



Taking Flight

newsletter

OCT
2025

BIRTHDAYS

Ignatus Semakula (Humble)	2	Pat H. (Portland)	21
Gladys Atehwah (Troseth)	4	Eugene Hyatte (Maintenance)	21
Shukri Omar (Clinton)	5	Stacy Jacobsen (Nurse)	21
Charleston Azonwu (Portland)	6	Mojisola Olafeso (Glenpaul)	24
Colette Tauer (In-Home)	6	Sandy Sabey (In-Home)	24
Abdulbasid Jama (Humble)	10	Rashidah Harris (Hope)	25
Arianna H. (Wentworth)	11	Sharon Morala (Hope)	25
Valentine Ondo (Hope)	12	Karen Schreifels (48th Cir)	25
Aretha A. (Clinton)	13	Danielle Buettner (Harmony)	26
Nancy Kundayo (Thomas)	13	Nikki Hofbauer (Skillman)	26
Erica Sahlstrom (Quality Assurance)	13	Gloria Nkwain (Oliver)	26
Sewunu Samuel (York)	14	Chizoba Ogbonna (Humble)	27
Paul O. (29th Ave)	16	Dawalta Clay (Sheridan)	28
Yeawah Lahai (Zen)	17	Tyler T. (Skycroft)	29
Dana N. (11th Ave)	17	Jonna Karan (Aurora)	30
Huda Hassan (Wentworth)	18	JT J. (Humble)	30
Adolphus Dolo (Thomas)	19	Tony H. (In-Home)	31
Bill R. (1489 Hoyt)	19	Deddeh Kpadeh (York)	31

ANNIVERSARIES

Carolyn Dillon (In-Home)	1 yr	Juliet Attoh (Thomas)	3 yrs
Masalan Dolleh (17th St)	1 yr	Torrie Boehmer (CR D)	3 yrs
Rayanna Elam (Humble)	1 yr	Rose Apima (Skillman)	4 yrs
Shamso Osman (Clinton)	1 yr	Hailey Hildebrandt (Skycroft)	4 yrs
Peace Suh (Sheridan)	1 yr	Adolphus Dolo (Thomas)	6 yrs
Raven Thompson (Colfax)	1 yr	Michael Sherrill (29th Ave)	6 yrs
Grace Vaye (Thomas)	1 yr	Vanecia Samuels (Clinton)	7 yrs
Melissa Barbosa (17th St)	1 yr	Annette Ogamba (91.5)	11 yrs
Hassan Adan (Xerxes)	2 yrs	Lori Mason (Program Director)	13 yrs
Hawa Gaafaa (Idaho)	2 yrs	Giftu Narh-Adotei (91.5)	14 yrs
Jasmine Henderson (Harmony)	2 yrs	Stacy Boehmer (Program Director)	15 yrs
Kierra Lewis (Xerxes)	2 yrs	Saidat Adetunji (91.5)	17 yrs
Mohamed Omar (CR D)	2 yrs	Jacinta Gortmaker (1489 Hoyt)	21 yrs



A SPOOKTACULAR FINALE

The last “Exploring Self-Identity Through Dance” class with COMPAS Teaching Artist Alanna Morris was celebrated with some early Halloween fun. A few clients came dressed in costumes, and clients and staff joined in to dance to “Thriller.” As everyone cooled down from their post-dance fun with some celebratory snacks, they were asked about their experiences.

Angie from Skycroft loved the statue activity, where groups posed to show different emotions. Derian from Harmony and DSP Shay said they enjoyed learning new ways to move their bodies as they learned the Elements of Dance. Derian also liked that the class was totally judgment-free, as Alanna always reminded everyone, “Don’t think, just do.” Stacey from Harmony, DSP Takiya and Tina from 1250 Hoyt said they had fun watching others dance, saying that everyone was cool, different and unique. Tina especially thought it was cool when Derian showed off his splits! It was the perfect ending to a great residency.

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

— Liz Irizarry, Development Associate & Enrichment Coordinator



SPRUCING UP SKILLMAN’S GARDEN

When Skillman House was in need of some gardening help, Nikki from Haven volunteered to help me do some cleanup work. Together, we were able to clean up the large garden bed in the backyard which had been overflowing with weeds and stumps. After pulling all of the weeds and leveling the dirt, we laid a fresh layer of mulch to make it look great! Next spring we plan to add in some flowering plants to really spruce up the outdoor area!

— Devin Bremer, Program Director





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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 mailing or email address changes to Liz Irizarry at Llirizarry@wingspanlife.org

OCEAN DREAMS BECOME REALITY FOR ASHA

Asha from 16th Avenue has listened to nature shows her whole life, dreaming of the day she could visit the ocean and experience its beauty and the animals that live there. This September, her dream came true when she went on a cruise filled with excursions and adventures that brought her up close to the ocean she had always imagined. Asha went parasailing and her feet were dunked in the ocean before landing. She experienced sea lions, seals and dolphins as they splashed us when swimming near us. Everything else was just part of fun on a cruise ship.

— Deb Hofbauer, Program Director

