

2026

WINTER NEWSLETTER

THE QUARTERLY UPDATE

From the Executive Director

Winter Edition

As we welcome a new year and settle into the quiet strength of winter, I find myself reflecting on the remarkable community that surrounds Gaston Residential Services. For more than five decades, GRS has stood as a place where people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are supported, celebrated, and empowered to live full and meaningful lives. Winter has a way of reminding us just how powerful that sense of belonging can be.

As we move through the winter months, I encourage all of us to carry forward the themes of this season—reflection, renewal, and hope.

I also want to extend my heartfelt gratitude for the generous contributions made to the Brandon Towery Gift Fund. Your kindness ensured a very merry Christmas for every individual we support. Because of your generosity, our homes were filled with joy, surprises, and moments of celebration that honored Brandon's spirit in the most meaningful way.

There is so much good work ahead, and I am grateful to walk alongside each of you as we continue strengthening GRS's mission and building a more inclusive community for all.

With appreciation,

Darlene
Executive Director



Christmas DANCE

This year we celebrated a "Christmas Past" as it was our 50th year anniversary. We took a look back on all of our past Christmas Dances while dancing the night away!



Career Management Group

CMG CONTINUES TO GROW, REBUILD, AND ENRICH THE LIVES OF THE PEOPLE SERVED HERE AT GRS AND THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES. WITH THE ADDITION OF NEW STAFF, CMG WILL BE ABLE TO PROVIDE MORE COMMUNITY NETWORKING (DDA), COMMUNITY SUPPORT (ICF), AND JOB SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE PEOPLE SERVED AT GRS AND THE COMMUNITY. TO LEARN MORE ABOUT COMMUNITY NETWORKING, COMMUNITY SUPPORT, AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES PLEASE EMAIL BYRON AUTEN: BAUTEN@CAREERMANAGEMENTGROUP.ORG OR REMIKA GLOVER: RGLOVER@CAREERMANAGEMENTGROUP.ORG.



Byron Auten
CMG Manager



Remika Glover
Assistant Manager



Alyssa R.



Louisea R.



Keke J.



Jamison A.



Laura S.



Erica A.

CMG SPOTLIGHT:

RYAN H. IS AN EMPLOYEE AT MCDONALDS WITH CMG SUPPORTIVE EMPLOYMENT. THE GENERAL MANAGER EXPRESSED HOW MUCH OF AN ASSET HE IS TO THE RESTAURANT. THEY RAVED ABOUT HOW HE KEEPS THE RESTAURANT CLEAN AND DOES IT IN A VERY CALM AND RESPECTFUL MANNER.



FURRY FRIENDS CLUB

The Recreation Therapy Department hosts a Furry Friends Club with therapy dog, "Ellie Mae". She is licensed with the Alliance of Therapy Dogs. Ellie Mae helps increase independence, physical activity, relaxation, and socialization.



Valentine's Day Bingo

The Recreation Therapy Department hosted a Valentine's Day Bingo Event to increase socialization, fine motor skills, memory/attention span, and more.



Advisory Council



The Advisory Council has been busy this winter!

In December, they hosted their annual holiday party and had Carol Karaoke.

In January, they learned about Squirrels, watched an old Rocky and Bullwinkle Clip, and had "Squirrel Snacks".

In February, they learned about the Winter Olympics, Paralympics, and the story of Jesse Owens for Black History month. They made Olympic rings and had Olympic ring snacks and hot chocolate. They also reviewed having healthy relationships.

Happy Workiversary

10+ years

Danny Weathers
Tim Koscheck

5+ years

Dylan George
Rusty Hall
Marvin Johnson
Jamison Lewis

20+ years

Tammy Hopper
Martha Severson
Farrah Dee

Happy RETIREMENT

GRS board of directors honored Lynette Demperio and Joe Grigg in their December meeting upon their retirement from the board. GRS thanks both Lynette and Joe for their many years of dedicated service to GRS. Happy Retirement!



GASTON RESIDENTIAL SERVICES FUNDRAISER NIGHT

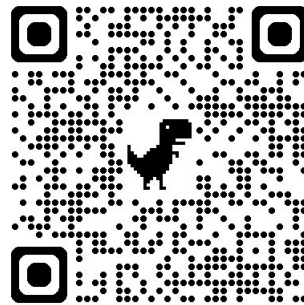
MARCH 17 | 7:00 PM



VS



Each ticket purchased through the QR code below will directly benefit GRS, helping support their mission and members of their community — all while you cheer on the Hornets at Spectrum Center!



To purchase 10+ tickets, ADA seating, or other questions, contact Jack Hendricks:
jhendricks@hornets.com | (704) 688 9033



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WWW.GRSINC.ORG



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