

PULSE

FALL 2018



CELEBRATING OVER 30 YEARS OF
QUALITY TOTAL-PERSON CARE



Welcome Casey,

As I have been thinking about what to write for my first letter in the Pulse, I have been reflecting on my first four months here at David's House Ministries.

First, a little about myself and how I found my way to David's House. My wife, Laura and I have lived in West Michigan most of our lives and are both graduates of Calvin College. We have three amazing children, Esther, Peter and Miriam who currently attend Grand Rapids Christian Middle and High Schools. The first 20 years of my career included non-profit work centered around disability ministry, as well as working as a residential contractor, doing sales, and being a paid-on call firefighter/EMT. I have spent the last eight years in a leadership position within the staffing and recruiting field. My wife spent the first 5 years of her career as a middle school teacher and has served as a middle school counselor for the last 15 years.

I've also had the opportunity to grow up with an older brother, Nick, who has a developmental disability. Over 20 years ago, he was on the waiting list here at David's House while my parents struggled to find a place for him. Though there was not an opening here for him, my family was blessed to find another Christian home in the community where he has lived for over 20 years. Throughout my career I have been able to serve on various boards of organizations like David's House and volunteer in other disability ministries. Knowing about David's House, I was excited earlier this year to find the opportunity to apply for the Executive Director position. Up until that time, I had not been thinking of a job change and yet I felt that perhaps God was suggesting that this was something to pursue.

It has been humbling to walk into this organization and see the results of a dream that began over 30 years ago by a group of individuals who God brought together to take care of some of His most precious children. Founders Jay and Lois DeBoer have reminded me several times over the past few months that David's House does not exist due to them or any one person but is here due to God's sovereignty and bringing together the



Casey & Jeff

right people at the right time. We continue to be blessed in our work and know that God continues to stand by our staff and residents' side every single day; this is something I was reminded of at our recent Walkathon.

Before the Walkathon began, I asked my new friend Greg (a long-time resident of House 1) if he would be willing to lead us all in prayer prior to the beginning of the walk. Before answering me, Greg first asked if I would be standing up there with him. Figuring that he may be a little nervous to pray in front of nearly 300 people, I told him that I would definitely stand next to him. Greg quickly answered me with "good, I won't be nervous because God will be standing up there next to us." Greg didn't need me up there with him, he simply needed to remind me that none of us are here alone nor should any of us take the credit for what is happening at David's House.

As I think about the future building plans for David's House, the need for additional staff, the long waiting list, and the future funding that is needed, Greg's reminder should be reassuring to us all that God continues to stand by David's House and will take care of the future. I am thankful for the continued prayers for myself, our residents and staff as we begin this new chapter together.

Casey Kuperus, *Executive Director*

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Resident Spotlight

One of our original residents, Terry, loves to go for walks. In fact, when asked about this interview Terry said: "I'll do it if we go for a walk." According to Terry, "Walking is great for fresh air and exercise. It helps me stay young." Terry also takes pride in not having an achy back or creaky knees, which he attributes to his daily walks.

When not walking, you'll probably find Terry singing. His love for music has allowed him to volunteer every Monday and Friday where he sings at some of the local retirement homes. He is part of two different singing groups – that perform concerts throughout the year – The Singing Hims (which his father is also a member of) and The Chimes.

While Terry participates in most activities at David's House, his favorites are the workshops with Arts in Motion and visiting with Lilly the therapy dog.



We have some very talented residents here at David's House. We have painters, actors, and music makers! This year we not only made art, but we also enjoyed art through our summer concert series and a trip to ArtPrize.



Live Dinner Auction

We held our 1st Live Dinner Auction this past May at the Grand Rapids Art Museum! Through the generous support of our leading sponsors, Design 1 Salon & Spa and Innovative Medical Systems, all the funds raised were able to go directly towards providing quality care for our residents! Thank you to all the sponsors and participants who helped us raise over \$130,000!



Lizzie enjoying the Auction



John, Shane & Mark, our Auction greeters



Clockwise from top left: Jonathan's, Lizzie's, Jim's, and Ben's masterpieces



*Left: Ryan & friends; Top Right: Walk-A-Thon participants riding the Tram
Bottom Right: Jonathan hanging out in the Michigan Gardens*

Walk-A-Thon

For the 3rd year in a row, we held our annual Heart & Sole Walk-A-Thon at Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park. With the amazing support from our residents, participants, donors, and sponsors, we were able to raise over \$123,000 – a new record-breaking total! Of our donors, over 60 donated to David's House for the very first time! Thank you to everyone who took part in this year's event and made it so successful. Congratulations to Joel, Austin, and Team Kevin for being our top resident, non-resident, and team fundraisers!

Upcoming Events

November 27, 2018
Giving Tuesday
www.dhmin.org/givingtuesday/

April 22, 2019
Live Dinner Auction
@ The Goei Center

September 14, 2019
33rd Annual Walk-A-Thon
@ Frederik Meijer Gardens

Ways to Support David's House

Foundation Builders

To continue providing quality, total-person care for our residents, we need your help! Consistent, recurring gifts are essential in sustaining the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs for each of our residents.

Friendship \$25 a month

Your gift covers the cost of taking a resident out in the community during the day to enjoy an individualized activity of their choosing.

David's House Keeper \$50 a month

Your gift covers the weekly fuel cost of one of the David's House vans, which are used for taking residents out in the community, to church, to doctor appointments, etc.

Impact Maker \$100 a month

Your gift covers the average daily grocery cost for one home.

Founder's Club \$250 a month

Your gift underwrites a home's monthly activities budget enabling our residents to engage with the Greater Grand Rapids community.

Opportunities for Support

Prayer

Giving Tuesday **#GIVING TUESDAY**

This year, Tuesday, November 27th has been designated as a national day of giving. Keep an eye on your email, Facebook and our website for more details on how to give online for #GivingTuesday. Our goal is to raise \$3,000 on this day.

Online Giving

www.dhmin.org/donate/

Estate Planning

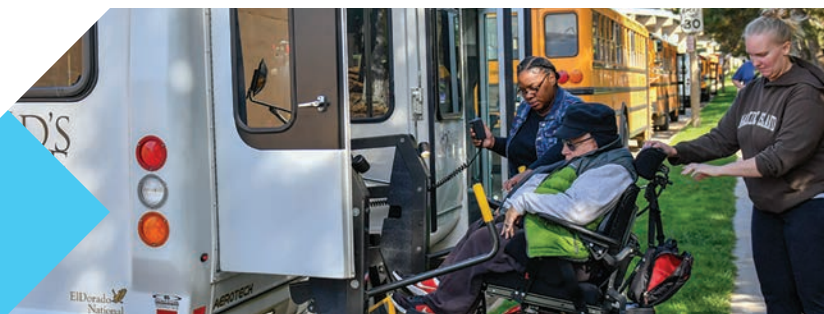
Gifts of Property

Gifts of Stock

United Way

Please contact Greg Vander Goot at **616-284-4383** or gvandergoot@dhmin.org with any questions.

*David getting on the bus
Greg & Mark
Warren baking*



Thankful for David's House

Our family is so thankful for David's House. Joel's admission into David's House was truly orchestrated by God! He has been living in House 2 for 6 years now and really likes his home. He especially enjoys interacting with the staff (such caring and dedicated people) and planning "one-on-ones" with them to Wolfgang's – his favorite breakfast spot!

Joel keeps busy by attending Indian Trails day programming three days a week, by volunteering at Roots Brew Shop and by recently starting a class at Northoek Academy – a program at GRCC which aims to educate and also give a college experience to individuals with various disabilities. Lisa, the program coordinator at House 2, continues to come up with fun activities that Joel enjoys – which included a water skiing adventure this summer!

Another project Joel is involved in is "Joel's Notes" – notecards that have sayings from Joel on the front in his writing and blank space inside for the sender to write a message. They are printed and packaged and then sold in various places.

Our family is very blessed by David's House and we try to show that by working hard to get pledges from family, church members and friends for the walkathon. We are always amazed at how faithfully and generously people give. This year Joel raised over \$10,000!

Joel has a strong support system – family, friends and many Fairway CRC people who pick him up each Sunday for church and also do things socially with him. And of course, he has support from the great staff at David's House.

Thanks so much for all you do – David's House is a wonderful blessing!

With a grateful heart, Judy



Joel went water skiing for the first time this summer!



Meet Our Newest Resident

Meet David! He moved into House 3 at the beginning of the year. David also brought along a friend, his service dog Barkley. David works for Grand Rapids Christian Schools 4 days a week as an aide. He loves to joke around and is always making everyone around him smile! Fun Fact: David participated in the GR Half Marathon with My Team Triumph for the first time and finished in 2 hours!



Walking across the finish line



Gifts were given in honor of:

Jim & Kathy Collins	Kathy Hazeltine
Austin Bok	Naomi Wiersma
Warren Tamminga	Kevin Heys
Joel Motman	Mark & Mary Ryan
David Worst	Casey Kuperus
Teddy Vaughn	Matt W.
Paul Wiersma	
Marriage of Judy Motman & Bill Covert	

Gifts were given in memory of:

Jim DeVries	Skip Griffin
Karl Romence	Stella Thompson
Matthew Mast	Ralph Rogers
Bernice Rodgers	Alice DeWitt
Jamsheed	Glen Heys
Mark & Pat Worst	

Our Community

When Adtegrity, a digital advertising agency, comes to visit once a month they interact with the residents by playing games and forming personal relationships, which broadens the residents engagement with the community. If you or your company are looking for a fun way to get involved, this is a great way!



Crystal playing Trouble with an Adtegrity employee



Roots Brew Shop, located on 7th Street, is a great place where our residents enjoy coffee. Some of our residents, including Matthieu and Jay, even volunteer there. They love it so much. Stop in and enjoy a great cup of coffee!



Christ Church, on Breton Road, came out last fall to host one of their 'Coffee Breaks' at David's House! This was a super fun event that they usually hold at their church. It was such a huge hit with everyone, that they have asked to do it again! We are hoping to host another one soon. Stay tuned on Facebook to find out when!

Matthieu at Roots

David's House has been providing Community Living Support services for over 7 years. Right now we are supporting individuals who are living independently in their own home or apartment. Depending on the individual being served, staff may provide a little extra support with everyday tasks like grocery shopping, meal preparation, teaching them how to do their laundry, or even help them be engaged in social activities. It is our desire that they live independently in the community and that their lives are fulfilled and successful.

In the picture to the right we would like you to meet the ladies that call Hampton and Boston House their home. In addition to joining some of the activities at David's House, some of the ladies are involved in volunteering at Africa's Child, weekly workout classes at the YMCA, going to the Kent County Fair and this summer especially enjoyed going to the beach.

One of the residents even had her artwork featured in Art Prize. Meet Vicki! Vicki is a very talented artist who loves to include animals in her artwork. Her Art Prize piece this year included paintings of a donkey, lamb, cow, and pig! We are so happy to have these ladies in our community!

We are so happy to have these ladies be a part of those we are able to support, body, soul and spirit.



Left to Right: Kristen, Aimee, Katie, Kim, Kayla, Stephanie, Vicki, Jenni, Leanne



Vicki's artwork

Staff Spotlight

13.5 – that is how many combined years Lisa and Carla have worked at David's house. They both started working as direct care staff before becoming program coordinators about 3 years ago. Their stories on how they learned about David's House are different. Lisa was working at a movie theatre when her mom, who volunteered with Go Getters at Calvary Church, connected her with David's House. Carla always knew she wanted a job where she could help people. She studied social work in college and had an interest in working with individuals with developmental disabilities. Although their paths to getting here differ, it is the things that they have in common that have kept them here. Their relationships and friendships with the residents, their ability to make a difference, and the intentional family-like environment that David's House has provided.

Why do you think activities are important for the residents?

Carla— “Life needs purpose. Activities allow residents the opportunity to contribute to society and give purpose to life. Most of us feel better when we have plans or something to look forward to. We have the same thoughts when planning activities for the residents. It is important that the residents be able to choose what they want to do for recreation. We are constantly asking the residents for ideas on what events or activities they want to participate in.”



Carla & Kara

Lisa— “When I first started as program coordinator, I thought the goal should be to keep residents busy. I've learned there is so much more my friends here want to do! When I chat with residents I learn they want to have a job, volunteer in the community, and make a difference in the world. Now my focus has been to find opportunities for specific residents to continue to grow as individuals – participating in Mary Free Bed Wheelchair & Adaptive Sports, volunteering at Roots Brew Shop, learning at Noorthoek Academy. All of these opportunities help residents engage in their communities and learn more about themselves and others.”



Warren, Lisa & Matt

When asked about their hopes for David's House, they both replied that they hope to continue growing and serving more people. They hope that David's House can be a resource for community members to learn about disability awareness and advocacy. And they hope that David's House continues to feel like the family it has become.

David's House would not be the same without all the care and support that both Carla and Lisa provide for our residents. They have been blessed with amazing talents, and we are grateful that they have continued to share those talents with David's House for so many years!

Awesome Activities

We have had a fun filled year full of fun activities like: a trip to the Whitecaps, a water fight, a trip to the beach to help us beat the summer heat, a luau party, Blandford Nature Center to volunteer, a Harvest Party, and even some outdoor exercising.

Matt, Ben & Jim at Blandford





Dear Family and Friends,

Our warm summer days are dwindling, I can start to see the leaves changing colors as fall is upon us, and by the time you read this you may have seen a snowflake or two. Most of us have a favorite season that we look forward to. For most of our residents, if they can be outside walking or wheeling around, that would be their favorite season.

When I think of the changing seasons of weather I also think of the changing of seasons in our lives. Right now, I am entering another season of transition in my role at David's House. As you saw on page 2, in May, the David's House Ministries Board of Directors hired Casey Kuperus to be our new Executive Director. I have the privilege of working alongside Casey, combining our gifts and abilities so there is a smooth transition in leadership, while providing stability and security among the residents, tenants, staff and the families that we serve. The fear of the unknown can bring unrest and restlessness, but in these few short months, I have already witnessed many good relationships being built as Casey walks through the homes and interacts with the residents, their families, and staff.

I was asked by a resident at our Annual Walk-a-thon (see page 4) if this was my last big hurrah, and I joked with him asking if he was trying to get rid of me. He assured me that he was not, even though at first, he said an emphatic YES! The plan for now is that I will continue to work full time through the end of March and then part-time for the next 3 – 5 years.

As I journey through these changing seasons the thing that I will hold near to my heart are the special bonds and relationships that I have with the residents, their families and/or guardians, and co-workers.

Walking through the homes and hearing one of them call out “you're back” or “hey Annie of 89” or if you say you want to use something from House 1, I will hear “that

will be \$5 please.” Where else can you get this kind of banter besides from a loving family? That's the fun side of being part of an extended family, the great sense of humor that is shared. Then there is the more compassionate and humbling side of sharing your life with your extended family. I have the privilege of being surrounded by several prayer warriors. If I have been home sick and come back to work one of the first things I will be asked is, “Ann, are you feeling better?” and when I answer, “Yes, I'm much better.” – the simple reply is, “I was praying for you!” There is nothing like being able to look into a resident's eyes and see the sincerity of their child-like faith.

*“To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heaven.”
Ecclesiastes 3:1*

I would like to share one story (out of hundreds) with you as I close. We have 3 residents that belong to a dance team called Breath of Life Dance Team. A couple of years ago their coach (my granddaughter) was able to have them perform during a Dance Invitational at Byron Center High School. There were 15 to 20 high schools competing that day and the Breath of Life Dance Team were ready to take the floor. (Up until this time the only places they had performed were at churches or small gatherings.) They were very nervous and excited as they stood, waiting for their music to start. As they started to perform their routine I didn't know where to focus my attention, on the dance team or on the crowd. If they were being judged as the other dance teams performing that day on showmanship, unity, technique, originality, or costumes, they would have not rated very high marks. But in the area of audience appeal, they were off the charts! Everywhere I looked the crowd was on their feet clapping, yelling words of encouragement with tears in their eyes. When I looked back at the dance team, their smiles

covered their faces. They were accepted, appreciated and applauded – it was a very touching moment that they were able to experience, and I was able to witness. When they went back in the hallway, there were many shouts of joy and several of the girls were crying tears of joy because they had given it their all and the crowd loved them. And maybe the thing that they will remember most as they look back on that day was how their coaches greeted them as they entered the hallway. They were standing there clapping for them and telling them how proud they were of them for doing such a fantastic job. You could just feel each dancer puffing up just a little, knowing they had overcome their fears and someone close to them acknowledged them for who they were and what they had accomplished.

It has been the core of our mission statement that we minister to the whole person—body, soul and spirit. It is easy to say those words, but it takes all of us serving at David's House to be intentional in our actions and care to accomplish this commitment to our residents and in doing so help them to lead fulfilled and enriched lives.

Thank you for praying for and financially supporting David's House Ministries. Together we are intentionally impacting lives.

Ann Braford
Business Director





Willow Tree Lodge

Building for Hope

The Lord has been blessing us since 1987 when we first started building David's House with friends who have generously given their time, talent, and treasure. It has been the faithful support of our founders, board members, sponsors, and all of you that make total-person care a reality for our residents. Over the last couple of years, we have been expanding on our property and this year were able to complete the new administration building and our newest home. We praise God that by the time of publication, we will have the first of 6 new residents joining the family at David's House!

We thank all of our friends and supporters for enabling us to continue to build these homes completely debt free. We are currently raising funds for our 6th home and hope to have the \$600,000 needed next year.

New Faces

Taylor is our Marketing and Event Coordinator. Before coming to David's House in July, she was an independent contractor, helping businesses with their social media, marketing, and website design. Taylor graduated from Grand Valley State University with a degree in Marketing & Sports Health. When not working, you can find Taylor playing sports or exploring a new hiking trail!



Greg is our Director of Advancement. Greg comes to David's House after three years as a Senior Development Representative at Kuyper College. Prior to Kuyper, Greg spent time as the Executive Director at Ready For Life in Grand Rapids and the State of Michigan Director for Kids Hope USA. He also has worked as a teacher, principal and superintendent. He is married and has three children. Outside of work, Greg enjoys watching his children participate in their sporting events. He has a Bachelors degree from Calvin College and a Masters degree from Grand Valley State University.



Jessica & Becki



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Help Our Residents Celebrate their Special Day!



House 1

2390 Banner Dr. SW, Wyoming, MI 49509

- Jeff B January 25
- Jonathan S January 31
- Fred C March 8
- Greg N June 18
- Terry H August 1
- Ben D August 10
- Dale P September 3
- Brach S November 13
- Joel V December 10
- Matthieu K December 15

House 2

2355 Banner Dr. SW, Wyoming, MI 49509

- Joel M. January 16
- Mark Z. January 17
- Joel D. February 22
- Warren T. February 23
- Missy B. March 7
- Elizabeth S. April 28
- David T. April 28
- Bekki L. May 1
- David N. June 6
- Matt W. July 22
- Jimmy K. August 21
- James A. September 16

House 3

2387 Banner Dr. SW, Wyoming, MI 49509

- Crystal R January 27
- John S February 11
- Kevin H May 5
- Jay R May 15
- Adam R May 16
- Cynthia P June 1
- Ryan O August 3
- David C September 9
- Kara R October 4
- Jill L November 12
- David D November 23
- David W December 17

House 4

2375 Banner Dr. SW, Wyoming, MI 49509

- Jonathan B February 26
- Jeff B March 19
- Connie B December 12