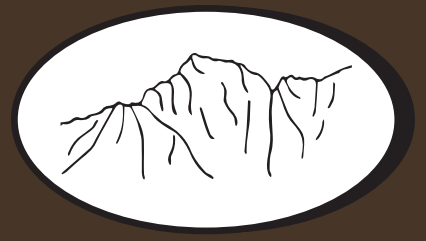


GRANITE HOUSE

DONOR NEWSLETTER

Fall 2025



For our donors, volunteers, and partners on our journey



NOTES FROM THE BOARD

What an exciting year this has been! Granite House has a new sheltered, lighted front entry with a concrete parking area and a real asphalt driveway! See the details on page 4 with photos of the work. This project has been on our minds for over five years, and with the stability of four residents and growth in our outreach and donor base, we finally accomplished this goal. Amber and the staff have been incredibly flexible and cooperative in working around the disruptions and are very glad to see the finished product.

Many of you are aware that Tom and Carol Insley are now spending most of the year at their new home in Buffalo, Wyoming. This has not changed board operations or been an issue for any projects or documents needed. With online meetings, e-sign documents, and on-site help with mailing newsletters and depositing donor checks, it has been a busy but seamless transition. Tom maintained management of the entry and driveway project as the general contractor while Carol has done board meetings, our state financial audit, donor letters and the newsletter from their new small town.

As a board we are all proud of the site managers and staff for picking up the leadership roles in the Walk for Thought, Brain Injury conferences, and local outreach. They have also taken on the management of employee benefit plans. We hope you will continue to support Granite House, and look for your donor thank-you letters with a "Buffalo WY" postmark.

— GRANITE HOUSE TEAM — AT THE WALK FOR THOUGHT



It was a beautiful fall day and a great turnout for the annual Walk for Thought, an event sponsored by the Minnesota Brain Injury Alliance. This is our ninth year with our team and our great T-shirts. We had some new staff, resident family members and friends this year and greeted old friends at the walk.

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 SPECIAL FARM VISIT

How lucky we are to have a caregiver who lives on a farm! We were all invited to visit Libby's family farm in Glenwood City, WI. What a treat for both the residents and their families, with chickens, pigs, calves and the farm machinery. Many thanks to Libby and her family for hosting our group and showing everyone a great time.

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.

PROGRAMS FOR RESIDENTS AND STAFF

STAFF AND FAMILY PICNIC

Once again staff, residents, and board members came with their families to enjoy a late summer afternoon at Granite House. We had a big turnout for this annual event. It's such a great way for the families to meet each other and the staff to celebrate and share their work place.



MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

This year we had all four residents, plus the site managers' families and other caregivers who met us there. What fun to enjoy the day with extra hands. With the new mobile changing van for adults with disabilities—the Momentum Refresh Van—the residents could get a quick refresh break and get back out for more fun on a beautiful day.

STATE *Fair*



SUMMER VOLUNTEERS



The grounds looked great for the big gathering thanks to our weed-pulling resident family members, and our Excel Energy volunteers who helped with yard work and setup for the picnic. Volunteers helped set up and take down the tents and chairs and everyone enjoyed Nick's amazing smoked meats and sides.

HALLOWEEN TRUNK OR TREAT

Granite House residents joined the fun at the second annual "Coop's Troop Sensory Friendly Trunk or Treat," a special event designed to include people with disabilities. Started by a local mom looking for places to take her son with special needs, the event included 28 trunks (decorated cars) and over 100 participants. Granite House had Amber's car all decorated with a farm scene, and the residents and staff came out to support the event and have fun. Learn more at "finding cooper's voice" on Facebook.



LOCAL OUTINGS AND ACTIVITIES FOR RESIDENTS



LIMITLESS CYCLING

We connected again this summer with our friends from Limitless Cycling at the nearby Courage-Kenny Rehabilitation Center in Stillwater for some great times on wheels. They offer rides one day a month from April through October and we came with residents, family members and caregivers.



4TH OF JULY PARADE

An annual tradition now, we found a spot on the street in front of the pink "Barbie House" in Hudson, Wisconsin to watch the parade. Like many other events, family members and other caregivers joined us as we dodged raindrops and waved at the parade.



SUE FEATURED CAREGIVER



Granite House is a great place to work, just ask Sue. She loves the fact that it's more than just a place to work, it's like a family, she says, and run like everyone is a

member of the family. She started out part-time while working at her former position as a CNA at an assisted living facility last spring, where she was doing a job she loved but was eager to become part of Granite House as a full-time PM caregiver. Since then, she's become a

valued member of the team, always pitching in when needed for extra shifts and any other tasks.

Sue was born in Milwaukee, WI and moved around growing up, having stayed in Minnesota since she was in the 6th grade. She has four brothers and lives with her mom and her dog Minnie, who comes to work with her, entertaining the residents and greeting visitors. Sue is a proud mom of four beautiful and successful daughters, one being our own Kaitlin, who is working casual hours in between her traveling Physical Therapist assignments. She adores being a Gramma to 2 boys and a girl and enjoys watching her kids and grandkids in their sports. Sue also loves

horses and dogs and watching football.

Sue found her way into healthcare by way of earlier jobs in home daycare and food service. She's worked as a Home Health Aide and Certified Nursing Assistant in assisted living, memory care, and transitional care roles, fully preparing her for the needs of our Granite House residents. She also has certification in Basic Life Support. The heartwarming story behind the start of Granite House inspires her to "...feel very lucky to be working in a field she loves, at a facility I very much love. I love working at and being a part of helping residents live the best life they can." We're all very fortunate to have such a cheerful, dedicated caregiver like Sue.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AT GRANITE HOUSE

For ten years, access to our beautiful hilltop home has managed with a long (100+ foot) gravel driveway. Starting with a new covered entry, complete with a lighted sidewalk and ramp, we now have a concrete apron for mud- and dust-free parking. Halverson Concrete Creations and Bristlin Construction Service started in July with the sidewalk and porch. The last step, in October, was the asphalt driveway, winding around to the upper entrance, creating a wheel-friendly playground and access to our wheelchair swing. Many thanks to Steve St. Claire at Miller Excavating, our Stagecoach Trail neighbors, for being great to work with during the asphalt driveway process. Steve took care of the excavating and backfilling work for the porch and driveway at no cost and negotiated a cost benefit from the asphalt material provider. The results are great!



New covered entry and sidewalk, with overhead lights to brighten up the entrance for the night shifts arrivals. Note the sidewalk ramp on the right for residents and deliveries.



Concrete parking area up to the new porch entry, and the asphalt driveway up to utility shed, pole barn and concrete pads for trash and recycling bins. No more muddy parking!



Asphalt driveway covers turnaround and access to wheelchair swing, plus easier parking to bring residents up to sidewalk off the upper porch. It creates a seamless surface for all-year use.



Upper turnaround provides a place to roll, ride and swing. Residents can use walkers, be moved around and get to the swing without getting muddy tires. A perfect playground!

NOTE FROM THE STAFF

It has been a busy summer with lots of fun activities with the residents. The improvements have been exciting and sometimes a challenge to work around, but it has all been worth it. It looks great and is helpful in so many ways. We love the lighted entry plus the smooth parking and wheelchair areas. A short but sincere THANK YOU to everyone who made these improvements possible: our donors, for supporting us and contributing to our capital fund; Tom Insley, for doing the design, planning and general contracting; and our contractors for doing such a great job and being sensitive to the comings and goings of the staff & families during the process. A special thanks to Maroney's Sanitation for working out the trash pickup during the asphalt installation.

Amber and Grace



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