

# Soaring

## PURE JOY FOR MADE SHADE 2024

Thanks to the generosity of sponsors, neighbors, friends, and families, over \$60,000 was raised to support needs in our group homes. The rain clouds quickly vanished and big smiles appeared as everyone greeted one another for this annual celebration. It always feels like a big family reunion. Everyone enjoyed the warm up exercises and dancing and singing along with our talented friends from Showstoppers. Marge from York House always steps up to sing crowd favorite “You Are My Sunshine”, and Glee Club member Tim from Sheridan House joined band members on stage to sing John Denver’s “Take Me Home, Country Roads.” Three cheers for the Hamer family who had the largest gathering of family in attendance this year. We had a visit from the Minnesota Roller Derby and some superheroes, a face painting booth, and plenty of food. Thank you to all of our in-kind donors including Baldinger Bakery.

We’d like to give another shout out to our \$5,000 level sponsor, Our House of Minnesota, Inc. and to our three \$2,500 level sponsors Associated Bank, Minnesota Bank & Trust, and UCare. Our wish lists this year include everything from new kitchen cabinets and flooring, appliances, or furniture to sporting event tickets or gift cards for a nice meal out together. We are so grateful for the heartwarming generosity!



*The Hamer family*



**Empowering Abilities. Nurturing Spirits. Caring for Life.**

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS: STEPPING UP THIS FALL

As the leaves fall and volunteer efforts at our homes ramp up, we're grateful to our community partners who have committed themselves to helping with the effort year after year. One such community partner is Wings Credit Union whose Minnetonka branch has spent their annual October Day of Service helping at our York group home for several years. This year, they came to our Portland Avenue home to rake, spread dozens of bags of mulch, and take care of overgrown weeds and branches.

Daren Schultz, the Wings Branch Manager, who has coordinated their volunteers every year, has had this to say about his team's experience with Wingspan: "We truly value our partnership with Wingspan. It has been a pleasure to work with them, and we have made it an annual event with our team. We look forward to a continued partnership with Wingspan for years to come!"

Along with our long-time community partners, we are lucky to now count Minnesota Bank & Trust as a vendor and supporter of our mission! A team led by Senior Vice President Heath Stanton visited our 1250 Hoyt group home to refresh their beautiful garden beds in the front yard and clear branches in the backyard, so our clients can enjoy their great view. MN Bank & Trust have also brightened our staff and clients' lives with generous St Paul Saints ticket donations this summer and fall. Thank you to Heath and the entire team for all the smiles they've brought us this year!



*Wings Credit Union  
volunteers (left)*



*Minnesota Bank & Trust  
volunteers (right)*





## WHY IS THIS ANNUAL EVENT SO IMPORTANT?

Give to the Max Day takes place every year in mid-November. On GTMD, thousands of donors across Minnesota rally around their favorite charities by making gifts online through GiveMN to increase the wellbeing of our communities. Early giving for Give to the Max Day begins on November 1st. All online gifts from then through 11:59PM on Thursday, November 21st will be entered into prize drawings each day that could win Wingspan a bonus of \$500 to \$10,000. Give to the Max Day 2023 raised \$34.2 million for 6,615 nonprofits and schools. Maybe your gift will be the one that triggers a prize for us this year!

## SEPTEMBER WAS A VERY BUSY MONTH



In addition to our Made in the Shade event in September, we also had two mini fundraisers that were a lot of fun. We appreciate Dual Citizen Brewing for sponsoring our third annual Beer Choir event. Thanks to several generous donors, we were able to offer some wonderful raffle prizes this year. It was good to see so many friends who have come to our past Beer Choir events, and we made a lot of new friends too. Funds raised will support our art & music enrichment programming. We hope to see many of you next year for this hilarious event.

Another highlight of the month was llama yoga with our new friends from Llama Mama of Minnesota. Thank you to Board member Mark Mooney and his team at Edina Realty for sponsoring this event. It was a perfect morning for yoga on the front lawn of our Plato campus. After the yoga session, clients came to spend time learning about the therapy llamas. They enjoyed feeding and petting them and getting their photos taken. It was truly a day of joy, with squeals of delight by our clients.





## “FIVE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND, SIX HUNDRED MINUTES”

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“...How do you measure, measure a year.” The lyrics to “Seasons of Love” from the musical *Rent* always resonate with me at this time of year. One minute we are ringing in the new year, and suddenly it's November and time to think about Thanksgiving turkey and holiday gifts. Where does the time go? As we approach the season of gratitude and giving, I want to let you know how much your outpouring of support all year long has meant to us. We're growing—hiring more staff than ever and expanding services. You've helped fill funding gaps and allowed us to expand our enrichment programs for clients. You'll read more in our upcoming annual report. Thank you for your gifts and for your belief in doing good. We simply couldn't do what we do without amazing people like you. From our big Wingspan family to yours, we are grateful for your kindness and generosity.

Happy holidays,

Therese Davis, Executive Director



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