Ten, Now & Then

Discovery LIVING



Karen Jim Ray Mike Al Vicki Nancy Paul Charlie Mark

2026 ANNUAL APPEAL

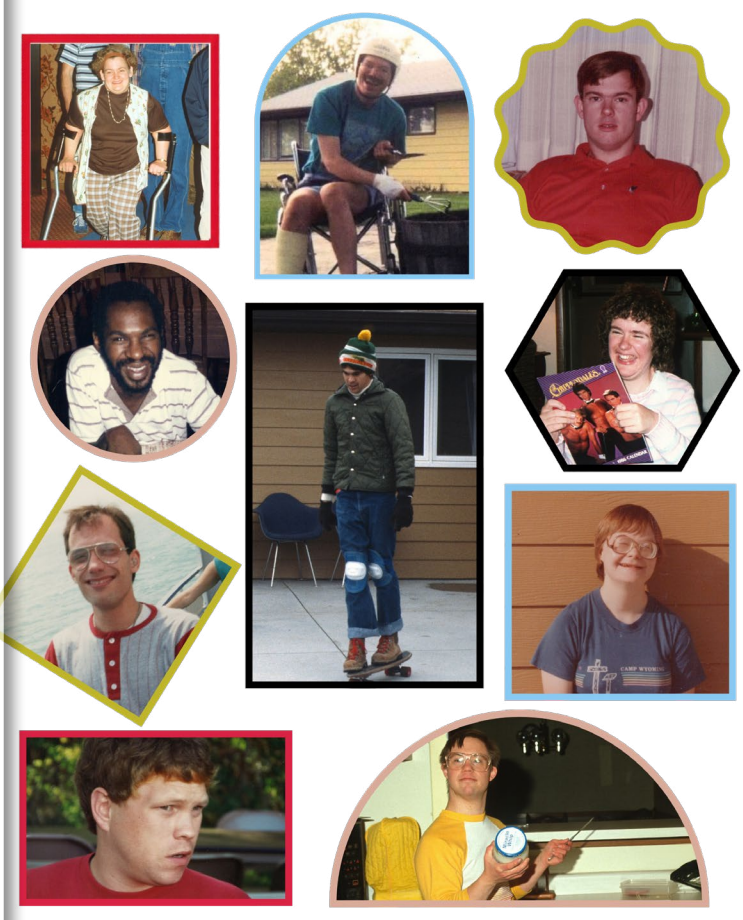
Then

...*Back* "then."

Bet we all remember when we found our true home, our people, our community. It may have been hard to define how you knew, but somewhere deep inside, you just knew. It was where you belonged. It was with whom you most wanted to share your good news, lend a hand, or lean on in tough times.

Ten significantly special people.

For Nancy Ryan, Charlie Cummins, and Al Ropa, *"Then"* arrived over the course of a few crisp December days, 45 years ago - just off of Boyson Road. They and a handful of others, in a suitcase or two, carried their pasts across the threshold into the first Discovery Living home and have been cornerstones of the family community ever since. Within five years, several more followed suit, including Vicki Wolfe, Ray Griffin, Mark Harvey, Karen Scanlan, Paul Dougherty, Mike Reilly, and Jim VanCleve - who are all still with us today. *Together*, these ten people have seen a lot of change, but a foundation of steadfast stability and support for one another has kept us all connected and held us all together throughout the years. That was then...





Now

Today, **45 years** since the first of them arrived, so much has happened: Circles of friendship and support have widened. Voices have reached more ears. Services and public awareness have evolved. And while age, for some, brings wisdom, experience, and peace, it also brings challenges to their health, mobility, and well-being. Through the remarkable generosity of people like you, Discovery Living has been able to deliver the kind of support that will adapt to meet those needs and follow them through their advanced stages of life. We are honored to offer the people we love the opportunity to spend their twilight years in the company of lifelong friends, in their home, surrounded by the comfort of familiar voices, hands, and hearts.

You will always remember "Then" as such a profound moment in your personal history. But "Now?" Now is potential in motion. Now is what we make it. Now is a seemingly endless number of choices and could possibly be the most important moment in your entire life. It's a gift that should never be taken for granted - a *present* that never ends - a perpetual opportunity to do good. What will **you** do to make *your* "now" count?

Dear Friend,

This year feels especially meaningful as Discovery Living celebrates **45 years of changing lives** right here in Linn County! Because of **YOUR** financial support of our mission, we're honoring that legacy, and building on it every day for the people who count on Discovery Living for a lifetime of care, connection, and opportunity.



In 2026, we celebrated meaningful milestones and expanded the support that makes Discovery Living a provider for life. Here's what your support made possible:

- We honored **3 individuals** who have received our services **for 45 years**, and **7 more** who have been with us **for 40 years**.
- We supported **160 individuals** ranging in age from 21 to 80 years.
- We **adapted homes, vehicles, and day centers** to meet changing accessibility needs, keeping our promise to be a **provider for life**.
- We began serving **8 people** in our new, **fully accessible duplex** in Palo.
- We expanded our day centers, which now support more than **90 people at four locations.**

These milestones belong to you as much as to us. Because of friends like **YOU**, Discovery Living continues to respond to ever-changing needs with compassion, stability, and lifelong support.

We're looking ahead to 2027 with the same resolve and commitment that has guided us for **45** years.

For the third time in four 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.

At our four day service centers, we plan to:

- Serve an additional **10–15 individuals**.
- Expand our community outreach and partnerships with the **City of Hiawatha and local businesses**.

Across our 32 homes, we will:

- Make accessibility and environmental improvements to **support our aging population**.
- Welcome **10 more individuals** from our waiting list, which currently includes more than **100 people**.

Friend, *it is only through the dedication of people like you, people that see Discovery Living as it is today and can envision an even brighter tomorrow, that we can continue to meet others' in their "Now" and help them climb to a new "Then" .*

We are deeply grateful for your commitment to Discovery Living. Your support strengthens our mission today and helps ensure we can be there for the next chapter in every life we serve.

Your partners in service,

James Nelson, Board Chair

Robert Hebl, Executive Director

P.S. Every day at Discovery Living, new stories of growth, connection, and possibility are unfolding. ***Your gift helps ensure the next chapter is filled with the support, dignity, and opportunity each person deserves.***

2026 ANNUAL APPEAL GIFT CARD

YES! I believe in... helping folks choose *where and how* they want to spend their **"Then"** and **"Now."**

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 ☐ $15

☐ $45 ☐ Other:

$ _____

3 Maximize Your Impact

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

☐ **Eliminate Tax Implications** - Making a chartable 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.

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.



The "Original 3":
Nancy Ryan, Charlie Cummins, and Al Ropa have been part of the Discovery Living family for 45 years!

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