Great River Homes, Inc.

River Drive

December Newsletter

Happy holidays from everyone at River Drive! It has been a festive month filled with wonderful activities with friends and family.

Many fun outings took place this month! Amy, Trevor, Mike, and Christina went to Lake City's Patton Park for the Light Up Lake City Celebration. They made a stop at Heidi's Huggamug to enjoy hot chocolate and sugar cookies. They loved watching Santa Drive around town on the fire truck and he eventually came to the park where everyone got to say hello! Amy met a lovely little boy who also has Down syndrome and she had a nice conversation with his grandma. That was very important and special to her. The house was out and about going to events like the Aktion Club Christmas Party. The River Drive house contributed toys for their toy drive, and they had a delicious meal and played bingo. They also attended the Jingle Bell pool party, and it was a great success. Jokes were told and music played while everyone splashed away in the pool. Everyone also had a great time at the Christmas Concert at Valleyview Assembly of God Church in Lake City and the Jingle Bell Ball dance in Red Wing.

December brought joy to everyone at River Drive. Christina was on top of the decorating! She had the tree up with the help of Jerry the day after Thanksgiving. Everyone pitched in over the weekend to help decorate with the lights and ornaments. Christina and Amy bought some cute window decorations, Jerry put up some sweet Grinch decor outside along with a giant lighted snowman. This set the mood to get everyone in the Christmas spirit!

The house had an exciting time at the Special Olympics Bowling in Red Wing! Amy took home 1st place, Trevor got a 2nd place win, and Christina had lots of fun cheering on her friends from the sidelines. It was a wonderful event, and everyone was overjoyed about the wins!

Mike is excited to announce he will be walking his sister down the aisle in January! Congratulations to his sister Debbie. He is looking forward to going shopping for a new suit for the big day and celebrating with his friends and family.

The most important part of December for all is that everyone is happy and healthy and had a wonderful time making precious memories with friends and family!

CAFE

VOLUNTEER
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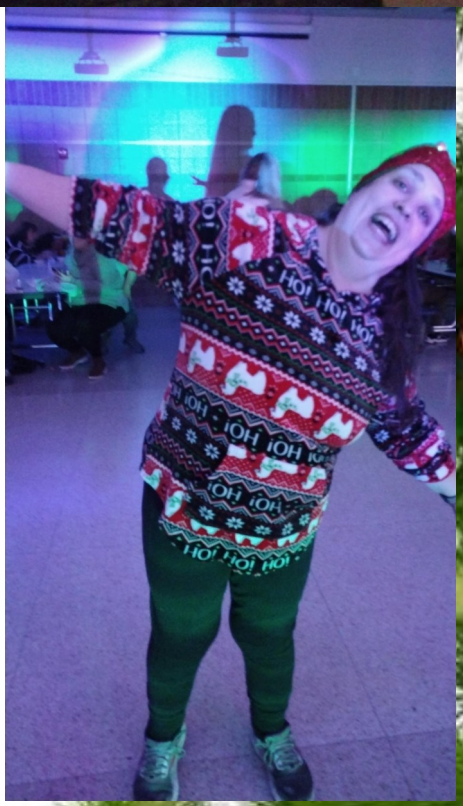
Red Wing
Special

COMMITMENT
TO GRADUATE


HO! HO! HO!

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 Amy, Trevor, Mike and Christina 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