

Who's Calling?

The Lord said to Abraham, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you.... So Abraham left, as the Lord had told him."
Genesis 12: 1-4.

Have you ever had the sense that God was asking you to do something that, with typical human thinking, didn't make much sense? And was just asking you to trust Him (and promised to bless you as you obeyed that call)? He does that sometimes, doesn't He!

Abraham experienced this. And this passage in Genesis 12 has been especially meaningful to me, several times in my life. Most recently I got a strong sense that God was asking me to leave a great job, without a clear plan for what would come next. I'm grateful that, this time at least, I listened and took that step of faith. A few months later, here I am sitting in the Director's chair at Georgetown Harmony Homes. It's not what I had imagined, but I'm thrilled to be here and thrilled at how God clearly has been working in His "mysterious ways" to bring about this change.

I'd be the first to admit that I'm not always such a good listener. But I'm encouraged to listen for God's call—sometimes in a whisper, sometimes in circumstances, sometimes in others' words—

and after carefully discerning whether this is from God, obeying wholeheartedly. I hope your ears and hearts are open to God's calling as well!

I truly am excited to be on board with this fine organization! From my very first conversation with a Board member, I've been impressed with the mission of Georgetown Harmony Homes, and with all the outstanding people associated with it: residents, their families, caring staff, dedicated board members, community partners, and a host of supporters. It is quite a team!

And many exciting things are happening here!

Our two existing homes are running well, thanks to Home Managers Brandon Folkert and Cara Kuiper and the staff that work evenings and weekends. Opportunities for residents to be involved in the community continue to grow, and a generous grant is allowing us to expand our C.O.R.E (Community Outreach through Resident Engagement) programming.



Thank You

I'm amazed at the efforts that have gone into events of recent months, and the wonderful results! The "Spring it Forward" Luncheon in May and the Golf Outing in August were significant community builders and operational fundraisers, each netting greater donations than any previous year. And Royal Technologies' Charity Walk in September raised both awareness and considerable support for GHH. It is very encouraging to the Board and staff that there are so many individuals, churches, and businesses that believe in the ministry of GHH, and support it so generously.

I also don't know what I'd do without Jill Pelak, who works with me here in the GHH office as our Marketing and Administrative Assistant. She is a wealth of information, skill, and energy. Along with doing her diverse job very well, she has been a tremendous support to me as I've been "learning the ropes!"

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Who's Calling continued...

The Board, staff, and many others have stepped up in so many ways in recent transitional months in that they have pursued God's call and continue to keep the vision of the organization alive and well: "To provide Christian home options for adults experiencing developmental disabilities."

I covet your prayers for Georgetown Harmony Homes, and for me as I begin as its Director. And I welcome your comments, questions, and suggestions. Feel free to email me at aopperwall@georgetownharmonyhomes.org, give me a call, or stop in at the office!

Art Opperwall
Executive Director



High Meadow Ground Breaking

Have you driven past our new home that is sprouting out of the ground on High Meadow? The groundbreaking celebration was on September 11, and the hope is that it will be ready to take six new women residents by early spring. A new men's home on the same street is anticipated to be ready several months later.



Many thanks to those who contributed to the capital campaign to enable GHH to double the number of residents it can serve! This also represents a step of faith for GHH, since there is a significant gap between our per resident cost and what each resident is expected to contribute, resulting in significantly greater fundraising needs as well.



2018 Charity Golf Classic a Success!

On Friday, August 17 GHH held its largest fundraiser of the year, the annual Charity Golf Classic at Glen Eagle Golf Club. Together we raised \$40,000 to further the mission of providing Christ-centered homes to adults experiencing disabilities. It was a huge success! The annual golf outing serves as the largest fundraising event of the year for GHH.

We also enjoyed a catered lunch which included pulled pork sandwiches, and prime rib. Golfers didn't go hungry!

The day of golf concluded with a dessert reception provided by Nothing Bundt Cakes and Distinctive Catering. We also announced the winners of the line auction, and raffle prizes which included Michigan and Michigan State game packages, a TV, restaurant gift cards, and many other fun prizes.

We would like to thank everyone that came out for a great day of golf, and our sponsors for their generous donations that helped make this day a success!



With Gratitude



Thank you **Royal Technologies** for your continued generosity! On September 7, Royal held a charity walk/run and car show to benefit three local organizations. GHH was grateful to be part of the event, that raised \$11,000 for GHH!



Amanda R., who is one of our weekend home care workers, blessed GHH by coordinating two volleyball tournaments over the course of two Saturdays in September. The events were a great success raising \$2,105! Thank you, Amanda, for sharing your time and talent!

Fairhaven Church organizes Youth Serve week every summer in June. They once again volunteered a day at GHH and completed service projects such as washing windows, pulling weeds, and cleaning the inside and outside of the van at both homes. Thank you Fairhaven for your continued support, and getting our local youth involved in serving!



We also want to thank our volunteers who do the grocery shopping on a weekly basis - Jessica S. at the women's home and Suzanne K. at the men's home.

To learn about current volunteer opportunities please e-mail: hello@georgetownharmonyhomes.org

C.O.R.E. Update

We have experienced significant benefits from our new relief staff that come in for the evening hours. Our residents can have more flexible schedules during the daytime as the home managers can help with some of the transportation. Because of our new staffing structure, we have been able to provide a lot of new opportunities through our C.O.R.E. (Community Outreach through Resident Engagement) Program.



We currently have a group of residents that volunteer at Cedar Church (our office location) every Monday afternoon. Also, some of the women volunteer at Love Inc. and Hillcrest CRC on Thursdays, and one of the men volunteers at Love, Inc. on Monday afternoons. Another bonus: our residents can exercise for a few days every week at the YMCA in Grandville! Our continued growth and partnerships in the community have made these additions to the GHH family possible!



For regular updates,
please like and follow us on FB!

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Georgetown Harmony Homes
is a 501(c)(3) organization.



Georgetown Harmony Homes
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Women's Home Update



Our Women had a fun and busy summer! One of the activities in which they participated was a service project to collect school supplies for local families in need. They volunteered their time on a Saturday purchasing needed supplies and brought them to YMCA. They also enjoyed going to parks and helping at our Charity Golf Classic held on August 17. Along with their summer activities, the home also received some updates. The women's home had new flooring installed throughout the house in June.

- Cara Kuiper, Women's Home Manager

Men's Home Update



We have had a busy summer here at the Men's home! Nearly all of the men have had a chance this summer to get away for vacation or summer camp (or both!). While they haven't been away from home, they've had a fun-filled summer of activities they love. Activities included Whitecaps games, bowling, going to the beach, campfire cookouts, mini-golfing, and maybe the favorite of all: going to the Unity Christian music festival in Muskegon!

- Brandon Folkert, Men's Home Manager