

"...I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10



### ***There is still a seat at the table for YOU!***

The HHM  
***Spring Celebration Dinner***  
is making a comeback!

Join us on  
Tuesday, May 9, 2023  
6:00 pm  
at the  
Pinnacle Center of  
Hudsonville

RSVP online at  
[www.harborhouseministries.org/  
events/](http://www.harborhouseministries.org/events/)

Or call Rachael at  
616-797-0810

***2022 Harbor House  
Ministries' Impact Report  
is Now available.***

View it on our website under  
About/Communications  
or call to request a copy  
616-797-0810

### ***From the Director's Desk***

The fabric of life. Do you ever think about it? I'm not talking about the catchy tune in the commercials for cotton. I'm talking about fabric rich with various threads of different hues, textures and thicknesses that, when woven together, make up our individual existence.

We spend a lot of time thinking about the fabric of life at Harbor House. What thread makes my life full? What thread of life am I missing? Which do I enjoy the most and want more of? How can I add new textures and patterns to this fabric that is my life?

At Harbor House, just like at your house, each person's life is a unique creation. No fabric looks exactly alike. The threads that make up that tapestry include individual activities, goals, interests, passions and aversions. Mary might love to dance and sing at full volume while Frank craves quiet reflection and blissful solitude.

The challenge in community living is to weave individual fabrics that include some common threads along with unique ones.

For the people who live at Harbor House, daily life is a mix of communal experience and lone exploration. Each person determines the thickness and patterns in how these threads are woven together to create the masterpiece that is their daily experience.

In any fabric, every stitch and every thread serves a purpose. Each comes together to strengthen the whole piece.



If you are a part of Harbor House Ministries, your engagement through time, talents or treasure are woven into the fabric of so many lives here.

Thank you for being a part of our fabric. May we continue to weave together to shape and change and create a beautiful tapestry.

by Peggy Driesenga



## *Celebrating every day!*

At Harbor House, we talk about *living abundantly*. That is, celebrating life and living it fully with joy, purpose, service, and worship.

Over the winter, that meant experiencing things like welcoming the snow, coffee dates, volunteering, helping in the kitchen, and even a bowling trip or other fun outing.

Every day has been a celebration of an enriched, abundant life!

**Many wellness activities are funded outside of the scope of insurance coverages. THANK YOU for contributing to make them possible!**



People who genuinely love our daughter and want to make her as comfortable as possible are meeting her needs in an excellent and caring way. We feel that we have gained a new larger extended family in the Harbor House staff and the families of the other residents.”

(guardian comment)

## Collaborating to Professionalize the Direct Care Field

Harbor House Ministries is proud to congratulate four staff members who completed the first ever Direct Support Professional Certificate program at Grand Rapids Community College.

The pilot program is a collaborative effort between Harbor House Ministries, Benjamin's Hope, Heritage Homes, and MOKA Homes along with GRCC and Ottawa County Community Mental Health.

The Direct Support Professional (DSP) Certificate Program enables graduates to enter the direct care field ready to meet the needs of adults with mental illness or developmental differences. The shared effort will also promote new sources of recruitment into the field.



**Congratulations Graduates!**

As the Direct Care staffing crisis continues, the GRCC certificate program offers one way to grow the number of people planning a career in Behavioral Health. The program also provides a deeper understanding of best practices in assisting people with behavioral health needs.

## Good Giving vs GREAT Giving IRA Distributions

**Bedankt, dankje, merci, gracias and thank you! Regardless of how you say it, we are very appreciative of your ongoing support of Harbor House.**

In our last issue, we discussed giving appreciated stocks to avoid capital gains tax. This time, we encourage those of you who are over 70 ½ to consider making all of your charitable giving through your IRA accounts.

By transferring funds directly from your IRA to Harbor House (or any of your other charities), you avoid Federal and State INCOME tax, AND the distribution does not affect the taxability of your Social Security retirement benefits! Talk about a TRIFECTA!

As always, please talk to your tax advisor about the best ways to achieve your charitable giving.

by Ken Puzycki, HHM Board Member

## Volunteer Corner

Meet Maya (aka Marie Elizabeth) Warners – Volunteer Extraordinaire!

Maya's "job" is to help monitor the pool at the Cove where she watches over the residents and encourages them to keep trying.



She keeps the area tidy, disinfects the equipment, and preps the shower area for after swim care. And then she sits down to visit with those in her care—a highlight in everyone's day.

Maya adds a unique ability to predict the needs of others and step into those needs in very relational ways. When she senses that someone is struggling, she pulls them aside for an encouraging word and an ear of understanding. Her objectivity and life experience allow her to see a bigger picture of care.

That picture includes a demonstration of Christ's compassion. Maya shares that these relationships keep her in a humble and thankful place--aware that even the ability to scratch an itch is not to be taken for granted.

**We have a place for YOU to be a volunteer! Go to the HHM website for more information.**

*Join our team!*

Work at making  
friends for life!  
Apply using the QR  
Code below



*Volunteer!*

There's a place for YOU at  
HHM.  
Apply using the QR code  
below.



*Support our efforts!*

This QR Code  
will take you to  
our online donation  
page.

