

For more information, visit us at www.discoveryliving.org

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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.

2 0 2 5 A N N U A L A P P E A L



Our friend Sarah is a remarkable woman. Bright. Engaging.

And meets each new day with an infectious blend of enthusiasm, curiosity, and humor. She has a way of openly and eagerly embracing the many opportunities her community offers – her freedom to live out and pursue her dreams. What's on her mind as she starts her day?...



Up before the sun, at the bathroom mirror, Sarah begins giving her “choppers” a thorough brush. The thrill of the open community and its role in her day and the week ahead is upon her. Sarah lives for her “on-the-go” experiences: Mornings, she enjoys the fulfillment of working at Kirkwood and Hy-Vee, and in the afternoons, she looks forward to tearing up the town with her friends at the Community Center, where she’s making new memories, learning new things, keeping active, and volunteering. One would think by this point it would be time to go home and rest. One would be wrong. Sarah often comes home only to turn right around and head out to enjoy a movie or practice pickleball and bowling with friends - or maybe she’ll catch local concerts and events with her housemates. Out and about is definitely “where it’s at” for Sarah.

But don’t get her wrong. Sarah LOVES her home too. Her soothing, peach room is a clear reflection of herself and the things and people she values most. She has a support team of compassionate and devoted caregivers that help her live a life of her own design, driven by her own choices. And she shares her home, as she has for so many memorable years, with four very special others who’ve grown as close to her as family. “The Sisters of Camelot!”

Of course, weeks end and for many – even Sarah – it can be a time to unwind. But weekends also make time to get out with family! Maybe “Family Camp!” or a road trip, or maybe even a vacation with her dad and mom, Jim and Karen



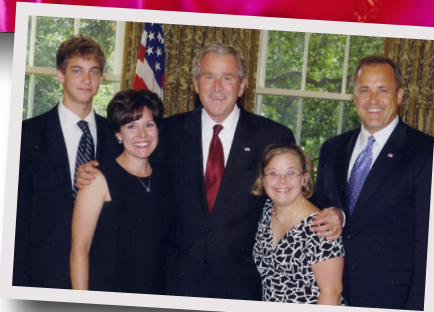
- or mom, Leslie. Sarah will always have fond memories of her earlier life too - growing up in Manchester; visiting Washington DC, where her dad, a former U.S. House Representative, used to work; and travels exploring and experiencing new things in new places.

...Life is good.

Oh, she almost forgot another one of her favorites : Living out her “Fever” dreams on the Special Olympics basketball courts! Just like *this morning’s* dream, she thinks...

Center low, shifting her balance from left foot to right, she locks eyes with the 7’ guard who’s covering her. Sarah anticipates then spots Number 22, the ball, and most importantly, the signal out of the corner of her eye. Without warning, she twists tightly around the guard into open space and plucks the rocketing ball from the air. “Thank you, Caitlin!” she thinks. She allows the ball a single kiss to the floor and leaps. Time grinds to a crawl and the sound of the Fever Nation’s torrential approval roars distantly. She places the ball in the basket as she floats by. An alarm sounds ...and she stirs awake.

Sarah, shaking off her daydream, takes one last look in the mirror, and turns away with a deep breath. Back in her room she chooses the day’s outfit from her collection of clothes and shoes. A Fever jersey with a matching headband might be the appropriate choice for the day. The world outside of her window is shedding its darkness and inviting her out. And out she shall go.



Dear Friend,

Everyone knows what it's like to have a dream. And everyone deserves to know what it's like to catch one. But **YOU**. Not only do you know the feeling, you give it to others. **YOUR** generosity makes it possible for *others* to know these feelings, realize and pursue *their own* dreams.

Take just this last year, for example ...

In 2025, we:

- Invested over **\$300,000 in accessibility-related updates** to our existing **homes**
- Purchased property and started construction on a **duplex in Palo**, where we will serve eight people, including three from our waiting list
- Purchased **3 vehicles** at a combined cost of over \$121,800
- Supported over **85 people in our day centers**



See it? That's **YOU** in there. Where might Sarah's dreams be without the adaptable "roof" of a secure life, the "wheels" that deliver freedom, or the daily opportunities that empower self-direction. **Thank you!** You and Discovery Living make an incredible team.

Now, you may also know that that kind of teamwork is an ongoing partnership and that each new year brings new obstacles.

For the second time in three years, the State of Iowa did not provide reimbursement rate increases for supported community living providers, like Discovery Living. This will make for a challenging year ahead, given the rising cost of living.

Still...

At our centers, in 2026, we:

- Plan to **provide services to an additional 10-15 individuals**
- Expect to replace **at least one vehicle**
- Will continue to **expand our partnership with the City of Hiawatha and local businesses**

At our 32 homes, we will:


- **Make accessibility and environmental improvements** to meet the needs of the 155 people we serve in our houses
- Purchase and/or replace **three vehicles from our fleet of 57**
- Provide services to **an additional 10 individuals from our waiting list** (Currently over 100 individuals are waiting to receive our services)
- Begin providing **services in our new duplex in Palo** by the end of 2025

Will you please help us fulfill our pledge to the individuals we support to be there as their "provider for life"? Giving is easy. Simply complete and return the card below with your gift.

*And remember, **100%** of your gift will be used to directly support the individuals we serve right here in Linn County.*

Your generosity during these uncertain times inspires us to carry the mission of Discovery Living forward. **YOU, now more than ever, MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

Gratefully, your partners - in pursuit of the dream,


Dan Banyas, Board Chair





Robert Hebl, Executive Director

P.S. Sarah's not alone. Every morning, 155 others wake with a dream - to a day filled possibilities. Support from donors just like you help keep those dreams alive. What 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:

 <<Household Name>>
 <<Street>>
<<City>>, <<State>> <<Zip Code>>
 <<Email>>

2 State Your Gift Amount

☐ \$90 ☐ \$30
☐ \$60 ☐ \$15
☐ \$45 ☐ 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.