Please join us at Reach for Ralph, Hammer’s Annual Benefit

THURSDAY, JULY 12
5:30 pm-10:00 pm
EARLE BROWN CENTER
Brooklyn Center, MN
Free on-site parking
TICKETS $90 (before July 8th)
Purchase online at Hammer.org

Join us with Joe Fryer, our emcee and NBC News correspondent. Together we will share stories, play games and raise funds for individuals with developmental disabilities. Meet a variety of interesting people we serve and hear about the friendships that bring great joy to their lives.

Will you Open Your Heart to Hammer and invite your friends? This fun summer evening is an excellent time and place to learn about what really matters to people with disabilities at Hammer.

Thank You Sponsors (as of May 11)
Carol and George Daum
STATE STREET
Carol and Scott Dongoske
Lisa and Scott Dongoske

All Staff Behavioral and Education Bremer Bank
David Lee Funeral Home
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Linda Zimmerman, Ameriprise Financial

Mural created by Hammer artists living with developmental disabilities

Questions? Contact Ginger@Hammer.org or 952-345-0115, or visit Hammer.org

James and Angela
Hamel Lion Dave Nelson, Travis and Angela

Reach for Ralph
BY ANGELA BERNHARDT

You know the saying, “Time Flies When You’re Having Fun!” I feel that way about time working at Hammer Residences, a Wayzata-based nonprofit serving individuals with developmental disabilities.

I’ve always kind of known about Hammer, having grown up in Wayzata. I have seen people served by Hammer attending my church (Holy Name of Jesus), packing my groceries at Lunds, and I see the “Ralph” statues around town. But that was the extent of my interaction with people with developmental disabilities before I started working at Hammer.

In 2013 I joined the development team at Hammer Residences, as the Director of Major Gifts after doing event and development work in Minneapolis. I was attracted to the close location to my home (fifteen-minute commute) and the fact that Hammer has been voted one of the Best Places to Work in the Minneapolis Star Tribune. And I loved the mission: providing individuals with developmental disabilities the opportunity to experience life to its fullest.

Fast forward five years, and I have developed deep and meaningful relationships with those served by Hammer, their families and their caregivers. I have truly opened my heart to Hammer!

One of my good friends at Hammer is James, pictured with me at a Reach for Ralph event. He has been supported by Hammer since 1948, and is a bit of a legend since he is the longest served individual at Hammer, and a bit of a flirt! James recently turned 81 years old, and remains active in the community, whether it’s bowling with his housemates, going out for dinner with friends, or checking out local construction equipment with a volunteer. He has caregivers who support and empower him, and he lives in a group home in Wayzata that meets his changing needs as he ages.

Another good friend is Travis, who often goes with me when I speak to community organizations, such as the Hamel Lions. Travis is also part of the auction committee of Reach for Ralph and volunteers as a greeter at the event. It is because of Travis that the Hamel Lions are returning for the second year as sponsors of Reach for Ralph! Thank you Travis, and thank you Lions!

You are invited to join me, and 400 other community members, in meeting those served by Hammer and raising much-needed funds so they can continue to live the high quality, everyday life they deserve. Hammer’s annual benefit, Reach for Ralph is Thursday, July 12 with “Open Your Heart to Hammer” as the theme.

Over 400 attendees will enjoy a casual atmosphere, silent and live auctions, games, cash bar, buffet dinner, dessert, and an amazing and heart-warming program at the Earle Brown Center. Guests will meet some of the 284 people served by Hammer, and hear about their activities and friendships that bring great joy to their lives. You’ll learn what really matters at Hammer.

Bring a friend, or make it a date, you’ll leave inspired and thankful for the work Hammer has been doing since it was founded in 1923.