Great River Homes, INC.
8th Street
January Newsletter

The ladies at 8th street have been absolutely enjoying the unseasonably warm weather we have been having! Being able to go on walks without having to wear too many layers has been really nice! It looks like the Mississippi will be "warm" for the Grumpy Plunge this year! With so many activities going on, the ladies are excited to finally have a second vehicle to go on their many adventures! Here at 8th street, we have done crafting for valentines, cooking, and getting in the "spring cleaning" spirit.

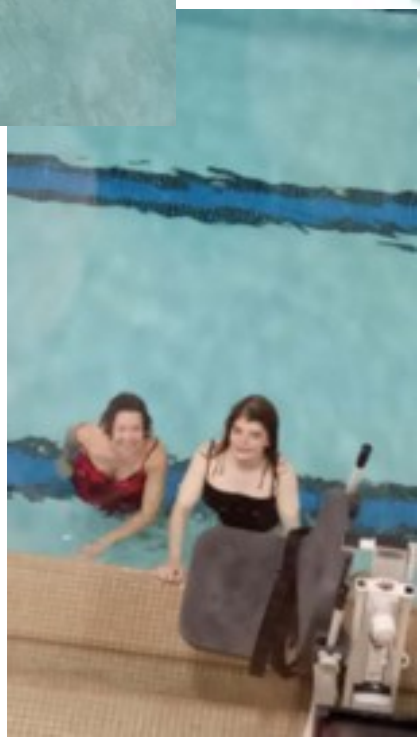
Kris has been busy collecting donations for Grumpy Plunge. She has been to Wabasha, Pepin, Red Wing, Alma, and would like to go to Fountain City as well. She has also been getting donations online. She is sure to reach her goal. Great Job Kris! Kris has also been participating in Special Olympic Swimming in Red Wing on Mondays, she has really become a fish in the water! There was also a potluck in Red wing this past weekend and Kris made Minnesota Sushi, (pickle roll ups) she said they were a great hit! Kris participated in making some Valentine's Day cards when some volunteers came in, everyone had a great time!

Jenny is also participating in Special Olympic swimming in Red Wing on Mondays. She was not sure about it at first but has done a great job getting out of her comfort zone. Jenny loves to go to Dairy Queen with her volunteer and brings back a yummy treat every time. Jenny participated in making the cards for Valentine's Day as well. Great Job Jenny! Jenny likes to tease staff and also likes to invite them on walks since the weather has been so nice! Jenny LOVES to bake cookies and will sometimes make the batter when she goes home, then bake them here at the house to share with her housemates. Thanks Jenny! Jenny likes to go home on the weekends, but this month she has stayed home a few times and when she does, she likes to invite housemates and staff into her room to watch movies. Jenny also really enjoys participating in the grocery shopping for the house. She asks to go every time!

Jeanette has of course been enjoying the nicer weather this month. Jeanette likes to wear her jogging suit to the DAC to stay warm, then changes into something cooler when she gets home. Jeanette has gone with her volunteer a few times, doing some shopping and baking. Great Job Jeanette! Jeanette has also been very helpful with making sure things are getting cleaned in the house. She really likes to run the steam mop! Jeanette has been helping in the kitchen, making roast and cutting the heads of the carrots! Jeanette has gone for many rides around town, leaving town a few times to go to Lake City and Nelson.

Emily has probably been seen by many of you walking around town. Emily likes to walk to the bowling alley, and to the AmericInn to do some swimming. Emily is participating in the Fresh Start program that is being put on at the hospital here in Wabasha. Emily participates in bowling on Tuesdays and even ate supper there with a family member. How fun Emily! Emily also went and had supper at another house, where she watched 2 movies and ate tater tot hotdish. Emily loves cooking and helping in the kitchen as well! Emily even designed the flier for the grumpy Plunge!

The ladies are getting spring fever due to the weather being so nice! And they are all getting super excited for the Grumpy Plunge, there is so much stuff to do! It is really nice to get all the ladies at 8th involved. Hopefully, the weather will continue to be nice so we can get out even more!!



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.

To be effective and successful in whatever one does, a sustained and vigilant focus on the fundamentals is indispensable. One of the most famous quotes from the world of sports is attributed to Legendary Green Bay Packers coach, Vince Lombardi. After the Packers lost a key football game, Coach Lombardi started practice by sharing with the team of seasoned, professional football players: “Gentleman, this is a football.” An indispensable, vigilant focus on fundamentals helped the Packers achieve a championship season as they won the title game by the score of 37-0.

A sustained and vigilant focus on fundamentals is indispensable as the team at 14th seeks to support Kris, Jenny, Jeanette, and Emily as they develop a wide spectrum of skills and seek to live their best life.

The vigilant focus on fundamentals starts very early in orientation as team members review the “Direct Support Professional Code of Ethics”. The Code of Ethics includes fundamental principles such as person-centered support, promoting physical and emotional well-being, integrity, confidentiality, justice, respect, relationships, self-determination, and advocacy. Upon completion of orientation, vigilant attention to fundamentals is sustained and serves as a foundation for the content of discussion at team meetings, during training sessions, and throughout daily life.

Even though some of us may be Vikings fans, through a sustained and vigilant focus on fundamentals, we seek to emulate the success of Coach Lombardi’s teams who went on to win five championships in seven years and never had a losing season.

Jerry McMillin

Development and Education Manger