liked meeting new people, and I would love to participate again next time, I really enjoyed having a lot of my family there to watch me win!



WENDY'S OUTING

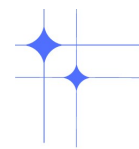
Written by: Will B.

In mid-June, the Members at Synapse House were fortunate to enjoy a lunch at a local Wendy's restaurant. Staff here worked with the Wendy's management to coordinate that a portion of revenue generated at that location from open to close was donated to Synapse House as a fundraiser. Over the past year, we have been lucky enough to participate in a few of these fast-food fundraisers, including Jeni's Ice Cream and Portillo's. We always feel lucky that these local businesses are generous enough to offer fundraising opportunities for us, especially as we have enough van transportation available to bring as many Members as possible to Wendy's for lunch that day.

Personally, I didn't know what to order, so I enjoyed discussing that and how my meal was before and after eating there. Their menu is constantly changing as they add and remove food items, but it seemed like most Members and staff had a burger and ice cream for lunch that day.

Thank you to everyone that came out to support Synapse House that day, and we're excited to be planning additional food fundraisers in the future, as they're very popular and attract a large crowd throughout the day to help support our program and mission to help survivors of brain injury and stroke!

Consider participating in our upcoming dine-and-donate at Culvers in Downers Grove on **MONDAY, OCTOBER 5th, to contribute to our ongoing fundraising efforts to keep our program running.**



DONATE WHILE YOU DINE
12-8PM



(MENTION THAT YOU ARE SUPPORTING SYNAPSE HOUSE FUNDRAISER BEFORE YOU PLACE YOUR ORDER)

20% of all Proceeds donated to Synapse House

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5TH
CULVER'S
2500 OGDEN AVE
DOWNERS GROVE, IL 60515



synapse
HOUSE

Synapse House
3130 Finley Road, Ste 520
Downers Grove, IL 60515



www.synapsehouse.org

630-297-8002

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PLACE
STAMP
HERE



SYNAPSE HOUSE WISH LIST & FUNDRAISING

Set-up a donation drive or schedule a supply drop-off.

Email megan@synapsehouse.org for more information. Bold items we have a greater need for.

Copy Paper

White Cardstock

Hand Weights
Letter size Envelopes
File Folders (letter size)

Postage Stamps

Toilet Paper

Cleaning Wipes
C-Fold Paper Towels
Latex Gloves

Gas Gift Cards

Uber or Lyft Gift Cards

Gift cards to Wal-Mart, Jewel, Office Depot, & Mariano's



DINE & DONATE
OCTOBER 5TH
2500 OGDEN AVE
DOWNERS GROVE
12pm-8pm



FALL FUNDRAISER
SEPTEMBER 25TH
3211 ODYSSEY COURT
NAPERVILLE
7PM

For a snapshot of our Clubhouse programming, Employment training and Members in the spotlight, please follow us on Social Media:

Facebook: Synapse House
Instagram: @synapsehouseclubhouse
YouTube: Synapse House



For more information or to register for an event go to Synapsehouse.org