

Great River Homes, Inc.

Irving Street

May Newsletter

As spring arrived and the weather began to warm, the housemates at Irving Street stayed busy enjoying time with family, friends, and community activities. The month was filled with special visits, outings, and opportunities to relax and enjoy the season.

April had a wonderful month filled with family time. She enjoyed several visits from her mom and her dog, Doug, which always brings smiles and excitement. She celebrated Easter with her mom and grandpa and later spent a fun-filled weekend in the Twin Cities with her brother, sister-in-law, and mom. When the weather cooperates, April enjoys spending time outside soaking up the sunshine and fresh air.

Robert has been keeping busy both at home and in the community. On some days, he has been leaving DAC a little early so he can take care of personal errands such as banking and picking up special treats. One of his favorite stops is Dairy Queen, where he enjoys getting something sweet. When he is at home, Robert appreciates relaxing in his recliner and taking a well-earned nap. He also joined Bob and Darren for a delicious Mexican meal in Red Wing.

Bob has been enjoying the warmer temperatures and continues to look forward to attending DAC. In his free time, he is happiest relaxing with a cup of coffee while watching television. He also enjoyed going out for Mexican food in Red Wing with Robert and Darren.

Darren has been fortunate to spend plenty of time with family throughout the month. He has enjoyed many visits from his family, especially his mom, who frequently brings tasty treats for everyone to enjoy. A special thank you goes out to Joyce for all the delicious goodies she has shared!

A highlight for all of the housemates was attending the Spring Formal and enjoying a meal at the Front Porch in Kellogg. The event provided a wonderful opportunity to socialize, celebrate, and make special memories together.

As we look ahead to the coming weeks, everyone at Irving Street is excited for more spring activities, family visits, and opportunities to enjoy the warmer weather. We are grateful for the support of family and friends who help make each month enjoyable and look forward to creating many more happy memories together.



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

Commissioned by Louis XIV, Versailles began as a hunting lodge but evolved into a 700-room palace with the Hall of Mirrors and vast gardens. Over 36,000 workers labored on it, making it the political and cultural center of France for centuries. While the 700-room Versailles structure is very impressive, an impressive building does not ensure a good home.

By definition, a house is a building that serves as living quarters. Currently, Great River Homes provides services to individuals in eight different houses. Of the eight current houses, six of the houses were constructed by Great River Homes. Two other residential homes were purchased and remodeled. Key considerations for the housing were accessibility, safety, functionality, comfort, and appearance.

By definition, a home is a social unit formed by living together in a familiar or usual setting. Occasionally, we receive phone calls from community members who mistakenly think Great River Homes is a construction company that builds houses. While quality housing is vital in helping April, Robert, Bob, and Darren live their best life, the ultimate mission of Great River Homes is to build homes, not houses.

While houses are built using construction materials, ethics serve as the foundation for a home where individuals feel secure and can live their best lives. Great River Homes belongs to the National Alliance for Direct Service Professionals, and we seek to follow their Code of Ethics. Values referenced in the Code of Ethics include person-centered supports, emotional and physical well-being, integrity, fairness, respect, relationships, and personal autonomy. Compared to a supportive, vibrant home where individuals are encouraged to pursue their dreams, even the most elegant structures, such as Versailles, pale in importance.

Jerry McMillin
Development and Education Manager