

# GRANITE HOUSE

## DONOR NEWSLETTER

Spring 2023



For our donors, volunteers, and partners on our journey

### YOUR GIFTS AT WORK

June 2014 – Dec 2022  
EXPENSES FROM  
DONOR FUNDS

TOTAL EXPENSES  
**\$311,200**



RESIDENT SENSORY  
PROGRAMS/GARDENS  
**\$90,300**

*Music therapy, sensory, gardens,  
décor, resident and staff programs*

MARKETING/AWARENESS  
& FUNDRAISING  
**\$32,800**

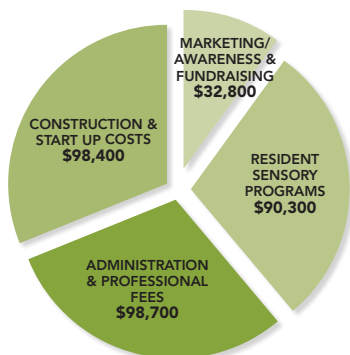
*Printing, mailings, email, website,  
events, grant applications*

ADMINISTRATION &  
PROFESSIONAL FEES  
**\$98,700**

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

CONSTRUCTION &  
STARTUP COSTS  
**\$98,400**

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



### IT'S BEEN A COLD AND SNOWY WINTER BUT WE'RE WARM INSIDE AT GRANITE HOUSE



Hanging out by the fireplace, watching the deer outside, the residents are enjoying music therapy, favorite movies, and time with family visitors. Staff are reading favorite books, cooking yummy meals, and working together to make Granite House a great place to live and work.

**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.



#### MEET JAX

Our newest four-legged caregiver, a three-year old Brittany Spaniel, comes in with Kaitlin four days a week and takes his job very seriously. He greets everyone at the top of the stairs, gets some good tummy rubs, then cuddles up with residents in their comfy chairs. Now and then Jax will let us know if the deer are outside or a car is coming, but most of the time he just hangs out in the kitchen or great room.

**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 2022

## PINNACLE DONORS

Linda & Dale Otteson\*

## SUMMIT DONORS

Stan Cernohaus\*  
Lou & Kathy Cristan\*  
Kirk & Carla Dahl\*  
Tom & Carol Insley\*  
Donna & Norm Koning\*  
William Stoffregen\*  
Steven Sweeney\*



## PEAK DONORS

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Glen & Libby Insley\*  
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Scott & Anne Strodthoff\*  
Thrivent Choice Dollars\*  
Anonymous

## PLATEAU DONORS

Candace & Robert Arey\*  
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Carla & Steven Jeschke\*  
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Daniel Gahler\*  
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Roger & Judy Knutson\*  
Daniel Kylo\*  
Anne & Mike McCausland\*  
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Denise Yanish\*  
Sylvia & Greg Zinn\*

## COMPANY MATCHES

3M  
US Bank

## MEADOWS DONORS

Patrick Carlson\*  
Kathy Dumas  
Allen & Sharyn Holcomb\*  
Shelly Johnson  
Mandi Marino-Ildsinga  
Nancy Prince\*  
Judy Smith-Ballard\*  
Bill & Sharon Totten\*  
Amazon Smile\*

## FOOTHILLS DONORS

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John Taft\*  
Megan Thompson  
Maureen Tumulty\*  
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Gary & Barb Wemeier\*



## THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

**Total for year: \$833**  
**Many thanks to these Thrivent Financial clients who designated Granite House for their Thrivent Choice Dollars in 2022:**  
Dianne K. Brink\*  
Mina L. Good\*  
Janine M. Ontko\*  
Cherryl Rose\*  
Stacey Stoffregen\*  
William Stoffregen\*  
Loretta Tobin\*

\*Repeat Donor

## TRIBUTE GIFTS

**Gift by | In memory of**  
Cathy & Rick Arnfelt

**3 GIFTS**

**Mary Jane Chaves**  
**Ruth Pommerening**  
**Alice Rosamond Stauder**

Lynne Deshler  
**Harry & Helen Stevens**  
**Jeremiah Pike**

Laura Higgs  
**Robert Higgs**  
Tom & Carol Insley

**2 GIFTS**

**Richard Insley**  
**Winifred Tegge**

Shelly Johnson  
**Cicely Novy**  
Helen Olson

**2 GIFTS**

**Robert O. Olson**  
**Winifred Tegge**

Tom & Ardys Pertz  
**Marsha Stoltzmann**  
Dorothy Dunbar Rogers

**5 GIFTS**

**Billy Barnes**  
**Frank Lynn Bates**  
**Randall Harris**  
**Terry McCollum**  
**Betty Newman**

Rust Consulting  
**Cicely Novy**  
Terry & Dianna Stevens

**2 GIFTS**

**Harry Stevens**  
**Helen Mortimer Stevens**

Amy Stocker  
**Winifred Tegge**  
Granite House Staff  
**Tammie Jo**

## Gift by | In honor of

Judy Smith-Ballard  
**Lynn Grogan**  
Dan & Cheryl Flynn  
**Jena**  
Tom & Carol Insley  
**Aaron Insley**  
Mandi Marino-Ildsinga  
**The Amazing staff at Granite House**  
Tom & Janet Sellnow  
**Jena**



## DONOR PROFILE

**June 2014 – Dec 2022**

**TOTAL INCOME FROM DONATIONS**

**\$478,500**

**INDIVIDUAL DONORS**

**\$396,800**

Cash or check, gifts of stock, online donations

**GRANTS**

**\$43,800**

Matching grants, foundations

**FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS**

**\$37,900**

Churches, organizations

## DONOR EXPENSES UPDATE

One of my favorite jobs is to process donations, sending out tax letters and thank you notes. It's been a pleasure to correspond with donors who, although we've never met, seem like old friends now. Once again over 90% of donations came from repeat donors. Thank you to those who continue to believe in what we are doing. We hope you will share our mission with your friends and help us to connect with families who may need care or those who wish to learn more.

Our fall newsletter mailing was well received, and over 70% of our gifts came in during the last two months of 2022. We had several house tours last year with donors, community partners and prospective resident families. As always, praise was high for our beautiful home, cheerful caregivers, and high standards of excellence. Expenses last year included new storage in the garage, our vegetable planters, and some new program events. Donor funds were used for staff outings, special gatherings such as our picnic, and massages for our hardworking staff. This year we'll be creating a garden for cutting flowers and a permanent memorial garden to remember our past residents.

*Carol*



*thank you!*





# PROGRAMS FOR OUR RESIDENTS AND STAFF



## WELCOME, MEGAN

We welcomed a new resident to Granite House during the Christmas season. Megan's family is in nearby Stillwater and comes by often to see that she is getting used to her new home, house mates and caregivers. We look forward to warmer spring days, to introduce her to our sunny back porch and wheelchair swing.



## CONGRATULATIONS, GRACE

Congratulations to Grace, our House Nurse, for completing her nursing degree and achieving her Registered Nurse certification. She is glad to be done with studying and is enjoying being at the house full time for the residents. Grace interacts well with our visiting Bluestone Physicians and the family members of the residents.



## PERKS FOR THE STAFF

Every other week Denise comes to do massage for residents. She also has slots open for staff massages, which are popular with everyone. She keeps a spare massage table in the staff room and can do three massages each visit. Granite House is happy to cover the cost for this, using our donor funds for this treat.



## SUE FEATURED CAREGIVER

For over 15 years, Sue has been a caregiver and teacher for people with disabilities. She worked as a job coach, paraprofessional and Special Education Teacher for the Hudson, WI School District prior to her position at Granite House. Taking an interest in one of her students, Sue became an in-home aide for her and continues to spend one day a week with her. She has also volunteered on numerous occasions for Bridge For Community Life, a disability support organization in St. Croix County, WI. Sue is a native of the St. Paul-Maplewood area but has lived across the river in Hudson, WI for over 20 years. She found out about Granite House from a former resident's family member and is approaching her three-year anniversary this fall. Sue is always willing to pick up extra shifts and work overtime to cover when needed. When she has any free time, she hangs out with her two adult children, sometimes working alongside her daughter who is also a caregiver, in addition to outdoor summer activities and playing piano. It is the personal interactions with residents, and the family feeling at Granite House that has kept her part of our team.

## NOTE FROM THE STAFF

2022 was a challenging year for the Granite House staff. Those of us with experience in long-term care understand the inevitable patient losses, and losing two residents within five months was heartbreaking for everyone. It was inspirational to see how our caregivers stayed on task with cheerful faces while each of the two residents were home on hospice care during their last days. The staff comforted the residents, the family members and each other. Everyone wanted to take time off to attend the Celebration of Life in both cases, to show their respect and extend their sympathy to the families. As leaders we are so proud of them, as we make every effort to find joy each day with our current residents. Holiday and birthday treats, outings and picnics, bonuses, massages and just a sincere "thank you" at the end of each shift are ways to show our appreciation to this amazing group. It is a big help to have our donor funds available to cover these extra program costs, to provide a pleasant, welcoming workplace that feels like home. Thank you! .....

*Amber and Grace*







### **GOT SNOW?**

It has been an unusually snowy winter, so we thought we might as well enjoy it. After the big freeze lifted, we had some fun in the lower field with some snowshoeing lessons. Tom brought over two pair of snowshoes and made a trail in the deep snow. It was great fun and good exercise. With over 56 inches of snow just through the end of February, and a 800' long driveway, Tom has made good use of our 4-wheeled helper, Bob the Toolcat. Coming along after our friend Terry opens up with his plow, Tom and Bob work the snow back to widen the driveway and put down sand (over 600 lbs to date) on the areas where ice may form.



### **WINTER VOLUNTEERS**

It was great to have our friends from the St. Ambrose Church Ladies Bible Group come out again to decorate the house for the Christmas season. They put up two trees, our donated snow village houses, and decorations on both levels. Such a big job and so much appreciated! Sara, a student from nearby St. Croix Academy has been coming every week to mop floors and do odd jobs for us. A family friend of one of the staff members, we thank her for her service with a smile. Once again, we've benefitted from delicious day-old bakery goods delivered by our friends Phyllis and Don, who have become good friends and always enjoy visiting with the staff and residents.



### **GARDEN PLANS**

With the stone retaining walls adjacent to the house complete and the three vegetable planters ready for spring, we are starting a new project. On the hill east of the sidewalk is a big, sunny area just right for a cutting garden. With a bit of work, we'll have fresh bouquets of black-

eyed Susans, daisies, purple coneflowers, daffodils and tulips in the house to delight the residents and staff. In front of the cutting garden, a more formal area will become our memorial garden. With flowering plants, statues, and engraved stones to remember past residents, this will be a permanent display. Anyone interested in helping with this project this summer, please let Carol know.



### **REMEMBERING CICELY**

.....  
Our fun loving, laughing, lovely girl passed away at Granite House late last fall. Her family was with her and the entire staff attended the celebration of life. We all miss her wonderful smile and ability to keep us in stitches with her giggles. A memorial for Cicely will be incorporated in our planned flower garden this year. ....

### **CONTACT US**

House phone 651-337-2647 | [www.granitehousemn.org](http://www.granitehousemn.org) | [info@granitehousemn.org](mailto:info@granitehousemn.org)

Amber Rolewicz, *House Manager*, [amber@granitehousemn.org](mailto:amber@granitehousemn.org) | Grace Hadd, RN, *House Nurse*, [grace.granitehousemn@outlook.com](mailto:grace.granitehousemn@outlook.com)

Tom and Carol Insley, *Founders*, [carol@granitehousemn.org](mailto:carol@granitehousemn.org) | Granite House, 2114 Stagecoach Trail N, Stillwater, MN 55082

