



Harbor House

MINISTRIES

Fall 2024

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



Mark your Calendars!

FALL FESTIVAL
on the HHM Campus
September 21
4:30 - 7pm

CELEBRATION WORSHIP SERVICE
At Fairway CRC
October 13
2 to 3 pm

Find more information online at
[www.harborhouseministries.org](http://www.harborhouseministries.org/events/)
/events/

Or call Rachael at
616-797-0810

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From the Director's Desk

Don't you love looking at family photo albums? It offers a wonderful taste of nostalgia—from a "what was I thinking?" look at bygone fashions and hairstyles to "I am so grateful for..." as we remember those we love on both sides of heaven.

Our 20th Anniversary year has been a time to remember and celebrate the people, the love, the lessons, and the beauty God has created through Harbor House Ministries.

I think of the first families who gathered on the front porch as they cut the ribbon on our first home—Pier Place. Their stories are bittersweet. While they were excited for their son/daughter to have a new community with more people to love and to learn from, they also said it was hard to let go and trust others. The same has been true for each new housemate who moves into Harbor House.



Harbor House welcomes its first families in 2004

In each family that joins *this* family, we witness a settling into new routines and different opportunities to engage with others. There is movement from anxiety toward joy found in the abundant life of this community of care.

It has been such a privilege to connect, share these memories and create new ones with families, facilities staff, caregivers, volunteers, and supporters from the last two decades who make this ministry possible.

All of our celebrations have been connected by a common thread: *tremendous gratitude* for all those who have built Harbor House and those who continue the work as we look to the next two decades.



As you experience life at Harbor House through the pictures in these pages, please join us in praising God for what He has done and continues to do in and through this ministry.

Then, join us on October 13 as we offer our thanks in worship. (See details at www.harborhouseministries.org.)

by Peggy Driesenga

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Celebrating 20 Years!

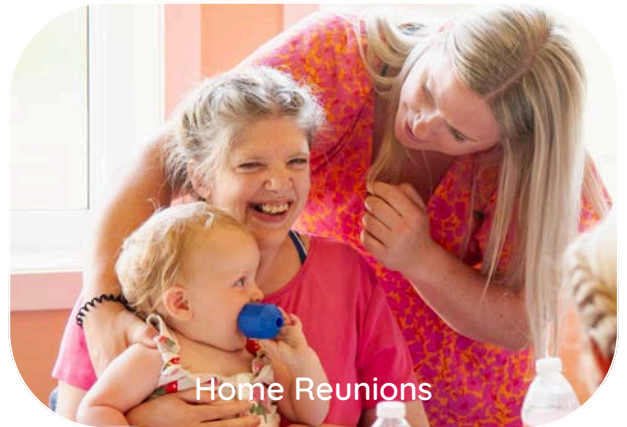
Two of our founding members recounted this spring how more than 20 years ago they listened as family after family told how desperately they needed a place like Harbor House where their adult children could receive loving care and be a part of a bigger community. They recalled how they felt the Lord leading them to do something about meeting that need, recognizing the need for their own child as well as those who were waiting.



Facilities Reunion



Spring Celebration Dinner



Home Reunions



Volunteer's Reunion



All Abilities Red Carpet Dance



Past and Present Staff Reconnect

“We had forgotten how wonderful it is to gather with our extended family! Thanks for the chance to reconnect.”

We have only just begun to meet the needs of this particular community. Every week we meet new families who are desperately seeking services like those at Harbor House. The Board of Directors at Harbor House Ministries is asking, “How would God have us step into this need in the future?”

Please pray with us for discernment of where the Lord would lead us next in the mission to journey alongside men and women with profound developmental disabilities and their families.

Celebrating every day!

For 20 years, Harbor House has been *living abundantly*.
That is, celebrating life and living it fully with joy, purpose, service, and worship.
We thank God for the joys we experience in each day!



"I have experienced so many wonderful happenings with each resident, but one that sticks out is when I took a resident out to go through the sprinklers. I helped her stand up and we walked through the grass while the sprinkler soaked us both. We laughed and laughed. The outfit change that followed was so worth it on a hot summer day!"

(staff comment)

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