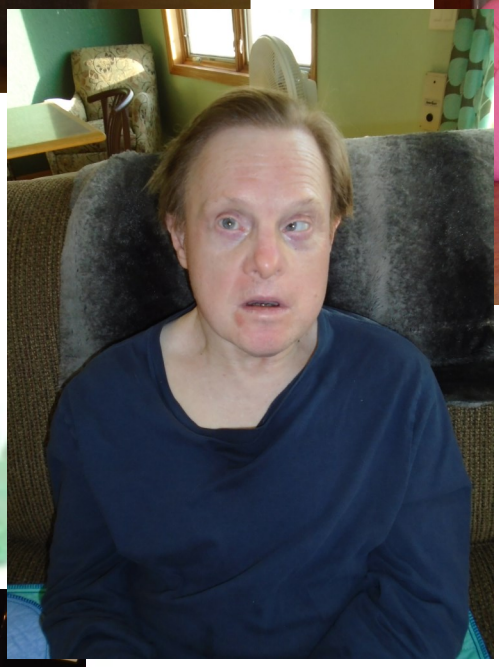
Great River Homes, Inc.
Irving Street
March Newsletter

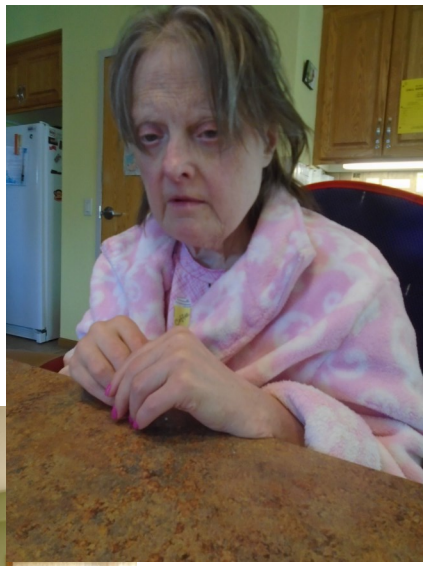
Even with the odd weather this month Bob, Darren, and Linda made the best of it and tried to stay busy. They chose to participate in many activities such as the “Leprechaun Jig” (dance) in Red Wing, watching the movie, “Despicable Me”, and spending time with people important to them.

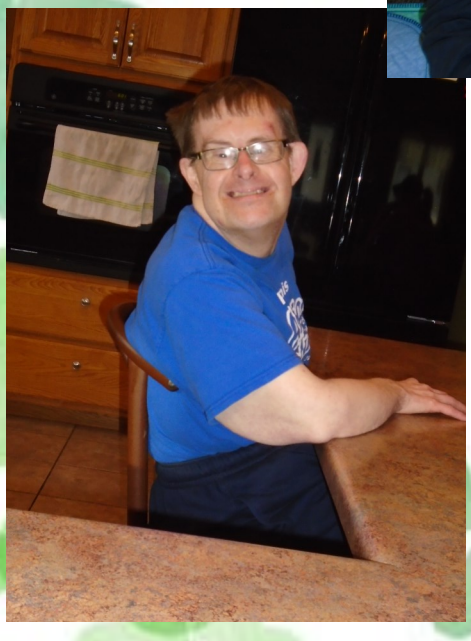
Bob has been using his independence by choosing to go for a few car rides, watching some ducks at the lake, and going shopping. He has been showing off his creativity by building with some building blocks while watching TV and drinking his favorite coffee! He chose to attend Jesus Cares where he showed off his musical talents by playing the bells and tapping his toe to the beat. Bob enjoyed being pampered with a haircut, the personal time and attention spent on him made him feel special and cared for. Bob was happy to be able to spend time with his family over the Easter Holiday.

Darren had a fun-filled month with a variety of activities and entertainment. He has enjoyed showing off his creative side by building with blocks and helping provide for himself and his roommates by assisting with the grocery shopping and grocery pickup. He has enjoyed using his independence and leadership skills at Action Club and even had his picture taken for the paper with the other Action Club members. Darren also used his musical talents at Jesus Cares by playing a maraca and singing a few songs. He was thrilled to have the honor of lighting the candle to start the service. Darren chose to spend his Easter weekend with his family on Saturday and stay home with Linda to celebrate on Sunday.

Linda has also helped with the grocery shopping for herself and her roommates. Linda has found joy and creativity in playing with a few blocks, watching TV, and listening to music. She takes pride in cultivating her personal relationships and enjoys her visits with her friend Marian. They had a wonderful time chatting and listening to some music. Linda also values her relationships with her sisters, and it is the highlight of her day to be able to see and talk with them on Zoom calls. Linda had a fun Easter holiday at home with her housemate Darren.







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.

While most humans have excellent hearing, many members of the animal kingdom have a far superior capacity for hearing. A dog can distinguish specific sounds originating from ½ mile away and thus be at the door to greet you as you pull into the driveway. In a relatively quiet room, a dog can hear your heartbeat. While having a superior hearing capacity is great, as we all know, there is a vital difference between merely hearing and actively listening.

It has been said: "Listening liberates energy." Team members continually strive to develop active listening skills knowing that doing so will liberate Bob, Darren, and Linda's energy to share what is fun and important to each of them and help each person live their best life.

It has been said: "Listen with the intensity most people reserve for speaking." Another one of the goals of team members is to learn to listen with intensity. Team members need to decode body language, mannerisms, actions, and seemingly meaningless comments that communicate the needs and desires of Bob, Darren, and Linda.

A guiding principle for team members is: "To know the heart of a person and imagine the world to be a better place for them." Team members seek to develop their listening skills and associated empathy to the point where they can, in a sense, hear the heartbeat of the individual they are interacting with.

Jerry McMillin

Development and Education Manger