



Newsletter



UPDATE FROM
THE PHOENIX RESIDENCE, INC.



SUMMER 2023

Close the Gap Spotlight: Shelley Peltier

This is a LOVE story! But while most love stories have a happy ending, this one is bittersweet.

Last month, we lost a beloved friend who had lived with us for 29 years and whom Program Manager Shelley Peltier worked with closely. Her passing left a hole in her heart! And Shelley did what any of us would do for a loved one—honored her and celebrated her life!

She worked with the family on planning the Celebration of Life and spoke some loving words about her dear friend at the service. But she didn't stop there! Shelley ordered playing cards with this woman's favorite singer on them and placed them in a box that this woman could keep close to her while she was in hospice care. As a special touch, Shelley even played his music as her life's journey came to an end.

And this is just one example of the extraordinary care Shelley gives! She plans holiday parties and invites all the family members, volunteers at all our fundraising events, and coordinates Girl Scout troop visits, just to name a few. Shelley said some of her favorite memories have been taking vacations to the Gunflint Trail and Superior Shores, going to concerts and sporting events, and watching live music.

"Working with great people and the bond you have with the individuals make it hard to want to do anything else," said Shelley. **"It is very rewarding helping the individuals live their best lives."**



Shelley with fellow DSP Ann and Sandy who lived at English House, at a State Fair concert last summer.



It's no surprise Shelley has been nominated many times for Employee of the Month & Employee of the Year here at Phoenix. And we're excited to announce that **Shelley was selected as one of the finalists for the [ARRM Cares Award](#)**, a special recognition from our trade association! What an honor!

Thank you Shelley for being a shining star here at Phoenix!

"Shelley is an outstanding manager at English. She always gives 110 percent! She is always so positive and goes the extra mile. We are truly blessed!"

Direct Support Professional Barb Husaby

UPDATE FROM THE PHOENIX RESIDENCE, INC.

Welcome to Summer! So many changes occurred this past quarter, we'd be remiss if we didn't mention them here. With so many changes, there's never a dull moment!

On the legislative front, the session ended in May, and we're happy to report, we finally saw some relief—for the first time since 2015! There are no major changes for 2023, but these changes will greatly impact the years ahead, starting in 2024.

- **Disability Waiver Rate System (DWRS):** The legislature invested over \$300 million dollars into the DWRS through the 2027 legislative session. They increased the Competitive Workforce Factor by 2% (now up to 6.7%) and moved the inflationary adjustment schedule to January 2024.
- **ICF/DD Rate Adjustments:** Rates for our ICF/DD homes (6-bed homes) increased by \$40 per day.
- **Workforce Recruitment and Retention Bonuses:** \$90 million dollars allocated for direct care staff to receive one-time retention bonuses.

We also welcomed several new faces this quarter! We have a new Director of Nursing Brandi Sterry, and Nurse Consultants Lydia Scherr-Demzuek and Nicole Usuku. Internally, former Program Manager Dede Muimba moved to our Nurse Educator position, and former APD Kim Phillips became our new Program Director. We've also welcomed several new Program Managers and Program Supervisors this quarter. Please join us in welcoming these new team members! Have a wonderful summer!

Jackie Larson, Public Relations & Development Coordinator

Close the Gap Update

Thank you for helping make a difference!

THIS QUARTER: \$11,622

TOTAL: \$917,626



Angela from Chaparral House attended the Harrison Phillips Playmaker Pups Camp.

Phoenix Hosts Successful Golf Tournament

A fun, relaxed atmosphere. Friendly people. Inclusive tournament. How golfers described this year's Russ Douglas Phoenix Golf Classic. Thank you to everyone who attended, supported, donated, or sponsored the event!

It was our first year back to a full tournament (golfing only last year)—and we brought a new twist to it! New this year, we hosted a Social Hour and Live Auction after golfing, and we offered a Cork Pull, where golfers tried their luck at winning a bottle of wine!

A special SHOUT OUT goes to all our volunteers! We want to thank our staff, 3M volunteers, and several family members who helped us out that day. Also, a special thank you to the Smith Family from Centerville House, who shared their family's story in the letter that went out in February.

Finally, **thank you to all our donors and sponsors!** Special recognition goes out to our Major Sponsors, most of whom continue to support us year after year, and all those who donated to our Live Auction and Wine Pull!



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