

Happy National Nurses Week!

Hiawatha Homes is proud to celebrate **12 amazing nursing team members**. Our HH nurses go above and beyond to ensure each person has the medical support and equipment they need to live a fulfilling life in a community that values and includes them.

Our nurses show compassion, lead with kindness, and genuinely care about every person we support. They champion our mission and advocate throughout the community for what each person wants and needs in their life.



HH nurses also teach and mentor fellow team members. They listen closely, assess needs, and respond with expertise and care. During the week, they handle nurse triage calls. On weekends, they rotate on-call duties, providing support over the phone or traveling to homes to complete in-person assessments when needed.

Time and again, our HH nurses demonstrate outstanding **TEAMWORK**. When needs arise or additional support is required in a home, they step up, collaborate, and ensure every assessment and appointment is covered.

We value and appreciate each and every one of our HH nurses.

Happy Nurses Week!

Hiawatha Homes Team Members Leave of Absence

Life happens, and sometimes you may need to take time away from work. If that comes up, please connect with your supervisor and reach out to the Hiawatha Homes Human Resources team so we can help you get started.

You can find helpful information about leave options in the Hiawatha Homes Employee Handbook, available at your work site or on BambooHR. A quick review will walk you through when and how to request time off.

If your leave is related to a medical need, you may be eligible for Minnesota Paid Family and Medical Leave (PFML). During our transition without an HR Director, feel free to contact myself at 507-226-0710 or Jennifer Seiztinger at 507-289-7222. We are happy to provide the right forms and answer any questions along the way.

If your leave involves care for yourself or a family member, we will also connect you with MetLife, our PFML provider, and make sure you have everything you need to move forward.

Your role is simply to let us know what is going on and complete the necessary paperwork. From there, we will support you and help make the process as smooth as possible so you can focus on what matters most.

We are here for you every step of the way. Thank you!


Cindy Ostrowski, CEO

Upcoming Hiawatha Homes Events:

More details coming each month, please see highlights below

May 6th - 11th	Nurses Week
May 12th	Our HH 50th Anniversary Committee and HH Foundation will be celebrating our HH donors and supporters
July 16th	Hiawatha Homes 50 th Anniversary Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Open House
August 25th	Hiawatha Homes Annual Picnic
September 7th - 12th	National Direct Support Professional's Week
November 24th - 29th	Festival of Trees

HIAWATHA HEROES

May 2026

Sheila Edwards

Butler House Coordinator



Sheila consistently demonstrates a willingness to step in and help wherever she is needed, always doing so with a positive attitude and a smile. Recently, when emergency respite support was needed, Sheila immediately stepped up without hesitation. Her reliability and problem-solving mindset make a meaningful difference for both the individuals we support and her team. Sheila, thank you for your many years of service and commitment to Hiawatha Homes—we truly appreciate everything you do!

Mason Anderson

Family Support Services Program Coordinator



Mason is one of the most person-centered individuals I have had the pleasure of working with. He is always thinking of new and creative ways to help individuals engage and interact in activities. In addition to his daily contributions, Mason has gone above and beyond by providing extra support to an individual who has transitioned into a residential home. He helps train staff and does everything in his power to ensure a smooth transition. Mason, your compassion, initiative, and commitment do not go unnoticed. We truly appreciate everything you do for Hiawatha Homes!!!



Lucas Stiemsma

Eastwood Team Lead

He brilliantly stepped into his position with enthusiasm and commitment. He has consistently delivered superior care to the clients. His approach to managing all aspects of client care and well-being as well as ensuring that the EW program flows smoothly has been accomplished with fairness, thoughtfulness and thoroughness. He supports staff in a measured and effective manner. His approach is characterized by innovation and creativity. Lucas has earned HH employee of the month status!

NOMINATIONS

Nominate a Hiawatha Hero by visiting hiawathahomes.org/employee-login

Did you know?

REFER A

FRIEND

Refer an Employee by visiting hiawathahomes.org/employee-login

May Anniversaries

Waris Mohamud - 14 years
Mari Beth Ahart - 10 years
Alejandra Feliz - 7 years
Allison Kahlow - 7 years
Jessica Vale - 4 years
Kaylee Hammel - 3 years
Remae Tweeten - 3 years
Breana Houglum - 2 years

Abdisalan Salah - 1 year
Anastacia Putman - 1 year
Beth Gustafson - 1 year
Christopher Motts - 1 year
Hussein Salat - 1 year
Jonathan Othow - 1 year
Lucas Stiemsma - 1 year
Magellan Agbor - 1 year
Zainab Hassan - 1 year

≡ Welcome ≡



Michael Aldentaler, Chief Financial Officer, joined the Hiawatha Homes team in April. Over the past two decades, Michael has specialized in enhancing financial reporting accuracy and operational efficiency through advanced financial modeling and automation. Michael was excited to join Hiawatha Homes, as he believes in the mission and vision of the organization.

New Team Members

Welcome to Hiawatha Homes!

Maer Abella	Mykail Davis
Yassin Addan	Savannah Jones
Sihaam Ahmed-Dhore	Amara Milliken
Michael Aldentaler	Abdikani Mohamed
Mohamed Ali	Agwa Nywesh
Sabir Bile	Thomas Stafsholt

[Hiawatha Homes holds annual joint board meeting](#)



On April 28, our Hiawatha Homes Inc. and Foundation Boards came together for their annual joint meeting at the Kahler Hotel. It was a great evening connecting with board members, nominees, and staff, and reflecting on the work happening across our organization.

The night kicked off with a financial audit presentation from Jason Boynton of Cohn Reznick, followed by dinner and board business. Both boards voted to welcome new members and re-elect several familiar faces.

For the Inc. Board, Jennifer Hewardine (left) was elected to a three-year term, while Tim Kelly and Philip Hommerding were re-elected.

On the Foundation side, Crystal Landherr and Philip Pelto were newly elected, and Nick Pederson was re-elected for another term. Along with these updates, we also took time to recognize three incredible board members whose terms have come to a close.



Michelle Pyffereon (above, left) has been part of Hiawatha Homes since 2000, serving in many roles, including two years as Board President. She also spent nine years on the Foundation Board. Her long-standing commitment has helped shape who we are today.

Deb Falbo joined the Inc. Board in 2014 and served as President in 2021 and 2022. During that time, she also supported the Foundation Board. Her leadership and steady presence have made a meaningful difference.

Roger Dearth joined the Foundation Board in 2013 and most recently served as its President. He has also been part of the Inc. Board since 2017, bringing thoughtful leadership across both groups.

We're incredibly grateful for the time, energy, and heart Michelle, Deb, and Roger have given to Hiawatha Homes. Their impact will be felt for years to come.

**Read the 2025 Hiawatha Homes
Annual Report -[Click Here!](#)**



Meet your Hiawatha Homes Inc. and Foundation Boards!



Hiawatha Homes Foundation Board (from left to right): Linda Becker, Mary Brouillard - Vice President, Missy Hale, Philip Pelto, Crystal Landherr, Carol Fitzgerald - Treasurer, and Kathy Davis. Not pictured: Nick Pederson - President and Rahn Lund



Hiawatha Homes Inc. Board (from left to right): Tim Kelly, Dirk Erickson - President, Philip Hommerding - Treasurer, Matt Nigbur - Past President, Jennifer Hewerdine, Carol Fitzgerald, Kathy Davis, and Roger Dearth. Not pictured: Robert Witte - Vice President and Lynne Ryan.