

**BIRTHDAYS**

Andrew F. (Stacker)	2	Sharron Aken (Program Director)	14
Mohamed Jama (Colfax)	2	Paulette B. (48th Cir)	14
Anetta Nedd (Portland Ave)	2	John L. (Tamberwood)	17
Anthony G. (Demont)	3	Vanecia Samuels (Clinton)	17
Frank Merrill (Plato)	4	Dot M. (Sheridan)	18
Mascuud Hussein (Oliver)	5	John B. (Somerset)	19
Susan Teibowei (Portland Ave)	6	Michelle Mathison (1489 Hoyt)	20
Jessica R. (In-Home)	7	Marilyn Heaton (Xerxes)	21
Jacinta Gortmaker (1489 Hoyt)	8	Raysel Gist (Tamberwood)	22
Mohamed Mohamed (Somerset)	8	Maureen Merrill (In-Home)	22
Uchechi Okwara (91.5)	8	Steven S. (In-Home)	22
Jesse Spiyee (Skillman)	8	Annette Springfield (In-Home)	22
Cami H. (Sheridan)	9	Tonja Hofbauer (Skycroft)	23
Joseph J. (Stacker)	9	Muhsan Omar (CR D)	25
Daniela Lopez (Harmony)	10	Devin Bremer (Program Director)	27
Thomas R. (17th)	10	Alennie Samuels (Troseth)	27
Juliet Attoh (Thomas)	11	Susan Hutchinson (Aurora)	28
Jessyca Sweeten (Zen)	11	Isatou Jobe (York)	28
Cierra Kelly (Humble)	12	Thomas Cooper (Harmony)	29
Chisomaga Ogbu (Haven)	12	Caroline Dade (91.5)	29
Jayne R. (Glenpaul)	12	Crystal Jackson (Program Director)	30
Marvin Steele (Hope)	12	Rose Apima (Skillman)	31
Danita K. (In-Home)	13		

**ANNIVERSARIES**

Andrea Alvarez (Troseth)	1 yr	Marcello Malone (Humble)	2 yrs
Carly Andrews (Harmony)	1 yr	Tabitha Smith (48th Cir)	2 yrs
Regina Bell (Sheridan)	1 yr	Martine Akandan (Tamberwood)	3 yrs
Fumba Dukuly (Thomas)	1 yr	Keller Karlstrom (Development)	3 yrs
Johnnie Mae Livingston (Demont)	1 yr	Paige Parvey (Zen)	3 yrs
Fadumo Mohamed (Colfax)	1 yr	Annette Springfield (In-Home)	3 yrs
Gloria Nkwain (Oliver)	1 yr	Aishah Adeyera (11th Ave)	4 yrs
Anntionette Robinson (Zen)	1 yr	Sabrina Thomas (Aurora)	5 yrs
Hodan Sheikhabdi (Colfax)	1 yr	Jason Fortney (Maintenance)	8 yrs
Nura Sheikhabdi (Colfax)	1 yr	Sadia Bashir (48th Cir)	12 yrs
Benedict Stewart (Hope)	1 yr	Mark Wald (Clinton)	16 yrs
Qahtan Alobaidi (Zen)	1 yr	Jessica Cowan (1489 Hoyt)	25 yrs
Muna Abdullahi (Xerxes)	2 yrs		



**JUAN BOBO'S BIG ADVENTURE AT WINGSPAN**

Clients at the Plato office Learning Lab had fun watching *The Adventures of Juan Bobo*, a bilingual puppet show from Open Eye Theatre. This was Open Eye's last show at Wingspan this summer. Juan Bobo, a beloved folk character from Puerto Rico, is known for his big heart, good intentions and hilarious misadventures. In this performance, Juan Bobo went on a crazy quest to retrieve his stolen pig and had to outsmart mischievous demons along the way. His silly mistakes and clever solutions had us all laughing!

— *Liz Irizarry, Development Associate and Enrichment Coordinator*

## A SWEET PINK BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION FOR LINDA

On July 28th, we wished Linda T. a happy beautiful pink birthday. Staff at Clinton House treated Linda to a delicious meal at Famous Dave's. Back home, the table was bright with pink from the decorations to her special birthday cake. Famous Dave's was out of the lemon dessert she wanted, but we were able to find her a lemon pie instead. Happy Birthday, Linda!

— Vanecia Samuels, Clinton House Coordinator



## A TICKET TO FUN

Corn dogs, mini donuts, cheese curds... there's something for everyone at the Minnesota State Fair! Thanks to the Minnesota State Fair, Wingspan clients and their accompanying staff will enjoy 195 donated tickets to this year's fair, running **August 22–September 2, 2025**. We're so grateful for this generous gift that brings fun, food and memories to our community! What's your favorite state fair food?

— Darolyn Gray, Development Officer

  
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## Taking Flight

is a monthly newsletter published by Wingspan Life Resources

Executive Director  
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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 mailing or email address changes to Liz Irizarry at [Llirizarry@wingspanlife.org](mailto:Llirizarry@wingspanlife.org)

## NURTURING GROWTH AT HOPE HOUSE

Our team at Hope house wanted to come up with something that our ladies could help participate in as well as the experience of growing some of the veggies that they eat in their meals on a daily basis. With that came our Hope garden. It took a lot of work between Jessica, me, Lillie, Sylvanus, Jamere and Benedict. We dug and cleaned out the area. Lillie and I used the planters, soil and compost that was donated to Wingspan. We planted green and red bell peppers, banana pepper, snap peas, cucumber, strawberries and watermelon (table melons). We started a little late, but we are finally starting to see growth in our little project. Jessica loves to water and help with keeping the weeds out as well as sweeping the area to keep it looking clean.

— Cache Calloway, Hope House Coordinator

