Great River Homes, Inc.

Irving Street

December Newsletter

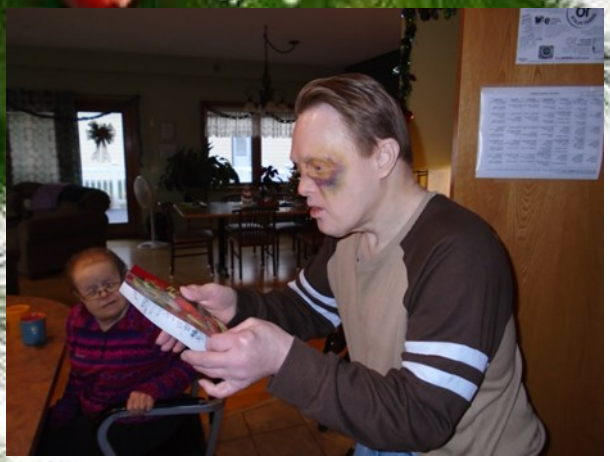
It was a fun and festive holiday season for the individuals at Irving Street! Everyone enjoyed getting in the holiday spirit by taking trips to see the Rotary lights display in La Crosse, WI, and the Stockholm Swedish Christmas in Stockholm, WI. Bob and Daren also had the opportunity to attend The Nutcracker in Rochester with friends and enjoyed a fun evening out. Everyone also enjoyed the carolers from St. John's Church and of course, the many Christmas movies watched throughout the month!

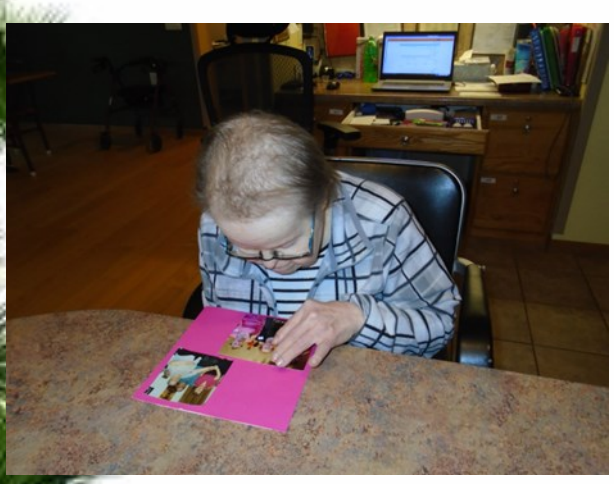
Cheryl's favorite part of the holiday season is spending time with friends new and old. She enjoyed many new visitors this month and will often talk about them long after they leave. She has been keeping busy by playing with the toy piano, listening to music, petting her cat, and watching TV. She was able to enjoy a delicious lunch from Burger King after helping get some groceries with a mobile pick-up order.

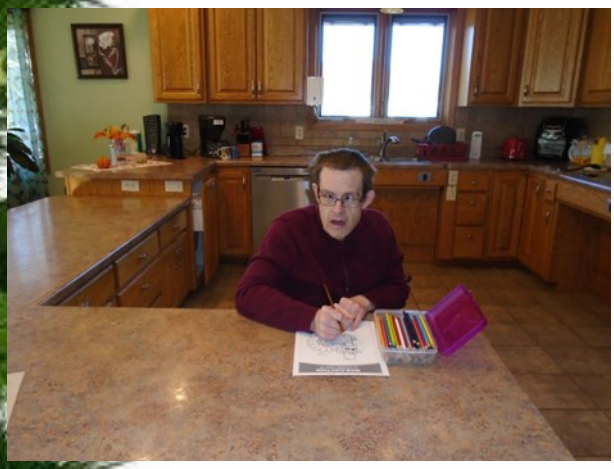
Linda had a festive month getting in the holiday spirit. She has been busy getting her Christmas shopping done with stops at Walmart and the Family Dollar. She also enjoyed some family time with multiple zoom calls to her sisters. She spent time listening to music, building some structures with blocks, and playing the toy piano. She had a few outings enjoying a delicious meal at Burger King and attending Jesus Cares. Linda spent Christmas day cozied up at home helping Marian prepare a delicious meal for everyone to enjoy.

Darren started his holiday by doing a little shopping for himself, his friends, and his family. He was out and about at many different stores including Walmart, The Family Dollar, Carousel Nursery, and even helped with the grocery pick-up order. After all that hard work he enjoyed a nice snack from McDonald's. He has also been enjoying using his 3D building blocks, talking on the phone with his mom, and visiting his family. Darren enjoyed some Christmas festivities such as baking cookies with his mom, singing Christmas carols, and watching a few Christmas movies. He was also happy to be able to attend Jesus Cares, the Aktion Club Christmas party, and visit St. John's to listen to the Christmas Choral concert. Darren was also able to enjoy a hot chocolate from Caribou and a delicious lunch from Panchero's Mexican Grill. Daren was happy to end his busy month at home with his family for Christmas.

Bob was happy to be able to spend Christmas with his family. He has been keeping busy by drawing a lot of coffee cups, playing on his tablet, and building with bristle blocks. He also enjoyed spending time looking through magazines, westerns are always a must! Bob had a great time shopping at Walmart and was very helpful in carrying the groceries. He also enjoyed his time attending Jesus Cares and dancing around the living room with Linda.







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.

High speeds are often intriguing, highly sought after, and highly valued. Champion Olympic sprinter Usain Bolt once reached a speed of 27.33 mph. The world record speed for a bicyclist is an amazing 183 miles mph. A Peregrine Falcon can fly as fast as 186 mph. 330 miles mph is the world record speed for a car, and a rocket can travel at 25,700 mph.

While speed is often highly valued, team members working with Great River Homes often find there is rarely a quick trip to Kwik Trip when taking individuals to shop there. Akin to the neighborhood barbershop of years gone by, trips to Kwik Trip often lead to intriguing, highly sought after, highly valued visits and connections with friends, neighbors, and the general public.

Unlike generations ago when individuals with disabilities were often isolated from the public in a variety of ways, team members at Great River Homes make a deliberate and persistent effort to involve Cheryl, Linda, Daren, and Bob in using community facilities and participating in community events of interest to each individual.

Community inclusion consists not just being physically present in the community but supporting individuals as they develop community living skills and expand their social network by actively interacting with a wide spectrum of community members.

At the bowling alley, or the library, or when going out to eat, or at church, or at a sporting event, community inclusion is created by slowing the pace of life and developing meaningful relationships. Unlike a bicyclist going 183 mph or a car going 330 mph, effective community inclusion excludes a quick trip to Kwik Trip or any other community setting.

Jerry McMillin

Development and Education Manger