

Spring 2025

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

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### Save the Dates

**June 13**  
**Move-a-Thon**

Join in the fun!

- Volunteer as a movement assistant
- Gather distance pledges in support of Harbor House

**September 13**  
**Community Fall Festival**

Invite friends and family to an afternoon of fall fun!

- Local Food Trucks
- The Critter Barn
- Representation from local Safety Providers
- Games and Prizes
- Fall Crafts

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

Or call Rachael at  
616-797-0810

### From the Director's Desk

For twenty years I have had a front row seat to watching God guide and grow Harbor House Ministries. To witness the goodness of God and His awesome timing and provision has been such a gift.

Now, it is time to hand off the baton to the next Director.

As Becky Buchholz prepares to lead Harbor House into its next season of growth I have had the privilege of showing her the joy and beauty that is Harbor House Ministries.



Sharing life with residents and staff learning and growing together is a tremendous privilege that I know will bless Becky in the same way it has blessed me. The lessons of faith, compassion, perseverance, and fellowship will stay with me forever. Thank you for giving me this blessing of being part of the Harbor House family!

by Peggy Driesenga

As I step into this role, I am reminded that the passing of a baton represents a testament to trust, teamwork, and shared vision. Peg has gracefully led through challenges, loss, and triumphs. As I receive the baton, I feel the weight of responsibility as well as the warmth of a legacy filled with passion and purpose.

It is with deep gratitude that I acknowledge countless hours, faith, and grit that Peg has poured into this organization. I am humbled and inspired to continue the journey from behind the Executive Director's desk.

I will also place my trust in the LORD for guidance and wisdom. Together, I am confident that the many individuals who make up Harbor House Ministries will build on the strong foundation laid before us.

Thank you for your unwavering support and trust. Let's run this race together fueled by faith and a shared commitment to providing abundant life for those who live and work here alongside the families of Harbor House Ministries

by Becky Buchholz



## Celebrating every day!

In June of 2024, Day Programming added daily afternoon group activities at the Cove.

Each week, staff sit down with residents and spend time talking through the next week's activities. Those who wish may individually sign up for events that sound most interesting to them.

Because these events are interest-driven (rather than held for specific homes), people are building relationships with each other across campus.

The addition of afternoon activities has also given us the chance to connect with people in our community.

- We have had wonderful musicians and artists share their talents with us.

- We have given back to others by doing volunteer work for Hand2Hand and Sus Manos Gleaners.

- And we have been able to partner with local businesses to offer events like Cardio Drumming, Music Therapy, and Dance Class.

These efforts continue to support a self-determined abundant life!



## A Night to Remember

What a truly remarkable evening we shared at our Spring Celebration Dinner! The atmosphere was alive with a sense of love, support, and positive energy.

We celebrated the achievements of our organization and those who tirelessly contribute to our cause. Together, we rallied around our mission, igniting a renewed sense of purpose and commitment. We are thrilled to announce that, thanks to your generosity and support, we raised an astounding \$100,000! This funding will play a vital role in sustaining abundant life and enhancing our programming.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended, our generous event sponsors, our Harbor House dancers, our choreographer, our event planner and support team, and The Pinnacle Center for helping us pull off this successful evening. The Harbor House Ministries family is immensely grateful for the continued support we receive from our friends, family, and community.

As we move forward, let's keep the momentum going. We invite you to stay engaged with our mission and look forward to more opportunities to connect, collaborate, and celebrate!



**"Harbor House is love for Jesus. That love is carried out to those who live and work here and the families who are served. We are about being gracious and compassionate and just loving each other the way Jesus would want us to."**

(Staff Comment)





## A Balancing Act

Michigan's new Employee Sick Time Act has created a great discussion about balancing the need for employees to take time off and the need for employers to have staff on site to accomplish the work. The Employee Sick Time Act provides paid time off for all workers in Michigan and gives guidance to how and when employees can use that time.

Our work at Harbor House adds a dimension to the conversation, as caregivers need to work "in person" and our homes never close. Whether it's a holiday, a blizzard, or even a pandemic, we need our staff on site to care for the men and women who live here.

So, how do you balance the need for 24/7 care and the need for staff to have time off—sometimes unplanned and unpredictable? We must pay overtime or shift premiums to cover for call-offs. This, in turn, increases the cost of care.

While the changes in PTO requirements are just one element in the rising costs of care, the totality of those increasing costs has left a \$1.4 million dollar gap this year between the funds we receive from Social Security and Medicaid and what it costs to provide around-the-clock care.

We are grateful to our community and supporters for their generosity as they give financially to stand in that gap. We could not do this without you!

We have a place for YOU at HHM.  
Go to [www.harborhouseministries.org/careers/](http://www.harborhouseministries.org/careers/)



## Good Giving vs GREAT Giving

Despite the uncertainty of possible Medicaid or Medicare funding cuts and our own Ottawa County Community Mental Health Department experiencing change, we are still getting inquiries from donors who want to leave something to HHM in their estate plans.

God Bless you! Thank you for thinking of us. Every bit helps!

The best way to do this is to put a sentence in your will/trust that states your intent, and directs that any such gifts be made from your IRA assets, or by simply naming HH as a % beneficiary on your IRA form. That way, taxable assets go to HH, and the tax-free assets go to your family.

by Ken Puzycki, HHM Board Member

<<Organization>>

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### Join our team!

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friends for life!  
Learn More.



### Volunteer!

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