Great River Homes, Inc.

8th Street

April Newsletter

The ladies at 8th Street had a fun and adventurous month. Jenny, Kris, and Emily have remained committed to Tuesday night bowling. It is always a nice treat for them to see people that they have not seen for a while or to have a relative drop in as a surprise to spend time with them while they bowl. Jeanette prefers to hang back at the house or go with her volunteer. On occasion, she will go to the bowling alley to eat.

Jenny and Kris both participated in Special Olympics practices for swimming. Jenny had to be brave and take on the remainder of the month of swimming without her housemate. She was happy to team up with a friend to compete in the first tournament. Both Jenny and her friend took 1st place and will continue to the State tournament coming up in June. Jenny has found a new passion that she is very excited about.

Emily finally had warm enough weather to get out and about. Using many opportunities to get out and walk, go bowling, and ride her bike. She is very excited to have her swing back out on the porch. Emily had staff help her clean out the raised bed gardens and is ready to get beets back in her garden. With the warm weather, Emily looks forward to getting out "turtle hunting" around the backwaters – walking along, exploring, and seeing how many turtles she can spot.

Kris played hard with bowling, swimming and the Fresh Start program, along with getting fitted for a dress. However, she had to take time out of her busy schedule to finally pack to head down to Tennessee. Kris left on an adventure to spend some time with her sister and participate in her nephew's wedding. She also had a blast driving the golf court while on vacation down south.

8th Street had dessert of the month and since the time worked out that Emily would be the one making the dessert, Emily chose to make lemon bars. Of course, we needed to make a second pan to sample just to make sure they were worthy to pass on to our donors.

GRUMPY BUNCH
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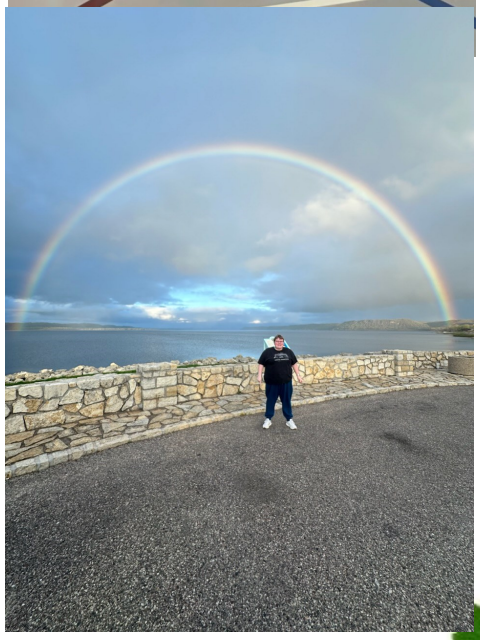

This newsletter segment will hopefully help you learn more about Great River Homes, Inc. Here, we'll discuss agency processes, things that affect us, and ways you can help.

What is an effective item for trapping bugs, protecting blisters, fixing eyeglasses, keeping snow out of your shoes, removing splinters, helping get the last bit of toothpaste out of the tube, artwork, hemming clothing, and temporarily fixing just about anything? What creative uses can you add to the preceding list of what duct tape can be used for? While not fancy or very professional, duct tape is very effective in creating beneficial connections.

In contrast to the often unprofessional look of duct tape holding a shoe together, effective documentation of all aspects of the services provided to Emily, Kris, Jenny, and Jeanette must be neat and professional. Professional documentation is characterized by entries that are objective, thorough, consistent, and concise. A guiding principle of professional documentation is, “The palest ink is better than the strongest memory.” Competent documentation is an essential component of providing quality personal support in every area of life. Specific, prompt, and accurate documentation provides vital information needed to monitor and improve services in areas such as health care, behavioral support, safety concerns, progress in skill development, regulatory compliance, and person-centered activity preferences. Professional documentation also facilitates communication with each individual’s entire support team including team members at 8th Street, guardians, case managers, and health care professionals. Much more so than duct tape, professional documentation is very effective in creating holistic, beneficial connections and is a vital tool that helps Emily, Kris, Jenny, and Jeanette to live their best lives.

Jerry McMillin

Development and Education Manger