

# GHH News

Georgetown Harmony Homes • Spring 2022



Packing for Hand2Hand Ministries



Mealtime Devotions



Yardwork



Griffin's Game



Volunteering at Revive Resale Store

## It's Growing Season at GHH!

1 Peter 3:18 "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen."

The residents at Georgetown Harmony Homes are looking forward to spring - mostly because of the warmer weather and more outdoor activities. Spring brings a freshness to the air and new growth to God's creation, but growth is happening all the time at GHH—most notably among our residents!

We see residents growing:

- in their relationships with their housemates and staff...their second "family";
- in their daily living skills...taking care of themselves and their home;
- in their faith...experiencing God through prayer, activities, and caring staff;
- and in their contributions to the community...did you know that 50% of our residents hold jobs in the community, and nearly all of them volunteer?



House Cleaning



Special Needs Christian Summer Camp Week



Bridal Shower



Hudsonville Fair



Baking



Food Prep



Dune Rides



Working at Meijer



Everett's Garden

Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."



# A Rich History and a Promising Future

## Some Personal Reflections



Art Opperwall,  
Executive Director

If I may borrow an expression from a friend, I—like he—plan to “rewire” this year. No, that’s not a typo. Retirement for some implies the end of all work. The word “rewirement” can imply change and evolution in a new chapter.

Some of you might recall that I thought I had retired about 4 years ago. But God seemed to have wired me in just such a way that, when I was invited to consider this position at GHH, it was clear that He was calling me to a new challenge and opportunity.

I can take credit for very little that has happened at GHH in the last three and a half years. Nearly every good thing that has happened has been by the grace of God, and through teamwork, and with the incredible support of this community.

I’ve had the honor of getting to know a number of the founders of GHH. What amazing, visionary people! I watched as an empty lot erupted into a beautiful home—and then it happened again! I experienced a dozen special individuals grow to be members of a new, larger family—including all the joys and challenges of living together. Over 50 new staff have been hired, and I’ve seen them navigate that role of being an authority figure, and a friend, and an encourager to residents—while growing themselves.

I’ve witnessed a community that heartily embraces our men and women, providing meaningful relationships and experiences. And supporters who generously give of their time, treasure and talent. And individuals, churches, businesses, and foundations who believe in our mission, and who bless us with the financial means to do what God is calling us to do.

As of this writing, my last day at GHH has not been determined. I do not know how God will use me in this next chapter of my life. There may also be some uncertainty about exactly what God has planned for GHH in the coming months and years.

But I’m not worried about me, and I’m not worried about GHH. For many years, Jeremiah 29:11 has been a favorite verse and a great comfort: “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

No, I’m excited about my “rewirement.” And I’m excited and very hopeful about GHH’s future, knowing that we are in God’s good hands.

## Strategic Planning Update

Since our last newsletter, information gathered from our families, staff, the Board and supporters has been organized and prioritized. As we contemplate the long-term future, we aspire to continue to serve more adults seeking a similar residential experience. However, there are numerous efforts we need to continue to work through to equip this organization for future expansion. These initial efforts include clarifying our mission and vision, developing an intentional presence in the community, continuing to identify opportunities for our residents to be engaged with our community, increasing the number of compassionate in-home staff, and anticipating a full continuum of care needs as well as where and how GHH can be an appropriate resource.

We covet your prayers and support as we take our next steps. We’re thankful we’ve been called to this season to be intentional about our efforts. We celebrate the original intent of this organization and we look forward to further its impact.

- Jordan Buning and Mike Smith,  
Strategic Planning Chairmen



## GHH PERSON OF THE MONTH

November

### **Cottonwood Church Volunteers**

Spring and Fall clean-up for many years

December

### **Amanda Reitsma**

Home Manager and 6+ year employee

January

### **Ralph and Cindy VanderVeen**

Volunteers, Board Member and Facilities Team

February

### **Deb Engelsma**

Resident Living Assistant and volunteer

March

### **Alicia Overlander**

Home Manager and 4 year employee

## 10th Avenue Women's Home Update

The ladies of 10th Ave have been enjoying some well needed updates done to the home the last few months. The upstairs shower received a new door and the home-side furnace was replaced with a new one. We were also able to benefit from grant funding for new furniture downstairs in the basement sitting area. We are enjoying the new look and feel of the furniture. The furniture is a great upgrade to what was down there and makes the area inviting when you come down the steps. There have already been a few of us that took naps in the recliners!! We are very appreciative of the repairs that have happened and the new items that we have in the home!



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

## Sagerose Men's Home Update

As the new home manager at the Sagerose Men's Home since the beginning of February, I am slowly easing into my new role as part of the vital ministry of Georgetown Harmony Homes. Created in the image of God, the men at Sagerose are an integral part of my transition. They have welcomed me into their home with open arms and love. When they are assigned daily chores, they perform their tasks with automatic precision. While I am driving them in the van, they carry on conversations that allow us to have teachable moments. I still have much to learn as a home manager, but I have a family of brothers who can teach me as much as I can teach them, to the glory of God.



- Kevin Schnyders, Sagerose Men's Home Manager

## High Meadow Women's Home Update

At High Meadow Women's Home, we have been experiencing lots of changes in welcoming two new residents in the last month. We are enjoying the new friendships that are being made. This winter we have enjoyed our bowling league, baking, getting involved in meal preparation and cleaning. We are excited about some of the warmer weather we have been seeing and look forward to the activities and fun spring will bring! We have lots to be thankful for here and are looking forward to what the new year will continue to bring!



- Amanda Reitsma, High Meadow Women's Home Manager

## High Meadow Men's Home Update

The High Meadow Men's Home has officially been open for two years! Over the past year, we have enjoyed attending sporting events (specifically: Whitecaps, GR Gold, and Griffins games), growing together, and getting used to a new 'normal.' The guys have loved being part of Special Ministries and the bowling team, both of which were canceled last year. In addition to the new activities, we continue to volunteer with Sunset Manor delivering meals in our community, visiting dogs at the Barking Boutique, and going to the YMCA. We have enjoyed this winter season, but we are all looking forward to warmer weather!



-Alicia Overlander, High Meadow Men's Home Manager

# Upcoming GHH Fundraisers



Our Spring it Forward Luncheon event is back! The 2022 luncheon will be held on Wednesday, April 27 at the Grandville Banquet Center. (Please note the April date instead of May). The luncheon will be catered by Distinctive Catering. You can support our Spring it Forward Luncheon by purchasing tickets, being a

business sponsor, or by donating gift cards or other items for our auction. Sponsorships and tickets are available through our website. You can also view and print the brochure at [www.georgetownharmonyhomes.org/event-registration/spring-it-forward](http://www.georgetownharmonyhomes.org/event-registration/spring-it-forward)



Come join us for our 2nd annual GHH 5K Run/Walk-a-thon! This fun event will be held on Saturday, June 4, 2022 at Heritage Christian School in Hudsonville. Registration begins at 8:15am and the run/walk begins at 9am. Go to our website to register online or print a pledge sheet to mail into the office. Register by May 14 to receive a free t-shirt. Hope to see you there!

[www.georgetownharmonyhomes.org/5k-run-walkathon](http://www.georgetownharmonyhomes.org/5k-run-walkathon)

*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 of 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.



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

Facebook: Georgetown Harmony Homes  
Instagram: [georgetownharmonyhomes](https://www.instagram.com/georgetownharmonyhomes)

Phone: 616-226-3473  
Web: [www.georgetownharmonyhomes.org](http://www.georgetownharmonyhomes.org)

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



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## Employment Opportunities



Employment at Harmony Homes is far more than a job. Our staff believes in the words found in I Peter 4:11b, "... If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ..."

Our staff encourages personal growth that creates reciprocal relationships, assists our residents to engage meaningfully in our community, and fosters an understanding that all people are created in the image of God and therefore own inherent value and worth. Our residents experience their house to be a place that each can call "home." We have fun. We laugh. We cry. We solve problems. We collaborate. We encourage. We teach. We create. We imagine. We explore. We look to God our Creator and thank Him for his goodness, faithfulness, and love.

### Executive Director

With Art's upcoming retirement, GHH is seeking passionate and qualified candidates for the position of Executive Director. The GHH Executive Director is responsible to promote the mission, vision, and goals of the organization; develop and maintain positive relationships within and outside the organization; supervise day to day operations; and collaborate with the Board of Directors and the various teams to accomplish the mission of GHH. This is a salaried position, with hours between 24 and 40 per week depending on interests and experience of the candidate selected.

If you would like to explore joining the GHH team in this exciting position, please go to [www.georgetownharmonyhomes.org/employment-opportunities/](http://www.georgetownharmonyhomes.org/employment-opportunities/) for the full job description and application, or contact any board member.

### Resident Living Assistants

If you're looking for a rewarding position caring for and serving adults with disabilities, we would love to talk with you! We have an urgent need for both full-time and part-time members to work in our homes. Weekend and evening shifts are available. We are seeking individuals who are motivated to serve, and who have a heart for disability ministry. You must be at least 18 years of age. Training and competitive wages provided.

If you would like to explore joining the GHH team in this exciting position, please go to [www.georgetownharmonyhomes.org/employment-opportunities/](http://www.georgetownharmonyhomes.org/employment-opportunities/) for the full job description and application.