

HARBOR HOUSE MINISTRIES

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF ABUNDANT LIFE
2024



How it all began

In 1995, God touched my heart at a meeting in Eastmanville, Michigan where they were talking about opportunities for individuals with disabilities. Scott and I thought we would attend to see what was available for our son. We didn't realize the meeting was about housing opportunities.

Our son, Tyler, was 13 at the time. We always thought we would be the ones to care for him, so this meeting didn't seem like it was for us.

We were surprised to hear that there was little or no option for long-term care for those with severe, multiple impairments. Many families left that night feeling very disappointed because they needed a place—and they needed it yesterday. My heart was so heavy that it ached for them.

Little did I know that this meeting in 1995 was the start of Gods' wonderful plan.

The Holy Spirit was prompting me. After many months of being bothered by this, I went to Holland to visit two care facilities—My Brother's House and My Sister's House—where I talked to various people who were doing this work. They affirmed the need.

In 1997, I was talking to Diane VanderWest who pointed me to Chuck Schipper. She said that he had a daughter who went to Ottawa Access Center (OAC). He was also the president of Oakcrest Manors (a nursing care facility). Perhaps he would know something about starting up a home that would provide long-term care for those with disabilities.

I wrestled with contacting him until 1999. I called Chuck. At first, he wasn't going to take my call. He didn't know me. When his secretary told him I had a son at OAC he took the call. A week later, Chuck and Kathy, came to our house. We talked about our families and what God had laid on our hearts. They were on board!

In January of 2000—five years after God touched my heart—we held our first meeting in our living room with some family and friends. We hoped to share our vision and come up with a name. Since our previous church (Fair Haven) wasn't using the name Harbor House for their old youth building anymore, they let us use it. Harbor—a safe place. Harbor House—a refuge for individuals with severe disabilities.

Scott and Joy Wondergem
Co-founders
Former Board Member (Scott)



Built over time

2000 – Families come together to develop a vision where individuals with profound disabilities could receive care and be actively involved in their community.

2001 - A plan began to build three homes debt-free and land is secured.

2003 - Ground is broken on 44th street for the first home.

2004 – Pier Place opens and 12 people moved in to their new home.

2006 – Beacon Place is built and becomes home to 12 more people.

2008 – Anchor Place is completed and 12 more people join the Harbor House family.

2010 – The Cove is built to offer therapies and activities outside of the homes.

2011 - Random Acts of Kindness begin in service of our community.

2014 - Harbor House begins advocacy efforts to support a wide array of housing and care options for people with developmental disabilities.

Over time, Harbor House has developed multiple community programs and collaborated with community partners to enhance the options and opportunities available for adults with developmental disabilities.

To date, Harbor House has served over 60 individuals and their families, has been staffed by over 1000 dedicated and gifted individuals, has mentored the development of several other organizations, and is supported by a community that cares.



Think Bigger

One of my earliest memories of HHM goes back to before we even opened our first building. A group of parents and Board members had been meeting for about a year and had decided we wanted to find land to build a six bed home.

As we went down this path we eventually faced some unexpected obstacles which resulted in missing out on what we thought was the ideal property.

Once this door was closed, another one opened that would involve the eventual construction of homes for 36 individuals.

This taught us early on to “think bigger” and trust God to bless this ministry. This trust has been the foundation for the success of HHM for these twenty years of operation.

Chuck Schipper
Co-founder
Board Member



Going Strong

It has not been easy to capture how beautiful and exciting it was to participate in the early beginnings of Harbor House Ministries (HHM).

Those that dreamed about housing and care for those living with severe, multiple disabilities were passionate about excellence in developing a debt-free assisted living facility that could become home.

Designing logos and letterhead, developing policies and procedures, working with Community Mental Health in multiple counties, working with the State of Michigan for adult foster care licensing, the parents, staff, families and friends all faithfully utilized the gifts God gave them.

They faithfully used their respective skills and knowledge to develop a Christian, loving home. Providing this housing development has met a significant need within the community.

It was an honor to be a part of its start up and witnessing the prayer, love and care that went into the design and decor of the buildings; providing peace of mind to other parents and families through safe and secure care.

I drive past HHM frequently and love seeing the cars, the building, and the Cove. What really warms my heart is seeing the HHM vans out in the community. Going strong. Twenty years later faithfully serving God and families.

Deb Goebel
Administrative Consultant



Harbor
House
MINISTRIES

Live Abundantly

Families blessed

The extra mile

Harbor House Ministries has been such a blessing for Kevin and for our family. Little did we know when we began meeting in 2000 with some other families of special needs children what Harbor House Ministries would become.

Kevin moved into the first building in 2004. He was the last resident to move into Pier Place. This move was not an easy change for him or for our family. The love and care of the staff at Harbor House was huge in helping Kevin make the transition. We would've never been able to do this without the encouragement of such a great staff who were loving Kevin for who he is.

We have always appreciated the staff for the love and care they have given Kevin and the other residents. Kevin's life has been enriched living at Harbor House. They have taken him fishing, blueberry picking, to parades and shopping just to name a few. They are always willing to go the extra mile for the residents. Kevin is excited to come home on Sundays to spend the day with family and it is very reassuring to see him get just as excited on the ride back to Harbor House.

We thank God for Harbor House and the staff for the blessing they have been for Kevin and our family.

Rick & Diane VanderWest
Parents
Former Board Member (Rick)



Loving care

Harbor House Executive Director Jean MacDonald called one day while I was teaching and asked the question, “Do you want a room for Nicole?” The whole world tilted at that moment. Mark and I knew that for the sake of our other children and to give the best possible future for Nicole, our answer would be “yes!”

To this day moving our medically fragile daughter from our care to the care of people we were just meeting was one of the hardest things I’ve ever done.

Two days after Nicole moved in, Joy Wondergem stopped in to see how we were doing. She let me cry on her shoulder which was the best gift Joy could have possibly given at that time. Having someone listen who has walked this road helped tremendously, and I can testify that Joy is the reason that Nicole stayed at Harbor House that day.

What a gift Harbor House has been in Nicole’s life and in the life of our family! Words can hardly express our deep gratitude for the loving care that Nicole has received all of these years. Nicole has complex medical needs, and the home supervisors and resident aides have always risen to the challenges and provided the care that Nicole needs around the clock.

Not only that, they are helping Nicole to have the best quality of life that she can with fun activities and interactions with residents and staff members and community members.

Nicole always has friends close by when she needs them, and she has her beautiful room where she can retreat when she wants to be alone.

Since mid-December 2023, Nicole has lived at Harbor House more days than she lived with us. What an amazing testimony to the excellent care that Nicole receives at Harbor House—especially for someone who was given a two-day life expectancy at birth!

God has blessed us in so many ways through our beautiful daughter Nicole, and Nicole has taught us so much about what is important in life.

We are so grateful to God for Nicole’s life and that she is part of our family, and we thank God for the amazing staff of Harbor House who give Nicole the support that she needs to thrive each day.



Mark and Bev Stephenson
Parents

Home

In 2005, my wife, Karen, was battling breast cancer. Caring for David on top of her personal battle was more than any one person could handle. But God had a provision on the horizon.

In 2005 David became a resident at Harbor House. Being one of over 40 applicants for a 12-bed facility made it clear that God had his hand of protection over the family. We felt blessed beyond measure to have found a Christian home for our son.

Shortly after David settled into his private room at Harbor House, he celebrated a holiday at our home. David expressed he wanted to go home. We said, "You are home." David continued to stress the point that he wanted to go home. Finally, we realized he was referring to Harbor House as home. It was the confirmation everyone needed that David was happy and thriving in his new environment.

Over the years, Harbor House continues to be a blessing in so many ways. From the caring staff to the daily activities to keep him active. The residents of the home have become his family. David gets to live his best life and have people around him every day that love him for who God made him to be. We have been able to volunteer and visit David whenever we choose. It has been important to the family to remain active in David's life and help Harbor House grow to be a blessing to others.

Harvey Hansen
Parent



Faith stretched

Twenty years ago we were made aware of a group of individuals building quality, Christ-centered housing for young people with disabilities. They saw a need and set out to create the ideal situation for these adults to have their own space and to thrive.

Well, our son Jonathan *had* his own space at our home and we took care of him and his needs with all of our love.

However, we were compelled to visit Harbor House. We listened, asked questions, and listened some more. After much prayer, we knew deep down that this would be a great place for Jon.

The first day he came to live at Harbor House was one of the saddest days for us, yet we watched in amazement as he was completely at home and enjoying this new home from the start. It was like he knew this was where he should be.

The staff has goals tailored specifically for Jon and they patiently work with him so that he has grown in his abilities to accomplish more than we ever thought he could. They keeps us involved and updated and are proactive on any issues. They feel like part of our family!

Both the indoor and outside areas at Harbor House accommodate Jon in so many ways. He loves being at the Cove, being in the pool, and just being and playing outside in the summer. He enjoys the activities, food, people and always always always being spoiled.

When we take Jon back to our home for visits, he is always eager to return back to Harbor House.

Harbor House has stretched our faith, knowing God has provided this "exceedingly, abundantly above all that we could ask or think" gift from Him. We are thankful to Him and to all who participate in some way to provide for Harbor House. We are so blessed!

Jack and Kathy Phillips
Parents



His best life

Our family always imagined that our sweet Justin would live at home. As his time at Ottawa Area Center ended, it became clear that life at home would be hard. He would miss the interaction with friends, joyful activities, and an active life suited to him.

We fought hard for a placement for Justin, but when the time came to move in, we were filled with misgivings. How could he be cared for in the same way he had lived happily for 26 years. I still remember how carefully HHM worked to mimic his daily routine. Soon the staff knew what made him laugh, what his strengths were and how to make him happy. His family watched as he adjusted and learned the joy of living in a community of friends.

Life became filled with fun activities, special days and the team learned that he loved toilet flushing and trash. They worked to help him live his best life. Our favorite day for Justin was the time he went to VanAndel Arena. The team took him to the men's room and flushed every toilet in the place. Justin was filled with glee and laughter.

We've learned that Justin has a fulfilling adult life that is the best it can possibly be. We wouldn't want it any other way.

We are grateful for the leadership team that has driven high standards through the years.

We revel in the activities of The Cove.

We love the housekeeping and maintenance teams that create a great environment

And we are thrilled with the people that know Justin so well, keep him happy, and surround him with love.

Leslie Brown
Parent
Board Member



God's timing

Allison was the second person to move into Harbor House. Tyler came in the morning and Allison joined in the afternoon. Probably enough for the first day.

God's timing on this major change in our lives was truly amazing. Allison was 25 and had been living with us at home all those years. She was severely, multiply impaired so her care was much like that of an infant.

At age 24 a serious medical complication occurred. Without going into too much detail, this very quickly became an unsustainable care situation for our family. With help from friends, neighbors, and church as well as excellent medical support we were able to get her mostly stabilized.

At about the same time we heard of the progress in the development of Harbor House. Mary was invited to a Mom's lunch at Ottawa Area Center and decided to go even though Allison was still having difficulties. She sat next to Joy and learned that Harbor House would soon be taking applications.

We applied, were interviewed and accepted by Harbor House. We were excited and, along with the other parents of the residents, got involved in cleaning up after the construction folks and preparing the assigned rooms for our children. We were allowed to decorate and furnish the rooms to fit our tastes and the needs of our children. It was an exciting time for the staff, parents, and everyone involved.

We visited often. It was difficult to give up Allison's care when she had been such a major factor in our lives. When we went to visit Allison, we really were just mostly hanging out with the staff. We got to know them, they got to know us, and we could help them learn about Allison's unique behaviors. We could also share Mary's chocolate chip cookies which seemed to disappear quickly.

When Allison developed other complications, the HHM staff was amazing. They came alone or in small groups as their shifts allowed and visited in a continuous chain. After awhile, the security guards just assumed it was another visitor for Allison. They shared many wonderful words about how much they loved her. This was what made Harbor House so special to us.

Proverbs 3: 5-6. "This is God speaking. I will be handling all your problems today. I will not need your worry...only your trust. So have a good day."

Curt and Mary DeJongh
Parents
Former Board Member (Curt)



After us

Still clear in my mind 43 years later is the birth of our daughter Tara. During the two weeks she spent in NICU the news from the doctors was grim. We were told she would be profoundly cognitively and physically disabled. She would never walk, nor talk, nor learn. To make things worse, she had frequent grand mal seizures. We were a young couple, and the implications of Tara's injury rocked us.

Happily she somewhat exceeded the doctor's predictions. Looking back, Tara's life has, in many ways, been a blessing in ours. We enjoy and love her!

From the beginning, the thought crept into the back of our minds, "What happens to Tara AFTER US?" The big AFTER US got louder and louder and filled our conversations and prayers. Our inevitable aging and health issues were taking a toll. We did our homework and were bold. As the years then decades went by, we were floundering in finding a place for Tara. The bottom line was, would we ever let our sweet Tara be in someone else's hands?

As our retirement loomed in 2017, Tara's Uncle Joe gave us a call and said, "Check out this place—Harbor House Ministries—for the developmentally disabled." When we were given a tour, we were impressed with the warmth and friendly greetings of the HHM staff. I was particularly impressed with the Christian moorings and mission, stability of core staff, and how administrative offices were located and divided between each of the three homes—intimate to the residents and not blocks or miles away. Also, Tara always loved the water and her dad was elated to see the residents swimming pool in the Cove. We learned of Harbor House's busy activity life and regular outings for the residents.

We were sold on Harbor House and filled out an application for Tara. We knew that openings among Harbor House's 36 slots were rare.

Unexpectedly, November 2023 we got a call from Tara's case manager, Alanna. She said, "Are you sitting down? There is an opening at Harbor House, and an invitation is being extended to Tara." I turned and shared the information with Tara's dad, John, and we both immediately started crying with our faces on the kitchen table. The floodgates opened with a mixture of relief and sadness at the prospect of Tara leaving.

Tara moved into her new home at Harbor House on Valentine's Day 2023. The month prior we decorated Tara's newly painted room, brought furniture and arranged her room just so. The activity was cathartic for us.

There has been a learning curve for us, and perhaps for staff as they've taken care of Tara. We have suffered with a lot of empty nest syndrome at home as we find our new normal. During those early months we saw distress on Tara's face when we would leave her after a visit. But a year later when we leave, she very quickly relaxes and seems at home with her new family and routines.

As we roll into our 70s, we have no regrets for Tara and think we've safely found Tara's AFTER US at Harbor House. She is truly home!



John and Janet Warber
Parents

A birthday with peers

A special memory that I have from my years at Harbor House is the first birthday party we had at Pier Place—Tyler was celebrating his 22nd birthday!

We decorated with balloons and happy birthday signs. All of Tyler's friends (the 11 other residents) and staff gathered around the table in the sunporch wearing party hats and big smiles. There was cake and ice cream, gifts, and a lot of joyful noise!

Joy—Tyler's mom—pulled me aside and with tears in her eyes (and mine), said how happy she was that Tyler finally had a birthday party with his peers!

As a mom, I had many birthday parties for my kids with their friends without much thought. For Tyler, this was truly an occasion to celebrate! How awesome that Harbor House could be the avenue for Tyler to enjoy an abundant life to the fullest!

Jane VanderVeen
LPN and Former Home Supervisor
Former Board Member



Staff blessed

Lovebirds

I started working at Harbor House in 2007. Right away I knew it was going to be different from any place I had ever worked. And I was right. Not only did working with the residents change my life and teach me how to be a better person, but I also built so many wonderful relationships there. Specifically a lifelong friendship and a lifelong partnership.

I met my wife, Krysta, when we were both resident aides and both working on becoming nurses. I was on 3rd shift and my wife worked 2nd shift and 1st shift. Since we were both lead aides, we counted off and gave report to one another between shifts. We became great friends and, unknown to one another, had major crushes on each other. We were both in bad, dead-end relationships at the time so our friendship grew as we sought out the positivity and joy we found in one another. Until one day, we both were single and I decided it was time to make my move.

I told her how I felt, asked her out, and to my surprise, she felt the same! Now, 16 years later we are happily married and have had 4 children and built an incredible life together.

Harbor House will always hold a special place for both of us. We grew up there, finding ourselves but also one another. I even proposed there! I had a horse and carriage pick her up at her house and bring her to Harbor House, then she followed a trail of hearts through the building to the room where I first admitted I wanted to be more than friends. She said yes 😊.

We both worked at Harbor House for a while as an engaged couple, then as a married couple, and even brought our kids in to trade off shifts. Our children learned from the residents as much as we did about what matters in life. Love, kindness, faith, and most of all...hope. Eventually, we both left. Her for a labor and delivery nursing career and me as I switched careers and became a teacher.

I will always be eternally grateful to Harbor House for the opportunity I received when I was hired. I am who I am today because of Harbor House. And I met the most incredible woman who was my perfect match because of that opportunity. I like to think of ourselves as trailblazers as well since we were the first set of employees at HHM to meet there and then get married. After us, there were quite a few more lovebirds who got their start from meeting at Harbor House and have gotten married. What a place!



Chris Cousino
LPN and Former Home Supervisor

Power in prayer

In 2013 the HHM prayer ministry was created. It was named "Tipping the Prayer Bowls" (ref Rev.5:8). The team loved the image of the bowls filled with the prayers of God's people, getting so full that the bowl would tip and answered prayer would pour out.

In each breakroom on campus, there are prayer boxes with request slips. Staff or family members can fill out a slip and drop it in the box. Once a week, a member of the prayer team checks the boxes for the written requests. At times, we may notice something off with a staff member and stop to chat and offer prayer.

The prayer notebook is full of pages with categories like pregnancies, mental and emotional health, alcoholism, cancer, praises, illness and more. The team has supported people in gut wrenching situations. There are some who no longer work at HHM that still connect with the team for prayer.

That prayer book is also filled with improbable outcomes.

A former employee's husband had cancer. He went through radiation and chemo and almost had a feeding tube. He lost a lot of weight. It was awful. We were updated around 2 times a month on his condition, and we faithfully prayed accordingly. Now, he is cancer free and doing really well.

We prayed for an employee's son and his wife to be able to conceive. We prayed for several years. They had a beautiful and healthy baby.

We have prayed for the husband of one of our employees and the son of an employee both struggling with alcohol. Both families on the verge of breaking apart. Now, both are under control, and we continue to pray for their health and to stay strong.

We have prayed for two employees regarding their sons that needed to graduate. Through different routes, they each received their diplomas.

We have prayed over a couple of employees struggling to deal with anxiety and depression. Although we pray over many of these situations, these two were very vulnerable and open. Counseling was sought and had favorable outcomes. We are still praying as their pursuit for wholeness continues.

There is power in prayer!



Rachel Graveling
Former Direct Care Staff
Facilities Manager

More than the garbage man

When I first came to Harbor House, I looked around at the residents and thought about how I would impact these residents' lives. I could use my abilities to make up for their disabilities. I would make their lives so much better. Little did I know how much better they would make my life.

During the last couple of years I was at Harbor House, I closely bonded with a resident at Beacon Place. He would come to my office in the mornings to wait for the bus to take him to the Ottawa Area Center. Sometimes we would sit outside and chat, sometimes we would just enjoy the dawning of the new day.

Every Monday the garbage truck would come while we waited for the bus. How it all started I really don't remember, but this friend touched the life of Bob, the Republic garbage truck driver. Bob would stop to give him a hug and brought him a company hat, jacket, and toy truck. Every Monday, Bob would pull that big blue truck into HHM and would stop, jump out, run over to his new friend and give him a hug, chat a couple minutes, and then get back to the truck. He wouldn't leave HHM without blowing the horn, which our friend loves!

Since leaving HHM to care for my mother in law, I've returned to HHM every couple weeks to see my dear friend. We go out for dinner, we take drives to look at big trucks, we take walks, we have two favorite books that we absolutely love to read, watch videos, and sometimes we just laugh about silly things. We also love to have snowball fights with "indoor" snowballs. There is no room for stress in our visits. There are no deadlines. It is simply love. God has blessed my life with this young man who is nonverbal but who will "talk" in his own way! God has blessed me through him.

Every resident at Harbor House has a special someone. Someone that they have bonded with. Every resident is a blessing and every blessing is made of love. Harbor House Ministries is a blessing!

Theresa Charron
Former Administrative Assistant



A community aligned

Harbor House has always held a special place in our hearts and we cherish the relationships that have truly meant so much to us.

It's fun when passions align and our community can come together to experience new things. John and I are bikers and we thought it would be great to mix our love for Harbor House and our love for biking to bring a motorcycle rally to life.

Through the efforts of many amazing people, we were able to enjoy an afternoon of motorcycles, live music, great food, and wonderful fellowship. Such great memories.

In the morning, bikers would arrive to register and then head out for a two hour ride. Returning to Harbor House, we were met with so many smiling and exciting faces. We loved all the motorcycles rolling in the back to the live music from the Jeff Courter Band and to some amazing food prepared by amazing families.

It meant so much for us to be able to bring our Harbor House friends into our world of biking and even more so to bring our biker friends to Harbor House!! It was a blast!!

It was very special, watching everyone enjoy a beautiful moment together and one that we will remember for a lifetime. Harbor House is that special place where you love spending time together.

Marcia Evans
Former Direct Care Staff



Sharing life events

I am forever grateful for the 20 years that I have known and loved Harbor House.

This is more than a home, it is a community, family, and a safe place to grow and love. Each resident welcomed me as I was as we shared layers of memories, tears and laughter. I am grateful for each family who entrusted us with their loved one—what a life gift you have shown.

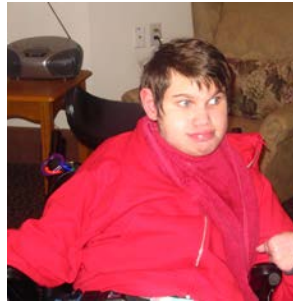
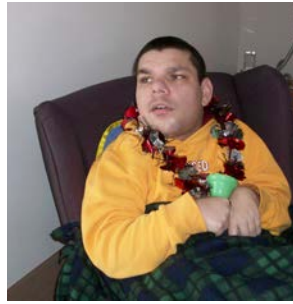
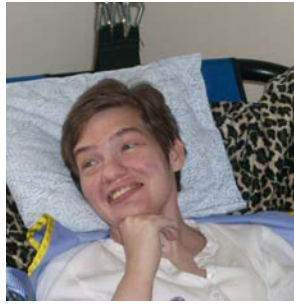
These residents became family quickly for me, many sharing in our wedding day, baby showers and even visits in the NICU. The connections here are deep not only with residents but staff and the families.

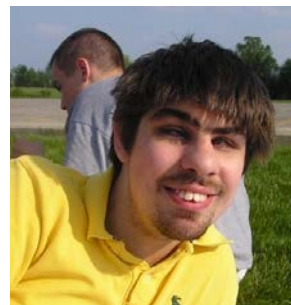
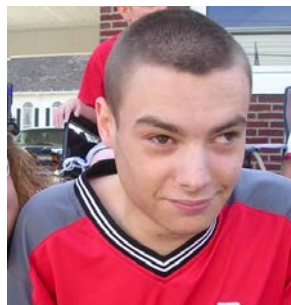
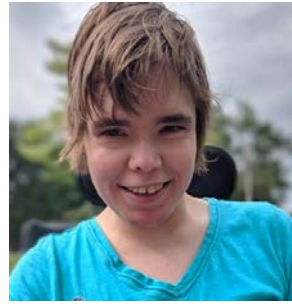
Thank you, Harbor House, for creating such a safe place to be loved and accepted, may God continue to bless this home in the next decade to come.

Kate Jansen
Former Activities Director



Many Lives Blessed





"Harbor House is love...love for staff, for the residents, and for Jesus. We are about being gracious and compassionate and just loving each other the way Jesus would want us to."

Staff comment

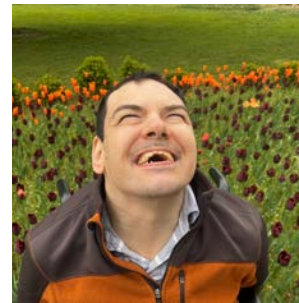
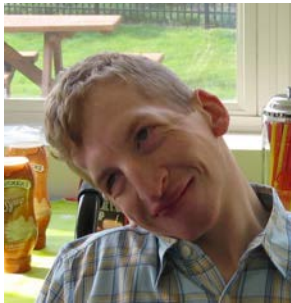
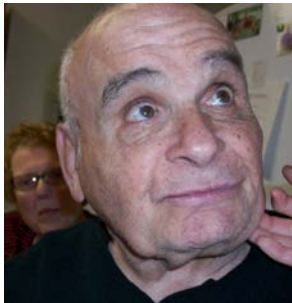
"I just wanted to reach out and let you know how in awe I am of Harbor House. I had an aunt who had mental and physical disabilities. She was at home for most of her life but when things became too difficult we had to move her. It would have been so amazing to see her at a place like Harbor House. The facilities seemed amazing, had endless options of adaptive equipment, unique opportunities for the residents, and your staff looked like they all really care about the residents. I wish places like these were much more common and that we had a place like you guys for her to have gone to."

Volunteer comment



"What greater blessing can there be for parents and family members than to know that there are considerate and kindhearted people walking alongside them in the care of their family member with disabilities?"

Guardian Comment

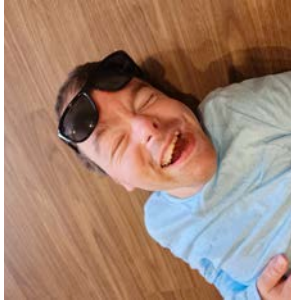


"HMH activities provide a lot of unique community outings that I would never think of--splash pads, beach, bowling, farm markets, movies, zoo, Kid's Food Basket, etc.

Staff comment

"Resident cares are involved, showering, changing, feeding, and others. But all in all working with this population of people and trying to help them be the best they can be with quality of care has been amazing to do!"

Staff Comment



"We just love [the residents] so much. They are a second family to me. The joy that they bring everyday through the challenges that they face to keep going is unreal."

Staff Comment

"I love the opportunity to help people to live into their hopes and dreams when opportunities may otherwise seem unattainable."

Staff Comment

"This is a place where love lives. Once people walk in the door, they have this overwhelming feeling that this is a place where love is shown. Where love lives. They are overwhelmed with the activities happening in the home and the decorations that the staff make...."

Staff comment



Leadership blessed

Thank you past and present Harbor House Board Members for opening your hearts and using your gifts to bless so many!

Chuck Schipper
Renee Veltema
Scott Wondergem
Scott Scholten
Dennis Bergsma
Dave Dishaw
Carl Oosterhouse
Ed Wondergem
Mary VanderPuy
Rick VanderWest
Rev Joe Vugteveen
Roger Zylstra
Tom Postma
Curt DeJongh
Linda Lanning
Mark Grasmeyer
Leslie Brown
Gary Oom
Ken Puzycki
Sheldon Cole
Robert Poll
Jean MacDonald
Eric Anderson
Jane VanderVeen
Amy DeRoo
Thomas O'Rourke
Kelli Kruithof
Chelsea Brown

We've come so far and have yet so far to go.

Please pray for this ministry!



I consider it an honor and a great responsibility to have been able to lead Harbor House in a variety of capacities over the last 20 years.

For the first ten years we were “Meeting the Challenge!” which was a rally cry to meet the desperate housing need in Ottawa County for adults with severe multiple impairments. With God’s help and yours the original challenge was met within our first ten years.

In the second decade of our existence, we have lived into what we felt has been an even bigger challenge—one that will be on-going as long as men and women are being served.

This challenge has focused on “living abundantly” and comes to us from God’s word in John 10:10 where Jesus says, “I have come that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

As we pause to acknowledge the fruitfulness we’ve experienced over the last two decades, we recognized God’s provision, the dedication of our leadership, and the importance of partnering with a community that cares.

Renee Veltema
Founding Board Member
Former Executive Director
Finance Manger

I have had the privilege of working at Harbor House Ministries since 2005—first in the Community Relations role and more recently as the Executive Director.

Throughout the years I have seen God’s provision and faithfulness firsthand.

Not long after I started at Harbor House, we needed some tile repaired in the bathroom. That day a man stopped in who felt like he was being called to volunteer at Harbor House, but he didn’t know why and wasn’t sure what role he could fill. After a prolonged conversation, I asked him about what he did for a living. He said, “I have a tile business”. I told him about our tile need and he lit up. “I would love to help with that. That must be why I’m here!” It remains one of my favorite memories.

Watching God move through this ministry in so many big and small ways has been amazing and is always a reminder to seek Him first when we are faced with a challenge.

I look forward to watching God lead Harbor House through the next twenty years.

Peggy Driesenga
Executive Director



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