



APR
2025

Taking Flight

BIRTHDAYS

Clint A. (Cielo)	1	Brenda Unzen (In-Home)	15
Shamso Osman (16th Ave)	1	Taiwo Afuye (1489 Hoyt)	17
Sylvanus Fuanjeh (Hope)	2	Nasteeho Muhamud (Haven)	17
Tina S. (1250 Hoyt)	2	Judy F. (91.5)	20
Barb N. (Colfax)	2	Kierra Lewis (Xerxes)	20
Jamere Powell (Hope)	3	George Awah (Troseth)	23
Wally U. (Oliver)	3	Umarou Inusa (Oliver)	23
Jason C. (Harmony)	5	Ciara Richmond (Zen)	24
Nancy Dolo (Thomas)	5	Lillian Kirby (Hope)	25
Ashley Springfield (Xerxes)	7	Gayle Linn (Demont)	25
Briana Thomas (Demont)	7	Grayson Berry (Colfax)	26
Julia Kimlinger (Zen)	8	Gifty Narh (91.5)	26
Julie Leiferman (Program Director)	8	Emani Frazier (CR D)	27
Jenna Dean (Skycroft)	9	Hailey Hildebrandt (Skyroft)	28
Nasra Abdirahman (Hope)	12	Micah Dangel (Humble)	30
Dyrell Koffa (Cielo)	12	Hannatu Ndogu (Hope)	30

ANNIVERSARIES

Sumaya Abdihakim (Xerxes)	1 yr	Jill LaFore (Aurora)	2 yrs
Hamdi Ali (Haven)	1 yr	Bolanle Martins (Glenpaul)	2 yrs
Cache Calloway (Hope)	1 yr	Kiki Ndogu (Hope)	2 yrs
Isatou Cham (CR D)	1 yr	Mark Ngene (Humble)	2 yrs
Sowda Farah (Xerxes)	1 yr	Hurria Shire (Colfax)	2 yrs
Liban Hassan (Xerxes)	1 yr	Beth Smith (Glenpaul)	2 yrs
Isatou Jobe (York)	1 yr	Diamond Dixon (Cielo)	3 yrs
Shannon Karan (Colfax)	1 yr	Taylor Steele (Aurora)	4 yrs
Whso Nyella (29th Ave)	1 yr	Esther Adamolekun (91.5)	6 yrs
Richard Riley (Harmony)	1 yr	Adeoye Roberts (17th St)	6 yrs
Princess Siakor (Cielo)	1 yr	Huda Hassan (Wentworth)	7 yrs
Patricia Skophammer (In-Home)	1 yr	Sewunu Samuel (York)	7 yrs
Fadumo Elmi (11th Ave)	2 yrs	Nadera Abdullahi (Haven)	12 yrs
Brent Hanson (Humble)	2 yrs	Richard Bell (In-Home)	15 yrs
Fardosa Irad (Skycroft)	2 yrs	George Awah (Troseth)	21 yrs
Catherine Jackson (Stacker)	2 yrs	Sarah Oni (Skillman)	21 yrs
Huda Jama (Wentworth)	2 yrs	Therese Davis (Executive Director)	★ 48 yrs

TALENT BEYOND MEASURE

Our “Wingspan’s Got Talent” show was held on March 22nd at Saint Stephen’s Lutheran Church in West Saint Paul. The event was spectacular and featured a variety of entertainment. The atmosphere at the church was filled with excitement and anticipation as the performers showcased their remarkable talents. One by one the impressive performances left the audience in awe.

Each performer contributed their unique style and talent, resulting in an unforgettable performance. After the show the performers received a thunderous applause from the audience. It was an incredibly gratifying moment that fostered a sense of unity and celebration! — *Julie Leiferman, Program Director*



HIGH PRAISE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

“Wingspan’s Got Talent” was long on inspiration, courage and absolute delight. The crowd showed so much love and support for every performer, and the smiles and happy feelings just could not be contained. We had singers, dancers, yoga routines, artists, rappers and poets. Special thanks to Stacy Boehmer, Deb Hofbauer, Crystal Jackson and Julie Leiferman for organizing this event, to all the staff who helped our performers prepare for their big moment, and to our judges Maureen Merrill, Mark Mooney and Joe Eickhoff. They had to make tough decisions. With my retirement coming up in May, these are the moments I’ll miss the most. — *Therese Davis, Executive Director*



WELCOME TO STACKER HOUSE, TOM!

Thomas moved into the Wingspan Stacker house the first week in February. He had come from a TCU where he was recovering, and his care provider there had been a longtime Wingspan employee, albeit years ago. When she realized that Thomas, who had lived independently for most of his life, might need to relocate to a group home, she reached out to Therese Davis. After a few meetings, Thomas decided he wanted to try living in the group home.

Although it hasn't been quite two months yet, Thomas has really enjoyed his new home. He has adjusted to having roommates and staff around all the time, and says that he loves Stacker and Wingspan. According to him, this is his new forever home, and he doesn't ever want to move. We are very happy to have Thomas join the Wingspan family and look forward to serving him for a long time. Welcome Tom!

— Eric Hemme, Program Director

GROVELAND HOUSE WELCOMES DUSTIN AND ZEUS!

Dustin is a pleasure to assist. Everyday remains positive and inspiring. Dustin has reached many goals in a short period of time since coming to Wingspan. He has made great progress on his weight-loss journey, losing seven pounds since his move, and he continues to push forward. He is newly employed and is making friends while learning healthy habits. His hobbies include riding bikes and writing. He's made an excellent addition to our Colorful Clay Sculptures class as well. Wingspan is happy to welcome Dustin and his cat, Zeus! — Tishona Robinson, Groveland House Coordinator




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Taking Flight

is a monthly newsletter published by Wingspan Life Resources

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The Wingspan Life Resources mission is to inspire community by empowering people impacted by disabilities to live their best life.

Please email us your changes to mailing address or email address: Contact.Llirizarry@wingspanlife.org

COLORFUL CLAY MASTERPIECES AT PLATO

We kicked off a new series of Colorful Clay Sculptures classes taught by COMPAS teaching artist Layl McDill on March 21st! Weekly projects have included a fun owl, creative keepsake jar and caterpillar pen projects. Clients and staff have been fascinated with the process of turning cubes of various colors of clay into beautiful works of art. With every class introducing a new and unique project, we look forward to seeing what next week's project will be!

— Liz Irizarry, Development Associate & Enrichment Coordinator

