

GRANITE HOUSE

DONOR NEWSLETTER

Spring 2026

For our donors, volunteers, and partners on our journey



YOUR GIFTS AT WORK JANUARY - DECEMBER 2025

Just look at our list of friends on page 2 who believe in what we are doing! It's so gratifying to read the enclosure notes that accompany gifts in the mail. Every gift receives not only a tax letter but a personal note from our volunteer president, Carol Insley. Being a small organization makes it easy to recognize each gift and show our appreciation.

Behind the checks in the mail and the monthly PayPal gifts, we still benefit from many volunteer hours, from our board members to family members who come out to cheer, support and help out. We also appreciate our volunteers who decorate for the holidays and get our spring flowers and vegetable boxes planted. Last year, there were at least 250 hours of volunteer time, with the equivalent of dollars (looking at \$50/hr) coming to \$12,500.



As you read about our activities and services at Granite House, remember that all gifts stay within our program. Our board, president and property manager are all volunteers, so we are able to put everything back into maintaining and improving our programs for residents, staff and resident families. Your support over the past twelve years has been appreciated and your belief in our mission has sustained and encouraged us.

A SPRING FAMILY GATHERING AT GRANITE HOUSE



Once again our seasonal holiday waffle breakfast drew a crowd and was held in our lower level. There were over 35 resident family members, plus staff, their families, and some board members. Tom and Carol were in town and ran the waffle makers, and enjoyed seeing everyone again at the house.

GRANITE HOUSE has built a 24-hour community residence in Stillwater, Minnesota, for the long-term care of younger adults with severe and permanent brain injury who might otherwise be in a nursing home. Purpose-built with community support, it opened in November 2018.



OUR FIRST EASTER EGG HUNT

We couldn't get the Easter Bunny to stop by, but we still had great fun with an indoor egg hunt. Children of staff members and resident families hopped to it, wasting no time finding their eggs hidden all around the upstairs living area. There was even one golden ticket per child to be found, which earned everyone an extra special treat or toy from the Easter Bunny!

Granite House is a Minnesota nonprofit corporation with a mission:

To provide support and hope to individuals and families living with severe and permanent brain injury.

ANNUAL HONOR ROLL OF DONORS January - December 2025

PINNACLE DONORS

Tom & Carol Insley*
Linda & Dale Otteson*
Christy & Scott Sovereign*

SUMMIT DONORS

Kirk & Carla Dahl*
John & Nora Foster*
Ed & Kathy Gorman*
David & Mary Hauch*
Maryllis Oehlke
Mary Jo Peterson*
Mike & Laura Runge*
St. Peter Lutheran Church*
Steven Sweeney*
3M Foundation*

PEAK DONORS

Deborah Burandt*
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Brad & Sharon Fong*
Carla & Steven Jeschke*
Lake Elmo Bank*
Tom & Betty Linker*
Wayne & Ruth May*
Adam Ranta*
Frank & Gladys Ritter*

PLATEAU DONORS

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Dan & Lisa Gahler*
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Lynn Grogan*
Denise Hamp*
Mike & Corinna Harris*
Judy & Bill Hauer*
Vivian Hurley*
Greg & Diane Karp*
Bonnie Kennett*
Oehlke Family
Dean Remer*
Judith Resler*
Cherryl Rose*
Thomas & Janet Sellnow*
Michele Stevens*
Karen & Douglas Stoltzmann*
Richard & Pat Thron*
Pat & Dick Timmer*
Jeff Virant*
Susan Wheelock*
Xcel Energy*
Greg & Sylvia Zinn*
Anonymous*

MEADOWS DONORS

Phyllis Anderson*
LeAnne Bjelle*
Greg Boettner*
Dean Cody*
Larry Corum*

Diana Dunbar*
Ray Getsug*
Barbara Johnson*
Mackenzie White
Eloise Maki*
Sue Moriarity*
Nick Rolewicz*
Marilyn Schmidt*
Bill & Paula Snyder*
Bill & Sharon Totten*
Nancy Waver*

FOOTHILLS DONORS

Joni Anderson*
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Gary & Kathy Baribeau*
Laura Boegli*
Sherill Borgstahl
Kathy Dumas*
Theresa Eberhardy
Cheryl Flynn*
Al & Shari Holcomb*
Roger & Judy Knutson*
Anne & Mike McCausland*
Lorraine Mortimer*
Ardys & Tom Pertz*
Nancy Pike*
Cleone Pritchard*
Bonnie & Jan Reyers*
Alan Sipinen*
Cathy & Jay Sleiter*
Maureen Tumulty*
Gary & Barb Wemeier*
Spencer & Pat Wilker

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

Total for year: \$778
Many thanks to these
Thrivent Financial clients
who designated Granite
House for their Thrivent
Choice Dollars in 2025:

Bonnie Kennett*
Stacey Stoffregen*
William Stoffregen*
Loretta Tobin*
Cherryl Rose*
Joann Roth*

COMPANY MATCHING FUNDS

3M*
Excel*
Solventum*

*Repeat Donor

TRIBUTE GIFTS

Gift by | In memory of
Gary & Katherine Baribeau
Richard & Aaron Insley
Kirk & Carla Dahl
Marcus & Mary Williams
Katherine Dumas
Winnie Tegge
Lynn Grogan
Peter Grogan
Vivian Hurley
Aaron Insley
Tom & Carol Insley
Richard & Aaron Insley
Wayne & Ruth May
Aaron Insley
Lorraine Mortimer
Jeremiah Pike
Marilyn Schmidt
Aaron Insley
Maureen Tumulty
Aaron Insley
Nancy Waver
Aaron Insley
Susan Wheelock
Kent Wheelock birthday
Greg & Sylvia Zinn
Richard & Aaron Insley

TRIBUTE GIFTS

Gift by | In honor of
Sherill Borgstahl
Jason
Deborah Burandt
Jena
Theresa Eberhardy
Jason
Dan & Cheryl Flynn
Jena
Lynn Grogan
Friendship of
Candy, BJ & Carol
Judy & Bill Hauer
Jason
Steven & Carla Jeschke
Stephanie Jeschke
Tom & Ardys Pertz
David Hauch's
80th birthday
Thomas & Janet Sellnow
Jena
Christy & Scott Sovereign
Katie
Pat & Dick Timmer
Katie
Pat & Spencer Wilker
Jason

DONATIONS REVIEW

Jan – Dec 2025

TOTAL DONATIONS: \$58,070

INDIVIDUAL DONORS: \$51,504

GRANTS: \$4,300

FAITH-BASED ORG: \$2,266

2025 was a great year for donations, again with almost 90% of our gifts from individual donors, and **over 92%** from loyal, repeat donors. Last year our founders, Tom and Carol Insley hosted a December match for gifts made by the resident families and their extended family members. It was a great success, with \$6,150 coming from the families and then being matched. See the story about our family members who appreciate the wonderful care their loved ones receive at Granite House. Our resident programs continued through the winter and we are eager to get back out in warmer days to enjoy the great places in the Stillwater area. Please note the support we have from our local businesses and matching gifts from employers.

DONOR SUPPORTED EXPENSES

If you remember in our fall 2024 newsletter, we showed our new asphalt driveway, concrete parking area, and the covered, lighted entry. What an amazing difference, over a snowy, dark and cold winter! With the 12-year success we've had with our donations and our stable resident base, we covered the cost of these capital improvements without a loan. Along with the new driveway we have contracted out the snowplowing service. See the article on page 4 about our friends at Miller Excavating. By the time you read this, we will have replaced our well-used 2008 Honda Odyssey wheelchair van to take our residents to outings and appointments. Our new van is a 2026 Toyota Sienna Hybrid, which will serve our residents for many years to come. Between the four residents, Amber drives out several times a month to local clinics and therapy centers, plus outings.



thank you!



Carol

FAMILIES ARE THE HEART OF GRANITE HOUSE

Over the past year we have welcomed and benefited from family visits to Granite House. You've seen them at our events, such as the Walk for Thought and Staff & family picnic, plus our fun outings to the pumpkin farm, parades, and Limitless Cycling. Last summer we had some volunteer family members help get our flower beds cleaned up and ready for the end-of-summer picnic. Even our holiday décor for the fall and winter was set up by family members, who enjoy the celebrations along with the staff.

Our third annual Breakfast with Santa was a great success! With all four families, plus staff with their families and some board members, there were over 45 people enjoying the fresh made waffles and time with the big guy in red. For the first time, we held the event in our lower level activity room. It made setup easier to manage without getting in the way of the kitchen and great room areas upstairs, and with a second Christmas tree it was festive and beautiful. Families brought gifts and interacted with each other, and had group photos taken. Santa enjoyed meeting and having pictures taken with the children and dogs, too.

It's great to see the families involved with the residents' care, and at the most recent monthly visit from our Bluestone Physicians providers, all the families came to participate in the checkup and care discussions for their loved one. Those who can, will accompany Amber or Grace to local medical appointments to ask questions and provide valuable insight. The parents, along with extended family members, had an opportunity to make a contribution to Granite House which would be matched, doubling the positive benefits to their own child. They came through with over \$6000 in gifts which were matched by founders Tom and Carol Insley.

*Pictured top to bottom:
Katie and parents;
Megan and parents;
Jason and family;
Jena and family;
Santa with Jax, Minnie and Ruby*

**What a
great group
of resident
families we
have!**



GRANITE HOUSE GOES BOWLING

Granite House joined a bowling event that was organized by *Finding Cooper's Voice*! Our residents, staff, and some family members had so much fun being able to bowl with everyone, see some familiar faces and meet some new ones! With special adaptive bowling equipment, everyone had a great score and a great time. What a great group of people to spend time with! We hope to attend more of their upcoming events.



SNOWPLOWING SERVICE

Managing a Minnesota winter with a long, steep driveway has always been a challenge, especially when staff members come to work during the shortest days of the year. This has been the first winter with our new asphalt driveway and concrete parking areas, and also the first year with a snowplowing service, rather than Tom taking care of the 24/7 maintenance as a volunteer. Miller Excavating, our neighbors on Stagecoach Trail, installed the driveway last fall and are now doing an excellent job in ensuring the accessibility and safety of staff and families. They handle commercial accounts and treat Granite House as a 24-hour business, with extra awareness of our shift schedules to clear the sidewalks and entries with great care. Many thanks to them for doing an excellent job and giving us the peace of mind that comes from knowing we are covered for any winter weather event.

LIBBY FEATURED CARE GIVER



Libby grew up in Glenwood City, WI, the oldest of five, on a hobby farm with 50 beef cows, pigs, chickens, cats and a dog. She and her family have a proud history of showing animals at the St. Croix County Fair; in fact, it was where

Libby's parents met and where she and her own fiancée met. Libby and her family enjoy spending time outdoors, chopping wood, hunting, going up north, athletics, 4-H, and movie nights.

It was Libby's path to a nursing degree that brought her to Granite House, along with a connection to a current staff member. She earned her CNA (certified nursing assistant) certification during high school and gained experience in two healthcare jobs before joining our staff in late 2023. She is currently enrolled at Winona State University in her first term of the Nursing Program. Libby spends the week in classes and her

weekends working at the Mayo Clinic or at Granite House.

Libby joined us almost two years ago and enjoys the welcoming, supportive work environment at Granite House. She puts in full-time hours on school breaks and appreciates our flexible scheduling and understanding of a work-life balance. She says it's "rare to find an employer that genuinely walks the walk" when it comes to supporting the staff and has high compliments for the leadership team. Libby recognizes the commitment to our mission and values, and is proud to be part of an organization that makes a difference in people's lives.

NOTE FROM THE STAFF

Springtime is here and we could not be more excited! Easter waffles brought everyone together again to celebrate another holiday. It was fun to see the little ones hunt for eggs, and maybe next year we can do it outside! Our residents, staff, and families look forward to getting outside as much as we can to enjoy spring and summer with outings and sunshine. The staff are a great help with all that we do, and make our outings go smoothly and enjoyable for all. Granite House also upgraded our van in May. We are overjoyed to have a brand-new vehicle that we can rely on to get us to our many appointments and fun adventures for years to come! We owe our sincerest gratitude to our donors. Without all of you, we could not have made this a possibility. From all of Granite House, thank you.

Amber and Grace



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