

A Home for Life's Final Season

MORNING LIGHT NEWSLETTER | SUMMER | 6.30.2023 | VOLUME 3

Stories of Home ...

Written by Volunteer, Nick Wood

The day I visited Zachary in late April, we sat outside in the spring air. He was becoming increasingly wheelchair bound but he never stopped working on something new. He pointed to a string that he had pegged across the bare earth outside of his portion of the back yard at The Abbie Hunt Bryce Home.

His facial cancer was beginning to obscure his speech, but he explained how he was planting sunflower seeds.

We knew this would be his last summer after just a mere twenty-nine years of life, but he was planning something he knew would bloom beyond him. Zach expressed how much the outdoors meant to him. He said even with his body failing, his spirit had grown stronger through having Abbie as his home. With this conversation in mind, the seed of the garden project was sown for the team.

As an Englishman, I'm well versed in the dark arts of perennials and petunias, spending years tending my beloved grandfather's garden. I set about speaking to other mobile Abbie residents at the time: Mark, a former air force veteran and Chris, a free-spirited butterfly and motorcycle lover both spoke with enthusiasm about a shared passion for plants and growing vegetables.

The community quickly rallied around the idea of giving Abbie residents a beautiful garden sanctuary in the backyard through donations and volunteerism.

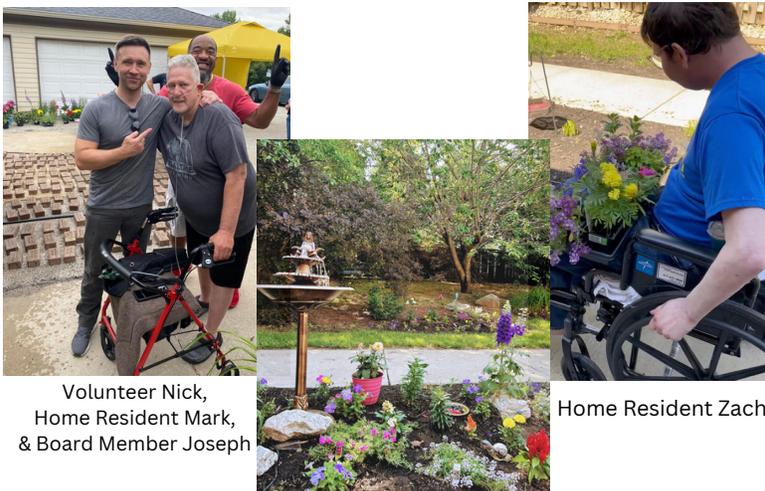
Thanks to generous donations and grants from individuals, Sullivans Garden Center, and The United Way, the outdoor areas raised nearly \$2,000 and are in full bloom! Board Chair, Hitesh Patel, donated a beautiful gazebo and Board Members like Joseph Haskins joined United Way volunteers to help us revitalize our outdoor brick garden space. Each year, bricks are inscribed with the names of our residents in memorial. We unearthed the bricks and gave them fresh life before they will be installed in a new brick garden inside the Home.

The herbs, frequent feathered and furry visitors, butterflies and the sunflowers of Abbie's little nature reserve provide access to a natural world, offering emotional solace to the residents at a time of physical decline.

As Mark so beautifully put it, "It brings me peace. If I'm feeling down or depressed, I'll come out here and stare. It's a kind of serenity, yeah, this is me."

Though Zach and Chris have passed on, they left behind a legacy that has bloomed and will continued to grow for all who call Abbie home.

We thank everyone involved, especially our residents Mark, Chris and Zach for making this possible.



Volunteer Nick,
Home Resident Mark,
& Board Member Joseph

Home Resident Zach

Morning Light By the Numbers ...

Over \$151,000 Raised To Date In 2023

**825+ Residents and Families
Served Since Opening**

20 Students of our in-house CNA School

In-Kind Corner ...

These are a few of our favorite things...

- Canned Goods
- Sensitive Skin/Scent-Free Laundry Detergent
- Dish Soap and Detergent
- Paper Towels and Toilet Paper
- Snack Cakes and Pudding
- Coffee Pods and Creamer
- Bottled Water and Canned Soda
- Fitted twin-long sheets

An in-kind donation is a non-cash gift made to a nonprofit organization, including goods, services, time, and expertise. Individuals, corporations, & businesses can all make in-kind donations.



Items can be dropped off at our Abbie Hunt Bryce Home or ordered via Amazon and delivered to our address: **4760 Pennwood Drive Indianapolis, IN 46205**

How to Support Hospice ...

Dates to Remember:

- **Christmas in July Summer Resale** 
 - July 15th 10am-2pm at The Abbie Hunt Bryce Home
 - Come take pictures with Santa, enjoy Kona Ice, participate in holiday sing-a-longs, and of course, shop for a good cause!
- **Beach Ball 20th Anniversary**
 - August 12th - Waterfront at The Montage
 - Plated meal, open bar, silent auction, prizes, & more!
 - **CLICK HERE TO GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!**
 - Donate a silent auction item



If you knew you had the power to grant someone's last wish, would you do it?

Now you can with our Making Memories Campaign! Become Monthly Memory Sponsor for **only \$25/month**.

Meaningful memories granted so far include mini-horse visits, a motorcycle show, rhino petting, and more!

[Click here to donate](#) or go to our website www.morninglightinc.org to learn more!

Hospice and Hors D'oeuvres ...

Our society has a problem with discussing death! There, we said it. Our community is aging and collectively, we need to get more comfortable with the concept of dying through conversation.

If you would like to learn more about preparing for the end of life, navigating loss, offering condolences, and processing grief - please join us at The Abbie Hunt Bryce Home on August 28th for **Hospice and Hors D'oeuvres**. We promise a knowledgeable, welcoming, and encouraging environment!

Reach out to our Program Support Manager, Brittany Babbitt at bbabbitt@morninglightinc.org to learn more.

