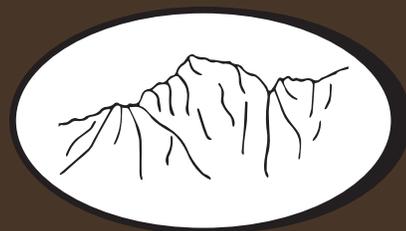


GRANITE HOUSE

DONOR NEWSLETTER

Fall 2019



For our donors, volunteers, and partners on our journey



NOTES FROM THE BOARD



Here we are, celebrating one year since our Dedication and Housewarming! We are all so proud of Anna and Amber and the Granite House staff for making this place so special, and we are grateful to the many donors and partners who have helped us to realize our dream. You will notice that this issue does not have a donor list or cash flow charts as in the previous newsletters. Now that we are operational, our donor lists and tribute recognitions will appear only in the spring issue and will cover the full calendar year. Many thanks to you who have become regular donors! If you have not yet seen the house, just reach out to one of us to give you a tour. Please note that we will be ending our Bayport P.O. Box address in December, so be sure to direct any mail to the Granite House address. We look forward to sharing the holidays with our residents and their families at Granite House, for it truly is a place for families to heal.

ENJOYING OUR FIRST SUMMER AT GRANITE HOUSE



Staff and residents had a wonderful first spring and summer on the porch this year. The caregivers have been bringing the residents outside every day they can, using a fan on the warm days and lap blankets on the cooler days. The views to the west and the wind spinners are a wonderful visual treat and the windchimes and birds at the feeders provide pleasing sounds.

GRANITE HOUSE has built a 24-hour sustainable community residence in Stillwater, Minnesota, for the long-term care of younger adults with severe brain injury who would otherwise be in a nursing home.



VOLUNTEERS DIG IN THE DIRT

A group of volunteers came in for a couple of work days to get started on the areas near the upper entrance. We pulled weeds, lay down landscape fabric and spread mulch around some of the beautiful 200-year Bur Oak trees near the house. Our summer intern, Lizzy, joined us to get started on flower beds along the east side. There will be many more opportunities next year so let us know if you want to join in.

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.



OUR STAFF MAKES GRANITE HOUSE THE BEST PLACE TO BE



FEATURED HOUSE MANAGER AMBER



How does everything run so smoothly at Granite House? Thanks to Amber Rolewicz, our House Manager, we have meals planned, food in the fridge, appointments made, staff scheduled, a clean house, and lots of paperwork done. Amber has been part of Granite House for several years, starting last spring before opening to get licensing paperwork filed, policies and procedures written, and managing many of the interior decisions on the house, such as shopping for tile and granite. She also created our wish list for the kitchen and patient supplies, as well as volunteering many hours to paint and clean up during the construction.

Amber has a Medical Assistant certification from Century College and is a certified phlebotomist. She worked at Metro Urology for five years and is our in-house specialist for any urology needs. Amber enjoys spending time with her extended family at their cabin, is a very active hockey mom to two boys, and still finds time for crafts and painting.



FEATURED CAREGIVER NICOLE



Nicole joined us over the winter and has become the lead caregiver for the day shift. She has previous experience as a Certified Nursing Assistant at The Estates at Greely in Stillwater. Nicole enjoys hanging out with friends and family and chasing around her 2-year-old son. She is a full-time college student at Century College working towards nursing school. Nicole says that the best part of her job at Granite House is being able to give her residents the best care possible and being able to spend one on one time with them.



FAMILY & STAFF AUGUST 11TH BBQ



The second annual Granite House family and staff picnic was held in August, and we had such a great day! Under the tent we had a fabulous meal with barbeque, salads and desserts. Children from the staff and resident families played bean bag toss and jumped in the bounce house. It was great to have the families of the staff come and see Granite House, meet the residents, and enjoy some relaxed time together. Many thanks to extended family of the staff for doing the grilling, and to everyone for bringing some fabulous food!

ANNOUNCING OUR 2019 GIFT REGISTRY

Thanks once again to all of you who helped us with gifts of kitchen items and patient supplies last fall. The staff prepares three meals a day and everything has been used and appreciated. Now we are getting into a routine and know what kinds of items we are constantly having to restock, and we can offer this to our donors who would rather make a tangible gift rather than cash. You can find our Amazon gift registry at the website on the RESIDENT page under the SERVICES tab, or call Amber for details.

So what's on the list?

- Clorox bleach wipes
- Hand sanitizer
- Paper towels
- Exam/care gloves
- Oral care swabs
- Adult washcloths (incontinent wipes)
- Ball point pens
- Printer paper

Please check online registry or contact Amber for specific details on items before purchasing.

PROGRAMS FOR OUR RESIDENTS



EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT: A WHEELCHAIR SWING

Introducing Spencer Baker, an Eagle Scout candidate at Stillwater Area High School. He is starting this fall to plan the 2020 summer installation of a 16' x 24' deck off the upper entry to place a wheelchair swing for the residents. Everyone benefits from swinging! It is an excellent source of vestibular stimulation, which affects balance in the inner ear. It is also fun, and a great way to enjoy the fresh air and views from the house.

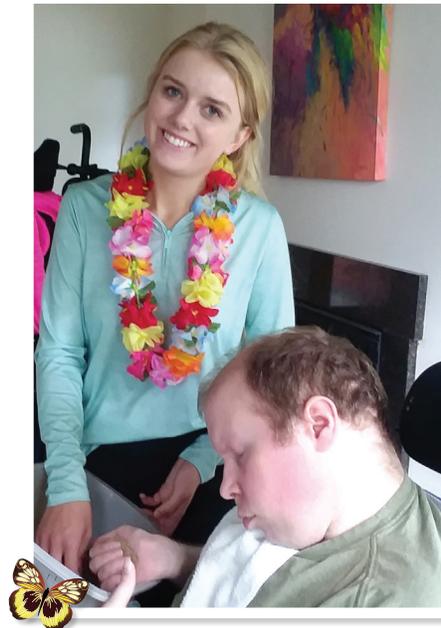
WE NEED YOUR HELP



Photo courtesy SportsPlay, Inc.

Spencer is fundraising over the winter with a goal of \$3500 in materials and an additional \$2000 for the swing. Won't you support this very special project to benefit our residents—and an Eagle Scout, too? Just make a note on your donation that you'd like to designate your gift to the wheelchair swing project.

thank you!



MUSIC AND SENSORY PROGRAMS

Our music therapy program continues to be an event that everyone looks forward to, twice a month. Julie from Singing Heart has gotten to know the residents and they are responding well to her instruments, voice, and gentle touch to encourage movement with the music. We are so grateful to our donors who have supported this program and made it possible.

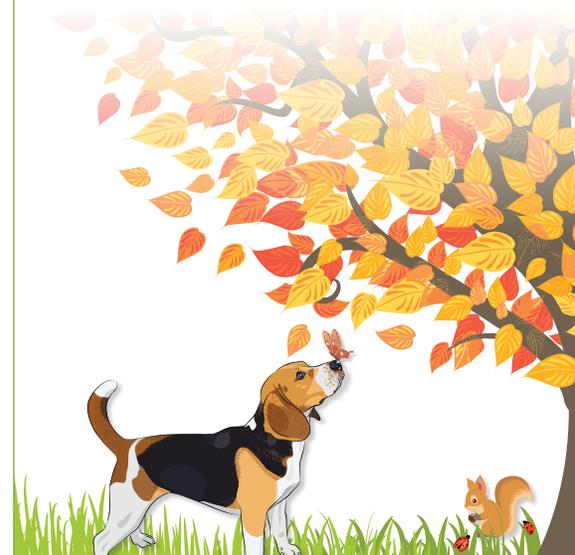
Our sensory program got a big boost this summer with the help of our summer intern, Lizzy (photo above). She is a college student who is a neighbor of Granite House and is fascinated with sensory input when used with people who have disabilities. Lizzy volunteered her time by assisting Julie with music therapy and creating a resource notebook and buckets of supplies for targeting specific senses: smell, touch, hearing, taste, and visual.

Lizzy helped us do some special theme days like "beach day" and "Northwoods day," by integrating music sounds, fragrance, objects to touch, and special foods to taste. The staff will be able to use these assembled resources over the winter. We have all enjoyed having Lizzy be part of our team this summer.



CREATURE COMFORTS

Anna started to bring her new dog Archie to Granite House this summer and he is now a beloved regular. He is so calm and friendly to everyone, and the residents and staff have really responded to him. He curls up and naps on our new bean bag chairs with the residents and welcomes staff and visitors. He is a natural therapy dog! We also had a visit from Linus, a certified therapy dog and he enjoyed an afternoon with the residents. All of our resident families have approved of these pet visits and have stories to tell about their loved ones' past days with their own pets. It's just one more thing that makes Granite House a real home, and a welcoming place for everyone who comes.



GRANITE HOUSE RESIDENCE • 2114 Stagecoach Trail North, Stillwater, MN



HARDSCAPE AND LANDSCAPE

Work on the retaining walls began mid-summer and will be completed late fall. Tom is doing the installation with his own equipment and many tons of St. Croix limestone from Rivard Stone. We appreciate the donation of many yards of sand, gravel and driveway mix by our neighbors, Miller Excavating and the long hours Tom has put in this summer. Many thanks to Rich for mowing the grass on his days off and Anna and Amber for the beautiful flowerpots. It looks great!

A SPECIAL VISITOR FROM THE DHS

We were so pleased to have Alexandra Bartolic come to see Granite House this summer. As the Director of Disability Services at the Minnesota Department of Human Services, Alex visited the building site in the fall of 2015 and guided us over the past four years as we explored our licensing procedures. We were so proud to show her our beautiful home and introduce our residents and staff. She sat down with us to hear about our experiences and offered to guide us in exploring new options such as respite care.



WE'RE NOT THERE YET!...

OUR GOALS: 2020 - 2024

- Work on house
- Driveway completion
- Sensory garden installation
- Family support group
- Respite care
- In-home care

2014

Nonprofit Founded

2015

- Tax exempt status
- Begin fundraising
- Start to clear land

2016

- Fundraising
- Business plans
- House plans

2017

- Groundbreaking
- Construction begins
- Resident interviews

2018

- Hire staff, finish house
- Admissions, opening

2019

- Hardscape begins
- Finish interior work

Please stay with us
and help us complete
OUR GOALS!



ANNA'S NOTE: Everyone at Granite house has been having fun this month getting fall décor set up around the house for our first year celebrating Halloween and Thanksgiving. We have so much to be thankful for: our compassionate staff, wonderful residents and their families, generous donors and helpful volunteers! We have made great strides with the property this year such as the retaining wall because of one hard working volunteer. As the cold front comes in, we will again focus on finishing up projects inside to help better our environment for the people we serve. We have started preparing the respite care program to help better our environment for the people we serve. We have started preparing the respite care program to help additional families who may need a break. Thank you for all that you have done – and continue to do for us!

Anna

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