



2026

HARMONY COMMUNITIES

Life to the Fullest



I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful; I know that full well.

Psalm 139:14

Harmony Communities invites you to browse through our newsletter. Inside you will find information about our organization and those we serve. We invite you to follow us on social media as well as subscribe to Harmony Connections (Electronic Monthly Newsletter).

This ministry cannot continue to flourish without your support!

OUR MISSION: To provide housing opportunities and promote Christian community for adults with special needs

OUR VISION: Every resident to realize their God-given potential!

Website: www.harmonycommunities.org

Phone: 616-226-3473

Mailing Address: PO Box 845, Jenison, MI 49429-0845

Office Location: Our offices are on the lower level (west entrance) of Cedar Church, 2025 Baldwin Street, Jenison, MI 49428.

Facebook: Harmony Communities

Instagram: @harmony.communities

Harmony Connections: Please email hello@harmonycommunities.org with your request to be added to our email list.

Administrative Team:

Sandra Baker, Executive Director
sbaker@harmonycommunities.org

Brandon Folkert, Associate Director
bfolkert@harmonycommunities.org

Sybil Veldhoff, Administrative Assistant
sveldhoff@harmonycommunities.org

Jeremiah 29:11

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”



“ Ross grew up in Jenison and is the oldest of 3 children. He has 2 married siblings. He is uncle to 6 nieces and now 3 nephews, as another nephew was added when the oldest niece recently got married. Ross also loves his 2 dog-nephews, Bentley and Bruno.

At 3 ½ years old, Ross attended Ottawa Area Center and then Bursley Elementary in Jenison. He graduated from Heritage Christian and also Jenison High School. He then attended CBI in Hudsonville. Ross has worked at Arby's for 17 years and Family Fare for 20 years! A couple years ago, he began working at Maggie's Be Café on Mondays where he loves interacting with the customers. He attends IKUS two days per week. Ross attends church every weekend with his family. He has a very busy social life, attending bowling and special ministries with the guys, and a couple of church youth groups. Ross is a Full House and Home Alone expert. His memory is amazing with dates, birthdays, and anniversaries. Ross loves unconditionally! He is loved by many people, in all spheres of life - family, work, church, and the community.

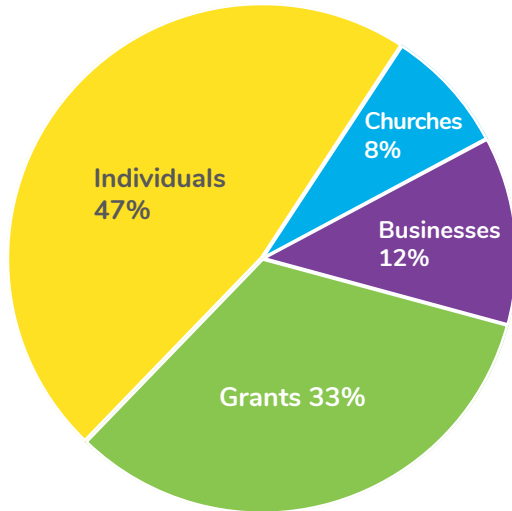
Ross moved into the Sagerose home in September 2007 when he was 27 years old. He lives there with 5 housemates. Originally, Ross did not like the idea at all about moving into a group home. Since mom was on the board of GHH at the time, he heard much talk and excitement about the opening of the very first women's home. As parents, we did not push the idea at that time but hoped he would want to move out some day. After attending the grand opening of the 10th Avenue Women's Home, we got in the car to leave, and Ross stated he wanted to move into the new guy's home! As parents, we are very thankful for this opportunity for Ross. The guys at Sagerose are his second family, acting like brothers, caring, loving - and sometimes bugging - each other. The caring, Christian staff helps him to be as independent as possible. Support is given when needed, and Ross is encouraged to try new skills. As Ross lives and works in the community, Harmony Communities continues to be a great place to live. May God continue to bless Harmony Communities. ”

- Greg and Vicki VanOverloop



Your donations help provide annually:
 24/7/365 Staff \$747,500
 Water, Gas, Electricity, Phone/TV/Internet for homes \$44,500
 Gas/maintenance for 5 vans \$23,000
 Home maintenance \$31,800

In an effort to keep rent affordable for our residents, we need to raise approximately \$550,000 through our fundraising events, church donations, grants, and gracious gifts from our donors.



1 Peter 4:10

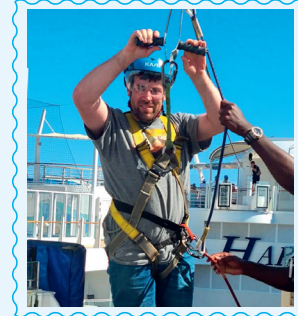
Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

“ Chris is a 41-year-old gentleman living at Elmwood Lake Apartments with roommates Richie and Scott.

Chris came to us in June 1984 as a foster child through Child Protective Services and Bethany Christian Services. He had some early delays but as an older toddler he really started to advance.

He attended preschool at Ottawa Area Center. Through the help of The Christian Learning Center, we were able to mainstream his K-12 education, first at Jenison Christian School, and then at Unity Christian School where he received his high school diploma. While in high school he spent time at Careerline Tech Center in the building maintenance program. Post high school, Chris spent time at Hudsonville Public Schools' Young Adult Services and Kandu Industries.

While in high school, Chris started working at Hillcrest Christian Reformed Church, which has continued one day per week, doing janitorial work and whatever else Chris and Jim can find for him. He works on Tuesdays because it is when the “sewing ladies” meet and



they bring him treats and very good conversations.

The other four days of the week Chris works at Acrofab, Inc. in Zeeland. Acrofab is a plastic thermoforming company that makes parts mostly for the medical industry. Chris started at Acrofab shortly after high school and has never missed a day of work.

In his spare time, Chris loves to do puzzles (the more pieces the better), ride his bike, and eat. You can often find Chris and Richie at Mr. Burger or Vitales. Most of all, Chris likes to travel. He has been

to 47 of the lower states (missed Delaware) plus Alaska. Cruising is his best travel experience. He loves to explore the ships and do activities without Mom and Dad, but he never misses breakfast or lunch in the Windjammer or dinner in the main dining room. Chris has cruised Aruba to Norway and many places in between.

We are very grateful for our arrangement with Harmony Communities and our supportive community at large including LaGrave Avenue Christian Reformed Church where Chris is a member. When you meet Chris, introduce yourself and you won't have to say another word. We love this man!

-Richard and Sherri Kanten

2026 Fundraising Events

Ephesians 2:10
For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago.

APRIL
30
Gala



Pinnacle Center
6pm-8:30pm
Join us for an evening of celebrating our residents! This is our **main fundraiser** and registration is required. Please visit our website to buy tickets online or to print a registration form to mail in with your check.

AUGUST
21
Golf Outing



Pigeon Creek Golf Course
Join us for a day of golf, food, and fun! Sponsorship opportunities and team registration will be available in May.

NOVEMBER
7
Bowl-a-thon



Hudsonville Lanes
Residents will be collecting pledges. You can also show support by bowling with us or by coming to cheer on our residents!

Annual Gala



You are cordially invited to our

4th Annual Gala

Thursday
April 30, 2026

Doors open at 6pm
Dinner served at 6:30pm
Business Casual Attire

The Pinnacle Center
3330 Highland Drive
Hudsonville, MI

Our Annual Gala is the most important fundraising event that we host throughout the year!

Please consider attending this heartwarming event where our residents are featured, organizational updates are shared, and funds are raised for the future of Harmony Communities.

Individual Tickets \$100
Table Sponsor Large \$950 (comfortably seats up to 11)
Table Sponsor Regular \$800 (comfortably seats up to 9)

Please register by **April 15**, utilizing one of the following ways:

Mail your check and registration form to:
Harmony Communities
PO Box 845
Jenison, MI 49429-0845

To register online, scan the QR code or visit:
www.harmonycommunities.org/events/





10th Ave Women's Home
opened in 2005



Sagerose Men's Home
opened in 2007



High Meadow Women's Home
opened in 2019



High Meadow Men's Home
opened in 2020

Our Homes

Harmony Communities owns and operates four licensed Adult Foster Care Homes located in Hudsonville and Jenison. Residing in each home are six residents and a live-in home manager. Each resident in our homes has their own bedroom and bathroom but share common living spaces such as a living room, kitchen, dining room, and basement recreation area.

Residents in our homes are expected to learn daily living skills such as laundry, cleaning, and some meal preparation. Staff are present to assist in these areas as needed. Residents in our homes enjoy dinner together each evening and also engage in many activities in the community.

Harmony Communities in Allendale



This new (donated in 2025) property, like all the properties in our portfolio, represents more than a place to live – it is a foundation for hope, belonging and purpose. Through the generosity of a couple in Allendale, this gift will provide residents the opportunity to experience true community and the dignity of a Christian home. This act of kindness strengthens our mission to create spaces where every person is valued, supported and loved. This house, like all our properties, will bless many lives – the kindness of this gift will be remembered in every life it touches. May this home stand as a lasting symbol of compassion and faith in action!

Four gentlemen will call this their home away from home starting March 1, 2026. Soft supervision will be provided on a part time basis – caring reminders, coaching, mentorship, guidance, improved independent living skills, and conflict management skills will be offered to the residents.

Thank you to the contractors and community members that provided the renovations to the home. We are truly blessed!!



A Journey of Independence: William's Story

How Harmony Communities
Empowered One Man's Life

William's story is one of growth, resilience, and empowerment. From his early years to his life today, he has faced challenges and learned valuable lessons about independence.

Being unable to have their own biological children, in 2003, John & Arlene Docter became foster parents. They requested from the agency to foster two boys, under the age of 5, with no special needs (we believe God chuckled a little). Their first placement was an 8-year-old girl, Kim. A year later, and after fostering a few more children, and still waiting for the "two boys, under 5, with no special needs," they received into their care a sibling group of three boys. This sibling group included William and his two half-brothers. The adoption of the boys was finalized about 1 ½ years later.

William was 21 months old at the time, did not speak, cry, smile, or laugh. His early childhood was a journey of testing, therapy, and trying to figure out where he fit in. He started out in Christian school but had to move to the public school system due to financial reasons. That did not go well, so they started homeschooling. He faced challenges that sometimes made it difficult to express himself or handle responsibilities on his own. Well-meaning family and friends were always present, but their protective nature sometimes limited William's ability to make decisions for himself.

As William reached adulthood, he and his family began seeking environments that would encourage his personal growth. They discovered Harmony Communities—a place where individuals are supported but also encouraged to develop independence and life skills.

Upon moving into Hudsonville Flats under Harmony Communities, William was exposed to living with a roommate, learning to budget money, "clipping" coupons, grocery shopping, cooking his own meals, and taking charge of his daily activities.

William became more comfortable expressing himself and advocating for his needs. He found that independence was not just about living alone, but about making choices, solving problems, and contributing to a shared environment.

Looking back, William recognizes how far he has come. He is beginning to feel more empowered to pursue his interests, connect with others, and live life on his own terms. At the time of this writing, William is looking forward to moving to the new home in Allendale with three other roommates to be closer to his parents, his home church, be more out in the country, and get more involved in that community.

The Docter family deeply thanks God for this organization, Harmony Communities, for Sandy Baker, and all those behind the scenes for everything they do to help our loved ones succeed in life. 🍀

- John and Arlene Docter



Harmony Communities at Elmwood Lake



Harmony Communities holds a Master Lease agreement with Elmwood Lake and DTN Management in their beautiful multifamily development close to the downtown area of Hudsonville. Ten residents are living their lives to the fullest in various spaces including a studio, 2-bedroom, and 3-bedroom apartments, and a townhome, all with gentle oversight from a Resident Assistant living close by.



Residents are expected to take their own medications, prepare their own meals, clean their own apartments, and plan their own transportation to work and community activities. We celebrate this opportunity as a tier of independent living within our organization.

John 16:33

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Hudsonville Communities at Hudsonville Flats

Harmony Communities holds a Master Lease agreement with Midwest Development Company in their beautiful multifamily property in downtown Hudsonville, within walking distance to all of the restaurants, shops, and events held in the downtown area. Ten residents are living their lives to the fullest in one- and two-bedroom apartments with gentle oversight from a Resident Assistant living on the premises.




Residents are expected to clean their own apartments, take their own medications, prepare their own meals and plan their own transportation to work and community activities.

We celebrate this opportunity as an additional tier of independent living within our organization.



Ephesians 2:10

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.



Julie's Story



“ Julie has always strived to follow in her sister's footsteps. From a young age Julie wanted to be just like Laura. She wanted to ride the school bus, not the special one, but the same one Laura rode. She wanted to attend regular elementary and middle school classrooms and was included in many regular classes throughout high school. She then went on to four years of Ready for Life at Hope College. She loved all of this, but Hope could never replace MSU where Laura graduated!

Then Julie wanted to move away from home as Laura had and she was one of the first to move into Georgetown Harmony Homes (now Harmony Communities). It was amazing to see her take so much pride in her new home, her new family, and to watch her grow and mature while living at GHH.

After 20 years, Julie yearned for more independence and was ready to take the next step and move to her own apartment! In July 2025, Harmony Communities made this possible. As her parents we were very nervous but knowing about the RA checkup each day we decided to go for it! From the first day she loved it! She is so proud of her own apartment! Julie is so happy and loves making it her own place. She loves talking to everyone about her new home and her new cat, and she loves sharing her baked goods with others. It is again amazing to see the independence and confidence in her grow. Another dream come true!

Laura continues to be a huge influence on Julie. The GHH Harmony Communities family helped her learn the independence and life skills necessary to achieve this amazing dream of living on her own.

It is truly a blessing that so many people have been such a meaningful part of Julie's life. ”

- Phil and Sheila Roach

Opportunities to get involved with Harmony Communities

Isaiah 43:4

Since you are precious and honored in my sight, and because I love you, I will give people in exchange for you, nations in exchange for your life.

Pray

For our residents, our staff, our Board, and the organization as a whole

Volunteer

- Be a friend/mentor to one of our residents
- Help with transportation to jobs, volunteer sites, or other places in the community
- Help with maintenance projects at our homes
- Exercise with a resident at the YMCA
- Do a craft/cooking night at one of our homes
- Plan a fun activity for our residents (game night, sledding, etc.)
- Take a resident out to eat, to a movie, or to a ballgame
- Share your gifts and talents with us!

Join OUR Team We are always seeking people who want to make a difference and become a part of our team! To learn more about paid employment opportunities, reach out on our website or call 616-226-3473.

Join our Board of Directors We are always looking for members with a commitment to serve an amazing organization!

Support us Financially

- We need to raise approximately \$550,000 through our fundraising events, church donations, grants, and donor gifts.
- Make a personal donation toward our operating expenses
- Be a sponsor of one of our events
- Consider including us in your Estate Planning



Courtney's Story

“ Courtney was born 4 ½ months prematurely. She spent the first 4 ½ months in the neo-natal unit at Spectrum Hospital in Grand Rapids and was diagnosed with cerebral palsy.

Courtney has two younger brothers - one lives in Grand Haven, Michigan and the other lives in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Courtney attended Ottawa Area Center, Allendale Elementary, and then attended and graduated from West Ottawa High School. She attended the CBI program in Grand Haven until she was 26 years old.

Courtney enjoys going on outings with her house mates and with the other Harmony Communities residents. The home managers and the other support staff provide supervision and oversight for Courtney, but also give her responsibilities and chores, which she benefits from.

Harmony Communities helps Courtney gain independence, and she is supported by the staff so she can achieve her goals and ambitions. ”

-Tim and Lori Gifford

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

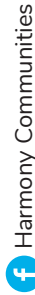






PO Box 845 • Jenison, MI 49429

For regular updates, please like and follow us on Facebook & Instagram!



Harmony Communities



Instagram: @harmonycommunities

616-226-3473

www.harmonycommunities.org



Harmony Communities is a 501(c)(3) organization.