

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

### *From the Director's Desk* by Peggy Driesenga



In West Michigan, we have a deep appreciation for the sun—probably because we don't see it that often. People seem generally happier when the sun is out. It's as if the sun lifts the spirits of a whole community.

This spring, when sunshine was hard to find, the folks at Harbor House worked to draw and create different interpretations of the sun. The result is pictured here. Each creation is unique and special and they come together to make a whole picture of beauty and intrigue.

What a great illustration of all of us—uniquely created with the power to lift those around us regardless of our abilities. Like the sun, each of us is valued and given a purpose by our Creator. At Harbor House this summer, we are living into that purpose. We are out enjoying the sights and sounds all around us, reconnecting with our neighbors, and surprising some with a few Random Acts of Kindness.

Like enjoying the sun after a long winter, now more than ever, we have a deep appreciation for the embrace and support of our amazing community. Whether we are out at the park, the zoo, or just enjoying a cup of coffee at the local shop, we are grateful to be together again in person with you!

### *Celebrating every day!*

At Harbor House, we talk about Living Abundantly. That means celebrating life and living it fully with joy, purpose, service, and worship.

Part of abundant living is to deeply enjoy the ordinary. Every day should be a celebration!

(cont'd on the next page)



### *Save the Date!*

The HHM  
**Spring Celebration  
Dinner**  
is making a come back!

Pencil us in for  
Tuesday, May 9, 2023  
6:00 pm

Featuring  
Dinner and  
entertainment  
at the  
Pinnacle Center  
of  
Hudsonville

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This summer we are celebrating some of the lesser known “days” on the calendar. Whether it’s National Donut Day, Super Hero Day, or a celebration of Italy, we have such a good time taking a closer look at some things we might take for granted.

We are using these special day celebrations to learn a little, laugh a lot, and love the world around us and the One who created it.



“Harbor House Ministries has been such a blessing in our family’s life. The care and the Christian love that is shown are wonderful.”  
(guardian comment)

## Caregiver Corner

Abbie has been working at HHM as a resident aide for 2 1/2 years. Her gentle, compassionate spirit enables her to connect well with the friends in her care. Gleeful shouts of "Abbie Abbie" bounce off the walls when she walks into a room. Abbie, you are loved and appreciated here at HHM!



Abbie's "great day" story:

"On a really nice Saturday, the lead decided we should try and get everyone outside for a picnic lunch and enjoy the beautiful sunshine!

Although staffing was tight that day, we all worked super hard as a team to set up tables and some chairs and brought the whole house outside for the picnic. We stayed out there almost all afternoon!

Let me say the hard work that Saturday was SO worth it! Everyone had a blast!"

She describes her work at HHM as "fulfilling."

"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?"

(guardian comment)

## State Legislature Considers Changes to the Behavioral Health System

Michigan lawmakers are considering two bills which would change the state's behavioral health system.

Currently, this system—which covers people with developmental disability, mental illness, and substance use disorders—is administered through *county agencies* with financial and administrative oversight from public regional boards. Proposals in the state legislature would require the state to contract with *private insurance companies* to manage the Medicaid Behavioral Health services.

The bills now in the state senate would make big changes in how these services would be provided in the future and would impact how much the general public could be involved in the behavioral health system.

If you would like to learn more about these bills (Senate Bills 597 & 598), you can find information on the Ottawa County Community Mental Health website at [miottawa.org](http://miottawa.org), or on the Michigan legislature website at [legislature.mi.gov](http://legislature.mi.gov).

## Good Giving vs GREAT Giving

**Thank you to all of our generous benefactors!**

Although most of you give through checks or auto-debit from your checking accounts, there may be a better way for you AND FOR HARBOR HOUSE. If you have any stocks that have grown in value, talk to your tax advisor about donating them instead of giving cash. If you give appreciated stock that you have held for a year or more, you may be able to deduct the full fair market value of the stock, but you do NOT have to pay the capital gains tax on the growth! And, because Harbor House is tax exempt ☺, we can sell the stock and not pay tax on the capital gains! Voila! Win-Win!

by Ken Puzycycki, HHM Board Member

Don't crumple those receipts!

Turn them to CASH!

Harbor House Ministries collects receipts from SpartanNash stores (like Family Fare).

Every \$150,000 in receipts earns a \$1000 donation for HHM!

Drop off your FULL receipts or mail them to  
Harbor House Ministries  
Attn Receipts  
919 44th St SW  
Jenison MI 49428



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