

Of Light and Life

2 0 2 3 A N N U A L A P P E A L



Sometimes when you shine your light on someone, you find a light already shining right back at you.



...and few shine brighter than our friend, Jesse. Jesse “sees” everyone. When he walks into a room, he makes it his mission to seek out everyone present, greet them with a smile and his trademark Jesse sincerity, and make them the center of his attention for a moment that is all theirs.

Jesse joined our community in 2016, coming directly from his family home. Today, he shares a comfortable, happy home with four other friends where he can pursue many of his personal interests – singing along to movies; revisiting classic TV shows; tending to his vast collection of maps and pamphlets; and planning his next visit to Adventureland...

“...the greatest place on earth.”

But home is not really where the magic of this story takes place. As the centers expanded to three locations, Jesse was faced with a dilemma: he loves his friends at the Recreation Center, but he was also interested in the new Community Center. How would he decide between the two?

Two is better than one



The answer became quite clear to Jesse. Why couldn't he split his time between two centers? Why not indeed? Jesse now spends half of his week at one center and half at the other.

Jesse spreads life and positive energy everywhere he goes. Like the words to one of Jesse's favorite songs, his love for others keeps lifting so many higher and higher.



Discovery Living's mission is to provide individualized, life-long support to adults with developmental disabilities in the setting of their choice by promoting personal growth, success, and satisfaction through life experiences.

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Dear Friend,

YOU. You’ve done it again. It’s been another outstanding year. So much changed for the better. Look what we’ve accomplished – together!

Jesse’s story really brings to light what many of the individuals we serve value most. Qualities we have worked hard to cultivate and build upon. You’ve helped us grow a community of opportunity with the flexibility to enable everyone to live life on their own terms and to their own strengths. With the volume and diversity of services and homes to choose from, we have the unique capacity to adapt to meet a wide array of capabilities and wishes.

HERE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE THINGS YOUR GIFTS MADE POSSIBLE THIS YEAR:

In 2023, we:

- made over \$300,000 in accessibility-related updates to our existing homes last year
- purchased land and are constructing a one-level, fully accessible home in Robins
- purchased 6 vehicles at a combined cost of over \$250,000
- supported 66 people in our three centers

Truly, **THANK YOU!** We make a GREAT team – you and Discovery Living. And we have an opportunity to make 2024 our best year yet! So much promise, but many challenges.



THERE IS STILL SO MUCH TO DO!

At the three centers:

We are:

- becoming accredited to provide day habilitation services
- planning to provide services to an additional 20 individuals

At the 32 homes:

We will be:

- continuing to make accessibility and safety improvements for an aging population
- providing services to an additional 10 individuals from our waiting list (which is currently at over 100 individuals in need of services like ours)

100% OF YOUR GIFT WILL BE USED TO DIRECTLY SUPPORT THE INDIVIDUALS WE SERVE IN LINN COUNTY.

We are so grateful for your commitment. Your continued support is crucial. You make a difference!

In light and life, your partners in service,

Pat Schmitt, Board Chair

Robert Hebl, Executive Director

P.S. Contributions from donors just like you helped shape Jesse’s inspiring story. And there are dozens and dozens more stories yet to tell. Whose story will YOUR gift make possible?

YES

I believe people of all abilities deserve an opportunity to pursue and fulfill their dreams - their personal freedom. I am pleased to enclose my tax-deductable contribution.

Giving is as easy as **1... 2... 3!**

1 Verify your Contact Information:



2 State Your Gift Amount

☐ \$90 ☐ \$30

☐ \$60 ☐ \$12

☐ \$36 ☐ Other: \$ _____

3 Maximize Your Impact

☐ **Matching Gifts** - Check with your employer, as your gift could be doubled!

☐ **Eliminate Tax Implications** - Making a charitable gift directly through your required distribution from an individual retirement account yields **zero** tax implications!

Do you wish for your gift to be given...

☐ In **memory/honor** (circle one) of...?

Name: _____

Thank you

...for your gift to Discovery Living.