

GRANITE HOUSE

DONOR NEWSLETTER

Spring 2021



For our donors, volunteers, and partners on our journey

YOUR GIFTS AT WORK

June 2014 – Dec 2020
EXPENSES FROM
DONOR FUNDS

TOTAL EXPENSES
\$261,400

RESIDENT SENSORY
PROGRAMS/GARDENS
\$61,400

*Music therapy, sensory, gardens,
décor, comforts for residents*

MARKETING/AWARENESS
& FUNDRAISING
\$29,100

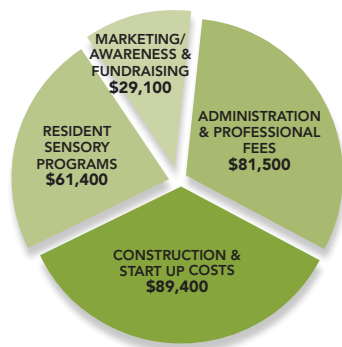
*Printing, mailings, email, website,
events, grant applications*

ADMINISTRATION &
PROFESSIONAL FEES
\$81,500

*Insurance, office supplies,
legal, accounting, architect*

CONSTRUCTION &
STARTUP COSTS
\$89,400

*Permits, materials, lifts, elevator,
staff recruit/hire/train, startup
household items and supplies*



— SPRING AT GRANITE HOUSE —



Spring in Minnesota is beautiful, and any time we can get everyone outside is always appreciated. The residents are already using the wheelchair swing and enjoying afternoons on the porch. The birds and squirrels are busy and it is fun to watch the turkeys come around and display their tail feathers. With a summer full of activities being planned for the upper area (see story on the back page), there will be a lot to see on warm days outside.

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.



A WELCOME PLACE

Many thanks to our wonderful, caring staff who made the cold and snowy winter cozy and warm for the residents, and cheerful and welcoming for their families. Visitors came with smiles underneath their masks to see their loved ones. A Christmas tree, gifts for everyone, and special music made it a very happy place. We added new staff members and everyone pitched in to make Granite House a great place to live and work.

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 2020

SUMMIT DONORS

Barbara J. Baltz*
Lou and Kathy Cristan Trust*
Larry and Marcia Cutler*
Kirk and Carla Dahl*
Katherine Dunn*
Tom and Carol Insley*
Linda and Dale Otteson*
Landmark Wealth
Management Group*
Kim Watson*
Anonymous

PEAK DONORS

Cathy and Rick Arnfelt*
Dorothy and Tom Linker*
Mike and Mimi Moss*
Kathy and Dale Peleski*
Frank and Gladys Ritter*
Lawrence Stirtz*

PLATEAU DONORS

Mary Arneson*
Bruce Beutel*
Bradley Fong*
Dan Gahler*
Lowell and Leticia Gillette*
Lynn and Pete Grogan*
Kyle Jacobson
Judith Resler*
Joanne and Greg Roth*
Rollx Vans*
Bill and Paula Snyder*
Steven Sweeney*
Manfred Tatzmann*
Richard Thron*
Mark and Vivian Votava*
3M Employee Match
Program*

MEADOWS DONORS

Laura Boegli*
Carolyn and Mark Briol*
Barbara Burleigh*

Kathy Cinnamon*
Mary and Dennis Fruetel*
Mike Gorman
David and Mary Hauch
Michelle Hein
Steven and Carla Jeschke
Trust*
Roger and Judy Knutson*
Ramen Majumdar*
Susan Moriarity*
Tom and Ardys Pertz*
Dorothy Rogers*
Cheryl Rose*
Alan Sipinen*
Anne Strodthoff
John Taft
Maureen Tumulty*
Jeff Virant*
Gary and Barb Wemeier*
Kent and Susan Wheelock*
US Bank Employee Match
Program*

FOOTHILLS DONORS

Dean Cody*
Ute Erickson*
Jenn and Devin Evers*
Kim Flackey*
Raphael Getsug*
Alan and Sharyn Holcomb*
Jacqueline Nash*
Kathleen Olson
Catherine Sleiter
Michele Stevens
Bill and Sharon Totten*
Amazon Smile*

TRIBUTE GIFTS

Gift by | In memory of
Cathy & Rick Arnfelt
10 GIFTS
Donna J. Trautmann
Joan Alickson
Andrew Senko

Susan Elizabeth Moen
Mary Ann Booher
David Russell Peabody
Dr. Stanley A. Leonard
Barbara Jean Hanawalt
Lee Geiser
Margaret J. Vick
Jenn and Devin Evers
Richard Insley
Kim Flackey
Kriese Shaver
Dorothy Dunbar Rogers
4 GIFTS
Claude Chambers
Mrs. Fleta McCarty
Mrs. Sandra Miller
Mrs. Peggy Morgan
Floyd Trautmann Family
Margarita Trautmann
Kim Watson
Amy L. Watson

Gift by | In honor of
Pete and Lynn Grogan
Clark & Shirley Choi Grogan
Mark and Vivian Votava
Mark Votava's birthday

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

Total for year: \$728.00
**Many thanks to these
Thrivent Financial clients
who designated Granite
House for their Thrivent
Choice Dollars in 2020:**
Dinja Frye*
Bonnie Kennett*
Marilyn Naglack
Gary Naglack
William Stoffregen*
Kim Watson*

*Repeat Donor

DONOR PROFILE

June 2014 – Dec 2020

TOTAL INCOME FROM
DONATIONS

\$330,900

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

\$265,100

Cash or check, gifts of stock,
online donations

GRANTS

\$31,600

Matching grants, foundations

FAITH-BASED
ORGANIZATIONS

\$34,200

Churches, organizations

DONOR EXPENSES UPDATE

Even with a year of lockdowns and restrictions our donors came through to support our programs. As we did last year, the financials presented in our newsletter reflect only those expenses that have been and continue to be funded by our donors. With the funding for staffing and operations provided by the state, donor funds are used for programs that support our residents. You may notice there is a big increase in the level of donations from 2019-2020, as well as a big increase in the level of spending in our sensory/gardens category. Please look at the article on page 4 to meet "Bob," our new garden and driveway helper. Bob the Toolcat was funded by several donors who specifically supported the cost, and the purchase was made with these funds. This year the final steps in the hardscape and landscaping will be done, and your gifts will be used for plantings and some raised beds for the residents to get up close with flowers and veggies, and even get their hands into some cool soil for a great sensory feel. The board members and I thank you for your support and wish you a great year.

Carol

A GIFT FROM OUR COMMUNITY



Last fall, our friends at Landmark Wealth Management Group (formerly Thrivent Financial - Landmark Group) in Lake Elmo entered Granite House in a virtual charitable event to receive a share of a gift pool from the organization. Six California and Minnesota charities, including Granite House and Second Harvest Heartland (Twin Cities) were selected based on recommendations from the wealth managers. Funds were partially allocated based on the votes of 200 clients nationwide, and our local supporters helped us to receive \$1750 from this event. **Many thanks to our friends at Landmark Wealth Management Group, who have supported Granite House from our beginnings with fundraising events, matching grants, and many volunteer hours. We also thank their clients, many of whom are loyal donors on their own, for voting for Granite House.**

————— thank you! —————



UPDATES AND FEATURES



FEATURED CAREGIVER MELISSA

Melissa began nine years of caregiving with a Certified Nursing Assistant class in 2012. Her first hands-on position was caring for Granite House founders Tom and Carol's son in their home. She changed her initial career goal from Occupational Therapy to Social Worker while at UW-River Falls. Melissa joined the Granite House startup team in the fall of 2018 while attending graduate school at Augsburg University. During her training, Melissa has worked with people with different abilities and in various settings. Her summer internships in schools and day programs involved children with Autism, and she recently interned with MN Center for Psychology. Her social work skills have come in handy at Granite House for resident families needing help with county paperwork. Melissa works the day shift and sleep shifts, often doing both shifts in a row to pick up overtime hours. She holds the record for continuous hours—five shifts in a row, 40 hours during a winter storm. Since her sister, Amber, is the House Manager, Melissa is often on the short list to be called to cover a sudden staff absence. Melissa enjoys spending time with her close extended family at the cabin and at home in Cottage Grove. She loves animals, especially dogs, and stays active with ice hockey and water sports. She also enjoys traveling. This summer we know that Melissa, now ready to take a position as a Licensed Graduate Social Worker, will reduce her hours to weekday sleep shifts and occasional weekends. We wish her good luck and are glad she will stay on part-time.

NOTE FROM THE STAFF

We are so glad to see spring again at Granite House! Like any other facility, there were staff shortages for various reasons, but staff worked together to make sure shifts were covered so they could ensure our residents received the same quality care. Granite House came through because of our wonderful staff and having the vaccine available very early on. Now that we can get outside again, we hope to relax a bit and enjoy family visitors more often. Amber and Melia are already getting the residents into the van for appointments and outings and they are enjoying the local parks. They have also started some warm pool therapy at Courage-Kenny St. Croix, which has been wonderful to see how our residents respond. As we dig out the planters and summer gear, we look forward to sharing our experiences with you.

Anna



FEATURED BOARD MEMBER LUCAS GAHLER

Board members are invited to serve based on experience, skills, and a passion for our vision. Lucas was invited to serve for several reasons, one being that he was a college friend of one of our residents, Aaron. Having someone on the board who is close in age to Aaron and the other residents keeps everyone current and thinking about the families whose loved ones are being cared for at Granite House. Lucas was raised in Madelia, MN and earned a degree in Financial Economics at Gustavus Adolphus College. He has since worked in the Banking and Information Security industries in various roles and is currently a Cyber Security Manager at ICF Next. The Granite House board and managers count on Lucas to answer our questions on internet, security, and cable services, guide our technology purchases, and consult on various cyber-related policies and issues. Lucas and his wife, Claire, have two daughters – Edith and Tilda. Both girls keep them busy! When he's not chasing his 4-year-old and 1-year-old around the backyard, you'll find Lucas in his workshop tinkering with motorcycles and drones, or testing new features on his homebuilt underwater robot.



INTRODUCING "BOB" THE TOOLCAT

With staff coming and going around the clock, 365 days a year, the task of maintaining the 100' long driveway at Granite House is more like at a commercial business than a private home. Add to that four acres of fields and woods, and there is lots to do on the property. Last fall we purchased a gently used 2012 4x4 Bobcat 5600, a "Toolcat," from our friends at Tri-State Bobcat in Hudson. We were fortunate to have several donors who made generous contributions specifically for this purchase, and we have already put it to good use. With a bucket, a snowplow blade, a sand spreader and the rear dump bucket feature, Bob does it all. Our volunteer used it many times over the winter to manage the snow along the driveway and lay down over 2 tons of sand over the ice to keep the staff safe on foot and in their vehicles. Amber is now using Bob to move flowerpots, soil, and mulch for spring plantings. We look forward to a busy summer.



GRANT FOR SENSORY PROJECT

We are pleased to welcome our summer volunteer Lizzy back to Granite House. You will recall she was a University of Washington college student and a close neighbor to Granite House. Lizzy spent the summer of 2019 with us developing indoor sensory activities to

support her major in neuroscience and her passion for understanding how the brain responds to stimuli. This spring she received a grant from the U of WA Geography department (her double major) to develop some outdoor sensory elements for the residents. With her dad's help Lizzy will use the grant funds to design and build a row of raised beds along the sidewalk on the upper side of the house adjacent to the porch. Using some of the plant ideas we researched for our long-term goals for the lower field sensory garden, she will place a variety of flowers and plants at the level where the residents can reach them from their wheelchairs. Elements that bring color, fragrance, motion and texture to the area will be incorporated into the plan. It will be a fun project and we will have more photos and an update in our fall newsletter.

GLOVES, A SUPPLY AND DEMAND STORY

Before COVID-19, the Granite House staff were wearing disposable medical gloves for all hands-on care with residents, including personal care, feeding and medication administration. Amber ordered one case a month at \$100 for a case of 2000 high-quality gloves. In March 2020, when the CDC put out guidance for use of gloves in more treatment settings as well as additional requirements for cleaning and sanitizing, the need at Granite House doubled. Our county licensors gave us a small amount towards COVID-19 supplies, but our state licensors have not increased our

funding for these requirements. Since last spring, retailers and medical supply companies have struggled to keep up with the increased demand. As in any supply and demand situation, prices went up for these limited quantities, fluctuating between \$250 and \$500 a case. This means that we were now paying 5 to 10 times more for a month's supply of gloves. Amber was spending many hours each week trying to locate supplies, and even with an approved "purchasing account" with several companies, her orders were often unfulfilled. Last fall the market was flooded with high-cost poor quality gloves which tore right out of the box. Things have started to get

better this spring—gloves are in stock more places but prices for high quality brands are still around \$300 a case.



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Our Amazon wish list is under the DONATE tab on our website, along with our secure PayPal link.

You'll see gloves, sanitizing products, and some great summer sensory items. Thank you for considering a tax-deductible gift to help us with these additional costs while keeping our residents and staff safe.

CONTACT US

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