

GRANITE HOUSE

DONOR NEWSLETTER

Spring 2022



For our donors, volunteers, and partners on our journey

YOUR GIFTS AT WORK

June 2014 – Dec 2021
EXPENSES FROM
DONOR FUNDS

TOTAL EXPENSES
\$285,100



RESIDENT SENSORY
PROGRAMS/GARDENS
\$74,500

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

MARKETING/AWARENESS
& FUNDRAISING
\$31,000

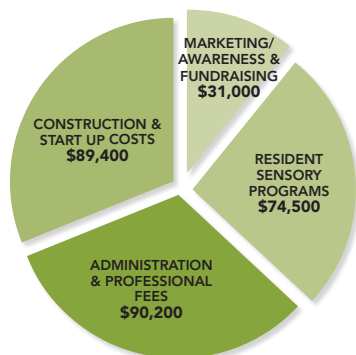
*Printing, mailings, email, website,
events, grant applications*

ADMINISTRATION &
PROFESSIONAL FEES
\$90,200

*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 IS HERE AT GRANITE HOUSE —



After a breezy and snowy April the residents are back outside to enjoy the return of the flowers and wildlife. There will be a lot of activity to watch this summer as the new vegetable garden and the sidewalk planters are finished. Amber is planning many summer outings and a return to indoor pool therapy.

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.



A PEACEFUL WINTER

The beautiful lights on the front wall greeted staff on the long nights this winter. Amber made the trees out of pallets and decorated them with lights. They could be seen coming up the driveway and brightened up the parking area. Thanks to a resident family, we had two indoor trees this year, so the lower level therapy room was festive too. Volunteers came to decorate the trees and set up our Christmas village collection on both floors.

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 2021

PINNACLE DONORS

Katherine Dunn*
Tom & Carol Insley*
Linda & Dale Otteson*

SUMMIT DONORS

Cathy and Rick Arnfelt*
Stan Cernohaus*
Kirk & Carla Dahl*
Edward & Kathleen Gorman*
Donna & Norm Koning*
Landmark Wealth Mgmt*
Thrivent Personal Donation
Fund of InFaith Community
Foundation*
Scott & Anne Strodthoff*
Scott Theirl
Kim Watson*
Anonymous*
3M Volunteer match*



PEAK DONORS

Joanne Allen*
Kristina & James Anthony
Christ Lutheran Church*
Larry & Marcia Cutler*
Eckberg Lammers, PC*
Foley, Kalseim & Co *
Glen & Libby Insley*
Lake Elmo Bank*
Tom & Elizabeth Linker*
Mike & Mimi Moss*
Kathy & Dale Peleski*
Cleone Pritchard*
Dean Remer
Manfred Tatzmann*
Thrivent Choice Dollars*

PLATEAU DONORS

Laurie & Alcides Alvarez*
Dena Belisle*
Bruce Beutel*
William & Beth Bockes*
Madelyn Descher
Bradley & Sharon Fong*
Daniel & Lisa Gahler*
Lowell & Leticia Gillette*
Lynn Grogan*
Kyle Jacobson*
Carla & Steven Jeschke*
Greg & Diane Karp*
Roger & Judy Knutson*
Daniel Kyllo*
Sue & Mike Marinkov*
Anne & Mike McCausland*
Tom & Margaret Norris*
Judith Resler*
Dorothy & Tom Rogers*
Rollx Vans*
Cherry Rose*
William & Paula Snyder*
Karen & Douglas Stoltzmann*
Steven Sweeney*
Susan & Kent Wheelock*
Brad Wucherpfennig
Greg & Sylvia Zinn*

MEADOWS DONORS

Candy & Robert Arey*
Mary Arneson &
Charles Sawyer*
Joni Ballou*
Laura Boegli*
Greg Boettner*
Carolyn & Mark Briol*
Bill & Nancy Callas*
Patricia Dunn-Walker*
Ute Erickson*
Mary & Denis Fruetel*
Patricia Hagberg*
Allen & Sharyn Holcomb*
Susan Moriarity*
Helen Olson
Louise Paulson*
Tom & Ardys Pertz*
Bonnie Reyers*
Amy & Ron Satkiewicz*
Marilyn Schmidt*
Tom & Janet Sellnow
Alan Sipinen*
Catherine and Jay Sleiter*
Carol Ann Smith*
Ruth Sparrow
John Taft*
Maureen Tumulty*
Jeff Virant*
Gary & Barb Wemeier*

FOOTHILLS DONORS

Amazon Smile*
Patrick Carlson
Dean Cody*
Cheryl Flynn
Rafael Getsug*
Mina Good*
Barbara Johnson*
Merideth McDonald
Jaqueline Nash*
Mary Oswald*
Judy Smith- Ballard*



THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

Total for year: \$792

Many thanks to these
Thrivent Financial clients
who designated Granite
House for their Thrivent
Choice Dollars in 2021:

Djina Frye*
Mina Good*
Bonnie Kennett*
Cherry Rose*
Stacy Stoffregen*
William Stoffregen*
Loretta Tobin*

*Repeat Donor

TRIBUTE GIFTS

Gift by | In memory of

Joanne Allen
Michael Cramer
Cathy & Rick Arnfelt
11 GIFTS
Mary Jane Arnfelt
Joan Elizabeth Brown
Eunice Hop
Sherry Keen
Brian Krogseng
Bernice Harriet Lewis
Philip Linehan, Sr
James George Quickstad
Connie Strodthoff
Winifred Tegge
Thomas E. Vick
William & Beth Bockes
Jim & Virginia Johnson
Lynn Grogan
Peter Grogan
Tom & Carol Insley
Richard Insley
Winifred Tegge
The Larson family:
J. Bruce Larson
Barbara D. Johnson
Pamela J. Larson
Deborah M. Uselman
T. Brent Larson
Winifred Tegge
Mary Oswald
Winifred Tegge
Helen Olson
Winifred Tegge
Louise Paulson
Richard Insley
Ruth Schmidt
Dorothy Dunbar Rogers
5 GIFTS
Ronny Blackstock
Elmo Boyt & Brenda Boyt
Arlene Davis
Kenneth Hatchett
Richard Thielen
Anne Strodthoff
Nancy Raymond
Mary Jane Arnfelt
Brad Wucherpfennig
Jim & Jini Johnson
Gift by | In honor of
Tom & Carol Insley
Aaron Insley
Marilyn Schmidt
Jenn Evers' birthday
Tom & Janet Sellnow
Jena
Amy Stocker
Aaron Insley
Lynn Grogan
Clark & Shirley Choi Grogan
Judy & Criegton Ballard
Judy Smith-Ballard
Lynn Grogan



DONOR PROFILE

June 2014 – Dec 2021

TOTAL INCOME FROM
DONATIONS

\$439,400

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

\$363,500

Cash or check, gifts of stock,
online donations

GRANTS

\$38,900

Matching grants, foundations

FAITH-BASED
ORGANIZATIONS

\$37,000

Churches, organizations

DONOR EXPENSES UPDATE

Bringing good news to our donors and friends is the purpose of our semi-annual newsletter. Granite House had another great year of community support, and we share with you this report of gifts and expenses from donor funds. Please note that 90% of the names on the list are "repeat donors," and we appreciate all of you staying with us. For the first time since opening, over half of the year's use of donor funds went to program expenses. This includes sensory programs, resident and staff birthdays, holidays, our staff picnic, and outings. Annual fundraising expenses are now limited to the newsletters, the construction expenses are done, and the administration costs have leveled out. The biggest expense again last year was the hardscape, including drainage and stone retaining walls. This year your gifts will support the new planters for Amber's vegetable garden, the deck, and final drainage work. With our summer volunteers we will continue to plant perennials. It was great to host our board members at the house again, and we are all so proud of what we have accomplished with your support. Thank you and have a great summer.

Carol



thank you!



FEATURED STAFF MEMBERS - A GREAT PLACE TO WORK

— BOARD MEMBER/NEUROLOGIST • DONNA KONING, MD —



How many neurologists do you know that make house calls? Ours does! Not only does Donna Koning, MD, serve on our board of directors, she works with our residents on issues typical of patients with brain injury. She has been instrumental in developing seizure protocols and managing medications to promote comfort and good health

without excessive sedation. As a charter member of the board, Donna played an important role in creating the mission statement and resident admissions criteria.

Starting out as a North Dakota farm kid, Donna pursued a degree in chemical engineering at the U of ND and worked at 3M for 14 years in various capacities. A complete career shift came when she entered the U of MN medical school and then residency in neurology.

Her first practice was with the MN Clinic of Neurology, a great place to work but a long commute from her home in Afton. An opportunity to start a new neurology service in Stillwater began in August 2007. As the founding member of the neurology group at the HealthPartners clinic, she helped to establish a thriving practice that has grown into a full team of four.

Donna is looking forward to gardening and gathering wild edibles outdoors this spring. Her indoor hobbies include

sewing, painting and other artistic endeavors. Her husband Norm is also a 3M chemical engineer, and their daughter Katherine is now an electrical/biomedical engineer. Vacations to the west coast and Rocky Mountains are chosen opportunities for this busy family to spend time together.

It was providence that brought Donna Koning to Granite House. In 2009 she met Granite House founders Tom and Carol Insley and began caring for their son Aaron. Donna came to Granite House quarterly after opening but had to interrupt visits during the pandemic. She is eager to resume home visits and enjoys being at Granite House to meet the staff and see the residents where they are most comfortable. In her words, "To help bring Granite House from an idea...to the real home it is today...has been a privilege and honor." The board would reciprocate and thank Donna for her service to the nonprofit and to the residents.

HOUSE NURSE • GRACE



Grace began her career in health care as a Certified Nursing Assistant in long-term care, while working towards a nursing degree. She completed her LPN licensure in 2021 and is now enrolled in the nursing program at Northwood Technical College, with plans to sit for

her RN licensure exam in December. Grace was a laboratory assistant for five years at MN Urology, where she met our house manager, Amber, in 2015. Amber told her about the plans for Granite House, and after acceptance into the RN program, Grace joined us in March, 2020.

Grace's hours at Granite House follow her class schedule. She does weekends, overnight sleep shifts, and picks up extra days when needed. Late last fall, Grace stepped in as interim nursing lead during Anna's leave. Being on staff and knowing our residents, it was a smooth transition. With Anna shifting her focus to licensing and nursing compliance, Grace will now be the house nurse, taking care of the day-to-day resident needs and emergencies.

When her busy schedule allows for fun, Grace and her husband Derrick go camping with their two dogs and spend

time on the river-- kayaking, boating, fishing, and soaking up the sun. They recently took up downhill mountain biking, exploring bike trails on both sides of the river. Aside from a crash landing and a sprained wrist, Grace is eager to get back on the bike. She also enjoys making gifts for people with her Cricut tool.

Grace says the best part of working at Granite House is the mission and the caring, genuine people who work there. As a caregiver for more than half of her life, she is proud to be part of Granite House. She loves the teamwork and enjoys her new role, as it fulfills her passion for nursing and caregiving. To Grace, "...it's clear that Granite House isn't just home for our residents but is a place where staff and family can come and feel as if it's their home away from home, too."



Have you seen our NEW VIDEO at www.granitehousemn.org?



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

SAVE THE DATE!

On Saturday, September 24, the Minnesota Brain Injury Alliance annual WALK FOR THOUGHT is back and in person this year! We have had a Granite House team at the walk since 2014—except during the “virtual” walks in 2020 and 2021 and a severe thunderstorm in 2019. We have great t-shirts to wear for the walk, it's fun, and it's all for a great cause. For more information check the MN-BIA website later in the summer or contact Amber or Carol. You are welcome to join us!

Photo L to R: Founders Anna, Carol, and Tom with Aaron at the walk in 2014



THE BOARD IS BACK

Our quarterly board meeting was held at Granite House for the first time since February 2020. How wonderful to see everyone in person and show off how great the house looks! We've been having remote or hybrid meetings for two years and have still accomplished our goals—reviewing policies, finances, and long-term plans—but having important discussions are so much better in person. Our board members volunteer their time and have a passion for the Granite House mission. Many thanks for their service and enthusiasm.



VEGGIE TIME

Every year Amber works hard to provide fresh, homegrown greens and vegetables for meals. She's been working with various planters with mixed results, and now will have the garden of her dreams. Tom is building raised planters made of black locust wood, 3' x 5' and about 32" tall. There will be three of them, to be installed on the flat area between the new retaining walls. This space is perfect for the sun, there is protection from wind, and it has a water source at the well pump. With a gravel base and pathway, residents can be brought down with a staff member for tending and harvesting. They can even reach it from their wheelchairs and feel that cool moist soil. Watch for photos in our fall newsletter to see how the garden grew this summer.

SUMMER PROJECTS

After a cold April and late spring, we are getting off to a great start on our continuing gardening projects this summer. The volunteers from Saint Ambrose Church Ladies Bible Group came out to rake, plant, and get our flower beds ready. Our friend Lizzy is coming back this summer, to help us with our gardening projects and to finish last year's project, planting the raised beds along the sidewalk. Once Tom has the planters attached to the base, she can install the plants and flowers, along with some motion and sensory items to engage the residents and keep the deer away. The volunteer garden group will continue to meet once a week all summer, so contact Amber or Carol to sign up and join us.



NOTE FROM THE STAFF

It's no secret that everyone is experiencing staff shortages these days, with businesses and even group homes closing because of it. Granite House has been more fortunate than most, with half of our staff having started with us in 2018, and now two-thirds of the staff have been with us over three years. With dedicated caregivers who will offer to pick up open shifts, bonuses to pick up last-minute night and weekend shifts, and managers willing to work some awake nights, the residents have always had a full staff on duty to care for them. As we move into warmer weather, we have seasonal and student staff members coming back to full-time, and old friends who left for other jobs and came back to Granite House. This means we can resume our fun outings and catch up on appointments. Granite House is a great place to work and live, and we are very proud of our staff.



Amber

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Tom and Carol Insley, *Founders*, carol@granitehousemn.org | Granite House, 2114 Stagecoach Trail N, Stillwater, MN 55082

