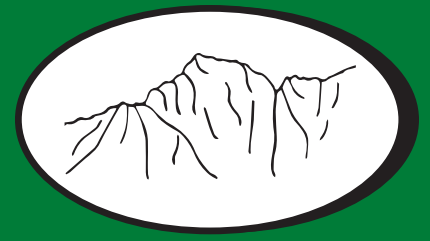


# GRANITE HOUSE

## DONOR NEWSLETTER

Spring 2025

For our donors, volunteers, and partners on our journey



### YOUR GIFTS AT WORK

#### JANUARY - DECEMBER 2024

After a decade as a nonprofit, we are revisualizing our donation report for the newsletter. Having passed our formative years, we are looking to the next decade of service. One aspect of gifting that we have never put in the context of a monetary value is the generous gifts of time donated to the effort. Our founders, board members, charitable groups, and individuals have donated the equivalent of \$1.8M dollars (looking at \$50/hr) over the past ten years. Donations of time, talent and treasure especially helped us through our startup years. Going forward we will include this volunteer time as a monetary component. We will also report on the yearly amounts rather than a cumulative.



As you read about our activities and services at Granite House, remember that all gifts stay within our program. Our board is volunteer and we are able to put everything back into maintaining and improving our programs for residents, staff and resident families. Your support over the past ten years has been appreciated and your belief in our mission has sustained and encouraged us.

### — FALL HOLIDAYS AT GRANITE HOUSE —



Starting with Halloween and going all the way through the New Year, we had a great 2024 holiday season. With our great staff and supportive and active family members, we had fun with costumes, special guests and new traditions. Our wonderful donors helped us provide these and many other programs for our residents and staff. Look inside for details and photos!

**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.



#### PUMPKINS, GOATS AND CORN

The staff enjoy bringing the residents to Country Sun Farms in Lake Elmo every year. We had a beautiful, warm day and some of the parents of the residents joined us in the fun. The best parts of every visit are the petting zoo—with the goats, sheep, chickens and cows—and rolling about in the corn pit. We looked all around and got up close to the giant scarecrow and the haunted house.

**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 2024

## PINNACLE DONORS

Kirk & Carla Dahl\*  
Tom & Carol Insley\*  
Linda & Dale Otteson\*  
Christy & Scott Sovereign\*  
John J. Sweeney\*

## SUMMIT DONORS

Stan Cernohaus\*  
Lou & Kathy Cristan\*  
Larry & Marcia Cutler\*  
John & Nora Foster\*  
Ed & Kathy Gorman\*  
David & Mary Hauch\*  
Mike & Laura Runge\*  
Kim Watson\*  
Anonymous\*

## PEAK DONORS

Deb Burandt\*  
Brad & Sharon Fong\*  
Lake Elmo Bank\*  
Glen & Libby Insley\*  
Tom & Betty Linker\*  
Adam Ranta\*  
Frank & Gladys Ritter\*  
Steve & Jennifer Rolf\*  
Perry Rhew & Terry Chasteen\*

## PLATEAU DONORS

Rick & Cathy Arnfelt\*  
BJ Baltz\*  
Laura Boegli\*  
Carolyn & Mark Briol\*  
Carla & Steven Jeschke\*  
Patricia Dunn-Walker\*  
Eckberg Lammers, PA\*  
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Lowell & Lety Gillette\*  
Lynn Grogan\*  
Mike & Corinna Harris\*  
Dan Kylo\*  
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Dean Remer\*  
Judith Resler\*  
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Dan Stark\*  
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Richard & Pat Thron\*  
Kristine Vick  
Jeff Virant\*  
Gary & Barb Wemeier\*  
Susan Wheelock\*  
Greg & Sylvia Zinn\*

## MEADOWS DONORS

Gary & Kathy Baribeau\*  
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Ray Getsug\*

Patricia Hagberg\*  
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Carol Marano\*  
Mary Oswald\*  
Bill & Paula Snyder\*  
Renee Stevens\*  
Bill & Sharon Totten\*

## FOOTHILLS DONORS

LeAnne Bjelle\*  
Bill & Nancy Callas\*  
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Dean Cody\*  
Cheryl Flynn\*  
Terri & Bob Gaffney\*  
John & Lori Gustafson\*  
Denise Hamp\*  
Judy & Bill Hauer  
Al & Shari Holcomb\*  
Vivian Hurley\*  
Greg & Diane Karp\*  
Roger & Judy Knutson\*  
Eloise Makj\*  
Anne & Mike McCausland\*  
D.W. & Eve Michael\*  
Sue Moriarity\*  
Lorraine Mortimer  
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Ardys & Tom Pertz\*  
Nancy Prince\*  
Bonnie & Jan Reyers\*  
Cherryl Rose\*  
Marilyn Schmidt\*  
Alan Sipinen\*  
Cathy & Jay Sleiter\*  
John Taft\*  
Manfred Tatzmann\*  
Pat & Dick Timmer\*  
Maureen Tumulty\*  
Nancy Waver\*  
Clyde & Nancy Rode

## THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

**Total for year: \$810**  
**Many thanks to these**  
**Thrivent Financial clients**  
**who designated Granite**  
**House for their Thrivent**  
**Choice Dollars in 2024:**

Dianne K. Brink\*  
Bonnie Kennett\*  
Cherryl Rose\*  
William Stoffregen\*  
Loretta Tobin\*

## COMPANY MATCHING FUNDS

3M\*  
US Bank\*

\*Repeat Donor

## TRIBUTE GIFTS

Gift by | In memory of  
Cathy & Rick Arnfelt

### 4 GIFTS

**Richard G. Brown**  
**Irvin Henry DeMotts**  
**Pam Jones**  
**Matthew Rolando**

BJ Baltz | 3 GIFTS

**Jane Bradford &**  
**Leonard Blackman**  
**John Michael Di Blasi**  
**Eleanor Grundman**

Lynn Grogan

**Peter Grogan**  
**Patricia Hagberg**  
**Richard & Aaron Insley**

Vivian Hurley

**Aaron Insley**

Tom & Carol Insley

**Richard & Aaron Insley**

Barbara Johnson

**Richard & Aaron Insley**

Tom & Betty Linker

**Richard & Aaron Insley**

Carol Marano

**Richard Insley**

Lorraine Mortimer

**Jeremiah Pike**

Helen Olson | 2 GIFTS

**Robert O. Olson**  
**Winnie Tegge**

Marilyn Schmidt

**Aaron Insley**

Maureen Tumulty

**Aaron Insley**

Susan Wheelock

**Kent Wheelock**

Greg & Sylvia Zinn

**Richard & Aaron Insley**

Anonymous

**Britta Nelson**

## TRIBUTE GIFTS

Gift by | In honor of  
Lynn Grogan | 2 GIFTS

**Judy & Creighton Ballard**  
**Friendship of**  
**Candy, BJ & Carol**

Deborah Burandt

**Jena**

Dan & Cheryl Flynn

**Jena**

Judy & Bill Hauer

**Jason**

Thomas & Janet Sellnow

**Jena**

## DONATIONS REVIEW

Jan – Dec 2024

**TOTAL DONATIONS: \$55,850**

**INDIVIDUAL DONORS: \$51,600**

**GRANTS: \$3,000**

**FAITH-BASED ORG: \$1,250**

We had a great response from our donors in 2024, with over 90% of these gifts from individual donors like you, along with grants from local businesses and churches. Not included in these numbers are many volunteer hours, explained on the front page of this newsletter. During our startup years we had a volunteer general contractor and a volunteer administrator and six other volunteer board members. Together we built and now maintain this special place. We'll be hiring out the winter driveway maintenance going forward, and moving staff benefit administration work to the managers. A volunteer will continue to do the newsletter and donor correspondence and facilitate the nonprofit.

## DONOR SUPPORTED EXPENSES

Donations funded our Resident Programs, which include our music, massage, and sensory programs, flowers for the gardens, special occasions for residents such as birthday and holiday celebrations, and our fabulous family and staff picnic. Outreach expenses to participate in events through the MN Brain Injury Alliance come from donor funds, as do some of the professional fees. Funds not used will go into a reserve fund, to be used for improvements that benefit residents and staff, such as our landscaping, and interior décor. This year we will use some donor funds to add a covered entry and an improved asphalt driveway. We've been eager to eliminate the dusty, muddy entry and soon everyone will enjoy it.

*Carol*

**DID YOU  
KNOW...**



All of our newsletters are  
in full color on our website  
under the NEWS tab!



*thank you!*





## FEATURED BOARD MEMBER & FOUNDER

### — LARRY CUTLER FEATURED BOARD MEMBER —



When Larry joined the Board in the spring of 2020, he was already a friend of Granite House. Having known founder Tom Insley since they started at 3M in 1982, they spent many years together backpacking in the Rockies and canoeing in the MN Boundary Waters. They made several winter trips to the BWCA, once at -35° temperatures.

A native of St. Joseph, MI, on the shores of Lake Michigan, Larry had the usual small-town jobs growing up and was active in school government, its newspaper, and quiz bowl team. Having earned a degree in Chemical

Engineering from the University of Notre Dame, Larry came to work for 3M and has since remained in Minnesota.

Larry worked for 3M in the Personal Care Division for 35 years with roles in Product Development, Sales, Technical Service, and Business Development. He traveled across the US and other world continents, always appreciating working with people of different backgrounds, viewpoints, and cultures.

Larry and his wife Muffy currently live in the Bryn Mawr neighborhood of Minneapolis, in a 1917 Sears catalog home. They enjoy seeing live music around the Twin Cities and share their home with Handsome Johnny, an energetic Yorkie-poo. They recently celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary and now spend much of their retirement time traveling, spending Januarys in Mexico. Larry's outdoor activities include gardening, biking, golfing and kayaking. He enjoys sharing holiday traditions with others including setting up a haunted yard at Halloween and creating an

annual Christmas playlist for friends.

The initial attraction to Granite House was through Larry's friendship with Tom and Carol, and seeing their sons grow up. He and Muffy are generous donors and volunteered during the construction process, also at the Walk for Thought. Even with no background in healthcare or non-profits, Larry had a desire to bring some business acumen and people management skills to the board. In this capacity, he has shown himself to be a good listener, asking probing and clarifying questions.

Larry finds Granite House to be "a unique and inspiring business built upon a foundation of love and care of those less fortunate, and the recognition of the importance of family involvement on the healing process". His vision for Granite House is to be a regional or nationwide model for similar facilities. He has recently become involved with another non-profit called Foothold Twin Cities who provide financial support to families in crisis.

### CATCHING UP WITH FOUNDER... ANNA BOHNEN



The last time we featured our Founder and charter Nursing Director was during the COVID-19 pandemic in the spring of 2020. Anna was at Granite House full-time, handling all the Nursing duties as well as the role of Compliance Officer and Executive Director for the nonprofit. Two years later, as Grace was ready to take over the Nursing Director responsibilities, Anna stepped back to concentrate

on her compliance work (as well as her new daughter), coming in periodically to conduct semi-annual internal audits for our licensing renewals. In 2023 she took on a new role at the MN Department of Health as a Nurse Surveyor within the health regulation division. She takes pride in helping improve the lives of vulnerable Minnesotans. Now that this has become a full-time position, she is leaving the compliance work at Granite House to Amber and Grace.

Anna and her husband Mark have three children and enjoy their time together. They recently took a 10-night cruise to multiple ports throughout the Caribbean which allowed quality time with their 11-yr-old and 3-yr-old daughters, and their 8-yr-old son.

Granite House would not be here if it had not been for Anna's involvement

early on. She started her health care career in 2010 as a caregiver for Tom and Carol's son Aaron in his home, leaving to begin nursing school. In May 2014, with her RN degree and a new baby, she approached Tom and Carol and suggested a group home for Aaron and others, offering to run it. Granite House was started that day.

Over the past ten years Anna has seen us through licensing, policies and procedures, hiring, inspections, and a pandemic. Her common-sense approach to caregiving helped the staff and managers to work with medical professionals in the community and set the high standards of care we now practice. We express deep thanks to Anna for her years of service and hope to continue to see her and her family at our staff & family picnic and special events.

### A PLACE FOR FAMILIES TO HEAL

When the founders of Granite House were imagining our mission and goals back in 2014, one phrase popped up, based on shared experiences with loved ones in traditional long-term care. The problem was not having privacy or an escape from the constant beeps and machines, or a place where more than one or two family members could gather to visit a patient. The phrase, **A PLACE FOR FAMILIES TO HEAL**, was always the intent, to build upon our mission which includes families of our residents. Over this past winter, we held two events that epitomize this slogan. The two gatherings of 24+ people at Granite House in a shared spirit of support and celebration for the place and mission that is Granite House was a joy to behold.



### BREAKFAST WITH SANTA, DEC. 20TH

Our second annual event with Santa was a big success. The parents of all four residents, along with aunts and cousins, sat in the Great Room at two long tables, sharing our wonderful waffles with Santa. The residents sat at the table with their families, and it looked like one big family gathering. The families got to know each other better and show their guests our beautifully decorated home. There were smiles, much laughter, and lots of photos taken with Santa. What a wonderful event, and many thanks to Santa and the staff for putting it all together. Tom made his homemade scratch Belgian waffles and locally made maple links, served with fresh berries and lots of whipped cream.

### BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION, DEC. 28TH

Katie enjoyed a big party with family and friends for her 50th birthday. Our lower-level therapy/activity room was the perfect place to host lunch and birthday cake for over 25 of her closest friends and family. The room was always planned to be available for gatherings, and with great birthday decorations it was festive. How great for Katie to just go downstairs in the elevator to her party instead of going outside in the cold!



### NOTE FROM THE STAFF

This year feels like a new start, with a new resident, some new staff, and new responsibilities. It's wonderful to have a full house again, and we're looking forward to our summer activities. The managers are adjusting their job descriptions as Anna steps back and Carol is turning over more of her duties. We enjoy being here with the families and staff, in addition to the staff dogs—Chloe on the AM shift and Minnie on the PM. Grace's baby Kash joins in on the fun too—note the Mini-Hulk on the front page. The large winter gathering with Santa was great fun and such a wonderful affirmation of why we do this work. Our thanks to our donors who make it possible for these great programs and our new driveway!

*Amber and Grace*

### CONTACT US

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

