

## "She Did What She Could..." - Mark 14:8

**M**ary of Bethany loved her Lord. As an act of worship, she took her most valuable possession and anointed Jesus' head. Those around Jesus rebuked her for her decision, but Jesus said, "She has done a beautiful thing to me... She did what she could" (Mark 14:6,8). Like Mary, we are challenged to do what we can. God has given each of us talents and opportunities *to do what we can* each day for Him.

GHH is committed to providing daily opportunities for our residents *to do what they can*. Each Home Manager, along with the resident, family, and other supportive representatives, develops an individual plan that meets the needs and challenges of each of the residents. GHH wants our residents to have meaningful daily options in their community. Through these opportunities, the residents are doing what they can to serve God in their community.

## Where are the residents doing what they can?

### Our residents volunteer weekly at...

Love INC  
Revive  
Sunset Manor's  
Meals at Home



### Many of our residents work at jobs in our community...

Action Water Sports  
Meijer  
Family Fare  
Arby's



### Other residents attend CBI, YAS, MOKA, and IKUS many days each week learning life skills and being provided volunteer opportunities.



Georgetown Harmony Homes is grateful for the community opportunities that are enriching and enjoyable for each resident. These opportunities give them the ability to live up to their God-given potential to do what they can. Jesus would commend each of them for doing what they can to add great value to our neighborhood and community!

**We are so proud of them!**

# What can I do?



*"I can do all this through Christ who gives me strength." ~ Philippians 4:13*

As a young boy, I repeatedly heard my grandpa say to me and to others, **"Never say can't!"** He was born in the 1890's, fought and was injured in World War I, lost his factory job during the Great Depression while he and Grandma were raising 7 children, and was partially disabled by a stroke in his late 60's.

If anyone had a reason to adopt a fatalistic attitude, and to feel discouraged and overwhelmed by life's challenges, he did. But he had little patience for anyone saying "I can't" and giving up easily. He knew a few things about *trying, working hard, persevering, and having faith...faith in one's self that flows out of a faith in God.*

The theme of this newsletter is *doing what we can...* in God's strength. In Philippians 4, Paul talks about things he was able to do—rejoice always, focus on positives, be content regardless of circumstances—all through the power of Christ. And he certainly was not living a life of comfort and ease!

How often do we limit our vision and our impact in this world because we think we're out there alone, forgetting the power we have when we seek God's will and follow where He leads us?

My Grandpa's words and actions left an impression on me. There are many others who also inspire me with a "can-do" attitude:

- GHH residents who, despite their disabilities, are eager to learn, to contribute, and to bring joy to others
- GHH families who care not only for their own loved one, but who support all the residents and the ministry of GHH
- GHH staff who go the extra mile to care for and encourage residents
- Board members and other volunteers who willingly and joyfully serve countless hours
- Individuals, churches, businesses, and foundations who believe in what God is doing at GHH, and provide prayers and financial support that are so encouraging

What might God be calling you to? What might He be ready to equip and empower us to do, if we have open hearts and open hands?

In the last 10 months, Georgetown Harmony Homes has doubled in size and now has four homes and 24 residents. It has been an exciting and challenging year, and we can see the many ways God has provided, often in surprising ways.

Thank you for your support, and for believing in what God can do.

**What more might He want to do through you...through us together...in His strength?**



Art Opperwall,  
Executive Director

## GHH Board Update

We thank John Anderson and Ruth Schimmel, who recently completed their terms on the Board after many years of faithful service. And we're excited to have recently welcomed Cal Palmbo, Ralph VanderVeen, and Jordan Buning as new Board members. Each brings unique gifts and passions, and we're thankful for their willingness to serve! They join current Board members Adam Westmaas, Jennifer Kolenda, Tammy Schnyders, Lois Knooihuizen, Rick Kosla, Joe Smaby, and Tom Van Overloop.

## GHH Advisory Council

About a year ago, GHH developed a new entity to support the ministry of GHH through its members' special gifts, connections, and expertise. The Advisory Council members, individually and collectively, have proven to be of great help to the Board and staff as the organization continues to grow. Our thanks to the current members: Catherine Behrendt, Bob Brassler, Joanne Jesnek, Laura Koning, Jeff Patterson, Phil and Sheila Roach, Jordan VanderKolk, Dirk VanderSteen, and Ed Wiest.

## Legacy Gifts

We are so grateful to those who have let us know that they have named GHH in their will. It is very encouraging, and allows the Board to think and act more confidently and creatively!

Have you considered making a gift to GHH that would also have tax benefits?

Some examples include:

- ✓ Appreciated stock or marketable securities
- ✓ Real estate
- ✓ Business interests
- ✓ IRA Charitable Rollover (age 70.5+)
- ✓ Gifts from a will or trust

If you would like to consider or learn more about these options, please contact Art Opperwall at [aopperwall@georgetownharmonyhomes.org](mailto:aopperwall@georgetownharmonyhomes.org) or 616-226-3473.

## 10th Avenue Women's Home Update

The ladies of 10th Avenue are *doing what they can* in many different ways. The ladies volunteer weekly at Love INC helping to sort bags and prepare food at Hillcrest CRC for Love INC's budgeting class. They volunteered with the Hand2Hand program by making up food sacks for those in need. It is a great way to give what we have and use our talents to assemble something for others. Other residents spend time at day programs or their worksites using the gifts God has given them. The 10th Avenue women received a stanchion pole for their van from GHH. This pole has been a blessing to the ladies as it helps them into and out of the van more easily as they travel around the community.

-Cara Kuiper, 10th Avenue Women's Home Manager



## Sagerose Men's Home Update

At our home, we have seen the residents *doing what they can* in so many new and exciting ways! Many of our residents have been volunteering in the community, such as by helping sort clothing and other items at local missions, setting up for concerts and other events at their church, doing various jobs at the library, and even operating the scoreboard at a youth basketball league. One of the men recently said, "I like volunteering at Love INC (in Hudsonville) because I like being able to help other people." Within the home, they are constantly working at learning new life skills, such as helping prepare dinner or cleaning up the house. We look forward to seeing all the ways our residents can continue to do what they can to serve in the community and grow in God's kingdom.

-Brandon Folkert, Sagerose Men's Home Manager



## High Meadow Women's Home Update

Here at the High Meadow Women's home we have been taking advantage of the milder winter. We've enjoyed volleyball games, continuing our volunteering, and visiting Brody's Be Café in Ada. We have a few places we volunteer regularly during this part of the year, including Sunset's Meals at Home and Revive. We have thoroughly enjoyed our time delivering meals, and offering our time to people that, in some cases, don't live too far from us. Revive has us sort and hang clothes, and complete any other fun jobs they give us each week. We are thankful to the many church groups that come and play games with us. During our ten months of being a home, we have been thankful for the time we've been able to experience the joys of being in the community, and also opening our home to meet new people. We are all looking forward to what new things will come our way this year!



-Amanda Reitsma, High Meadow Women's Home Manager

## High Meadow Men's Home Update

The High Meadow Men's home now has all six residents moved in! The residents have had a wonderful time getting to know one another through playing games, sharing activities at the YMCA, and eating ice cream. The High Meadow Men have also enjoyed getting to know the staff who work in their home through asking questions, playing games, and baking together. Thank you to everyone who has prayed for us through this time of transition. We continue to ask for prayers as we continue to get to know each other!

-Alicia Overlander, High Meadow Men's Home Manager





For regular updates, please like and follow us on Facebook & Instagram!

Facebook: Georgetown Harmony Homes  
Instagram: georgetownharmonyhomes

Phone: 616-226-3473

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



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## Do we have your email?

We would love to stay in touch! We send out email newsletters monthly and would like you to be able to receive all our exciting updates. If you are not already receiving emails from us but would like to, please email [hello@georgetownharmonyhomes.org](mailto:hello@georgetownharmonyhomes.org) with your name and email address.



## Wishlist

- 2 Firepits
- Outdoor Furniture

As spring and summer are approaching quickly, our residents are eager to spend time outdoors. In order to make this happen for them, we are in need of outdoor furniture and fire pits for our two new homes. If you would like to make a donation, please contact us at [hello@georgetownharmonyhomes.org](mailto:hello@georgetownharmonyhomes.org).

## Upcoming Events

May 13, 2020  
Spring It Forward Lunch

August 21, 2020  
Charity Golf Classic

November 7, 2020  
Bowl-A-Thon

## Our community is doing what they can...

**J&H Oil (Mobil)** gave us a percentage of their earnings from Peace Tea being sold.

**Hawthorne Boutique** hosted a private shopping night where each shopper got 15% off their purchase, and the best part is that GHH Homes also received 15% earned from purchases as well.

**Hillcrest Gems and Searchlight** came to our women's homes to play games with our residents.

**Cottonwood Church** helped our homes do a Spring & Fall clean up.

**Jenison Christian School** had a pop can drive and donated their earnings to GHH.

**Hope PRC School** donated a collection to GHH.

**B2 Outlet Store** partnered with us so that we received 15% of the sale from anyone who mentioned GHH during checkout.

**Thank you to these and other great community partners!**