



Taking Flight

newsletter

NOV
2025

BIRTHDAYS

Samira Aded (Clinton)	1	Craig Ost (Groveland)	14
Sara J. (In-Home)	1	Anntionette Robinson (Zen)	14
Mohamed Dualeh (Haven)	2	Jacqueline Schultz (Tamberwood)	14
Nathan E. (In-Home)	2	Sarah Alemneh (Somerset)	15
Timothy G. (Sheridan)	2	Pamela Myers (Wentworth)	15
Umalkhair Mohamed (CR D)	2	Maia Pivec (HR)	16
Jack J. (Demont)	3	Emily Badio-Meh (Troseth)	18
Julie M. (Aurora)	3	Barbara E. (Summer Street)	18
Michael S. (Somerset)	3	Kaylla M. (Glenpaul)	18
Deena Peterson (Executive Director)	4	Jonathan S. (In-Home)	20
Anne S. (In-Home)	4	Kyla Sisson (Outreach Coordinator)	20
Feysal Shekhali (Humble)	4	Olubola Bello (1489 Hoyt)	21
Nancy M. (Portland Ave)	5	Allieu Golafale (Sheridan)	21
Anita Petersen (In Home)	5	Keller Karlstrom (Development)	21
Charity Appiah (Harmony)	6	Keji Oyedokun (91.5)	21
Fabrice Atabong (Somerset)	6	Olufemi Wusu (48th Circle)	23
Rhoda Omare (Humble)	7	Taylor Travis (Hope)	23
Martine Akandan (Tamberwood)	8	Eric Hemme (Program Director)	25
Jill LaFore (Aurora)	10	Feven Kiros (Harmony)	25
Mary Oreko (Thomas Avenue)	10	Anita L. (Aurora)	25
Adewale Adele (Troseth)	11	Betty T. (1250 Hoyt)	25
Rukia Mohamed (Glenpaul)	11	Hue Tran (Clinton)	26
Mitchell Schwartz (Harmony)	12	Dessie Hopkins (91.5)	27
Debra W. (Tamberwood)	12	Ann M. (Portland Ave)	27
Elizabeth Debar (48th Circle)	13	J Awe (Groveland)	28
Nasra Suldán (91.5)	13	Christopher G. (In-Home)	28
Asmaa Abdirahman (Hope)	14	Nadera Abdullahi (Haven)	29
Daniel Mensah (Fairview)	14		

ANNIVERSARIES

Malia Dean (Hope)	1 yr	Siraad Hashi (Xerxes)	3 yrs
Alisa Forkpah (Colfax)	1 yr	Yabesh Maroko (Colfax)	3 yrs
Andrew Gallagher (Office Manager)	1 yr	Rose Ombati (17th Street)	3 yrs
Umarou Inusa (Oliver)	1 yr	Naima Haro (CR D)	4 yrs
Mimi Johnson (Hope)	1 yr	Dawalta Clay (Sheridan)	5 yrs
Elizabeth Roberts (Colfax)	1 yr	Mitchell Schwartz (Harmony)	5 yrs
Ngwollichu Titiahonjo Deric (York Lane)	1 yr	Jean-claude Nanga (Demont)	10 yrs
Ilesha Turner (Sheridan)	1 yr	Tonya Thompson (In Home)	10 yrs
Jesse Spiyee (Skillman)	2 yrs	Carol Hanson (In Home)	13 yrs
Gwendolynn Sternquist (Colfax)	2 yrs	Catherine Bichsel (17th Street)	15 yrs
Ilhan Muhamud (Xerxes)	2 yrs	Gayelan Thompson-Nedd (Portland Avenue)	23 yrs
Dorine Ongmoukong Makan (Nurse)	2 yrs	Karen Schreifels (48th Circle)	28 yrs



TOM’S INCREDIBLE 100-POUND TRIUMPH

IT TAKES A VILLAGE! Thomas Reinhardt of the Woodbridge 17th house in New Brighton has lost 100 pounds! He and his family would like to thank God for giving him faith, hope and strength. The power of prayer uplifts him immensely! Tom would also like to thank his family for their love, support and encouragement over the years. Collectively, we give HEARTFELT KUDOS to his staff, led by Brenda Sparggins. The team inspires Tom to do his daily walking while keeping the smiles coming! They also cook healthy, well balanced and (in Tom’s words) DYNAMITE meals for all their clients!

A friend at Tom’s day program convinced him to replace treats with protein shakes and bars. That helped her weight loss, and it did the same for him. Other friends have cheered him on, and his goal continues. These days, Tom is feeling better than he has in decades! He has more energy, and his legs are getting stronger which means more freedom from his wheelchair! Tom has excitedly shared every dropped pound as they have happened with his awesome village. What an inspiration!

— Becky Human, Thomas’ Mom



WELCOME TO WINGSPAN, SAM!

A little bit about Sam and Furgeson: Samantha, or as she prefers to be called Sam, moved into Skillman House about a month and a half ago with her lovely dog, Furgeson. Sam and Furgeson have been a wonderful addition to Skillman. She enjoys playing Uno, Bingo and many other games with her peers, as well as going out and about with them. They love to go bowling and out for coffee. Not only is Sam a ray of sunshine but she works hard as a teacher’s assistant at a day care, as Sam is a very independent individual.

We are thrilled to welcome Sam and Furgeson to Skillman House, to Wingspan, and as the newest members of our Glee Club. Welcome, Sam and Furgeson!

— Nikkie Hofbauer, Skillman & Cielo House Coordinator


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Taking Flight

is a monthly newsletter published by Wingspan Life Resources

Executive Director Deena Peterson	Editor Liz Irizarry
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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

WINGSPAN’S ANNUAL PUMPKIN PAINTING CONTEST

We were so impressed with the creativity and teamwork that went into every submission for this year’s Pumpkin Painting Contest! This year’s winners are Paulette from 48th Circle in first place, Angie from Skycroft in second, and a group project from 48th Circle in third, created in honor of Sue, who was in TCU. A big thank-you to our judges—Executive Director Deena, HR Assistant Nicole, and Office Manager Andrew—for taking the time to review all the wonderful entries. Check out Wingspan’s Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn pages to see more photos from the contest and to stay in the loop on other Wingspan happenings like this!

— Liz Irizarry, Development Associate & Enrichment Coordinator

