

501 280th Street, Osceola, WI 54020 (715) 294-3038 [www.communityhomestead.org](http://www.communityhomestead.org)

# Community Homestead

## Newsletter: Spring 2017

**Mission:** “to establish and maintain a community so that people with developmental and other disabilities can reach their fullest human potential”

*click on ...*

**GiveSCV.org**

### Give Big

This is our biggest fund raiser by far and we are counting on you!

**When?** April 25<sup>th</sup>-all day!

**What is it:** a day of online giving filled with incentives and prizes for the most individual donors.

**Why give:** Direct, Local, making a difference that you can see, touch and check in on! We have a matching grant that doubles your dollar, your donation goes directly to our building piggy bank, making room for more people with special needs at Community Homestead.

**Free Money!** While we can make great use of your large donations, your \$10 counts too. The number of individual donors, no matter the amount of the donation is what leads to the \$1000 prize so please ask your colleague, partner, cousin, friend, (neighbor whose high school daughter asked you to buy wrapping paper for band?), to flex their card and click Give big SCV April 25. And yes, of course, you can write a check too: either one is good for a 2 by 4, or a box of nails!

You can give on the day (exciting!) or before. If you miss the day-send us a check or donate on our home page!

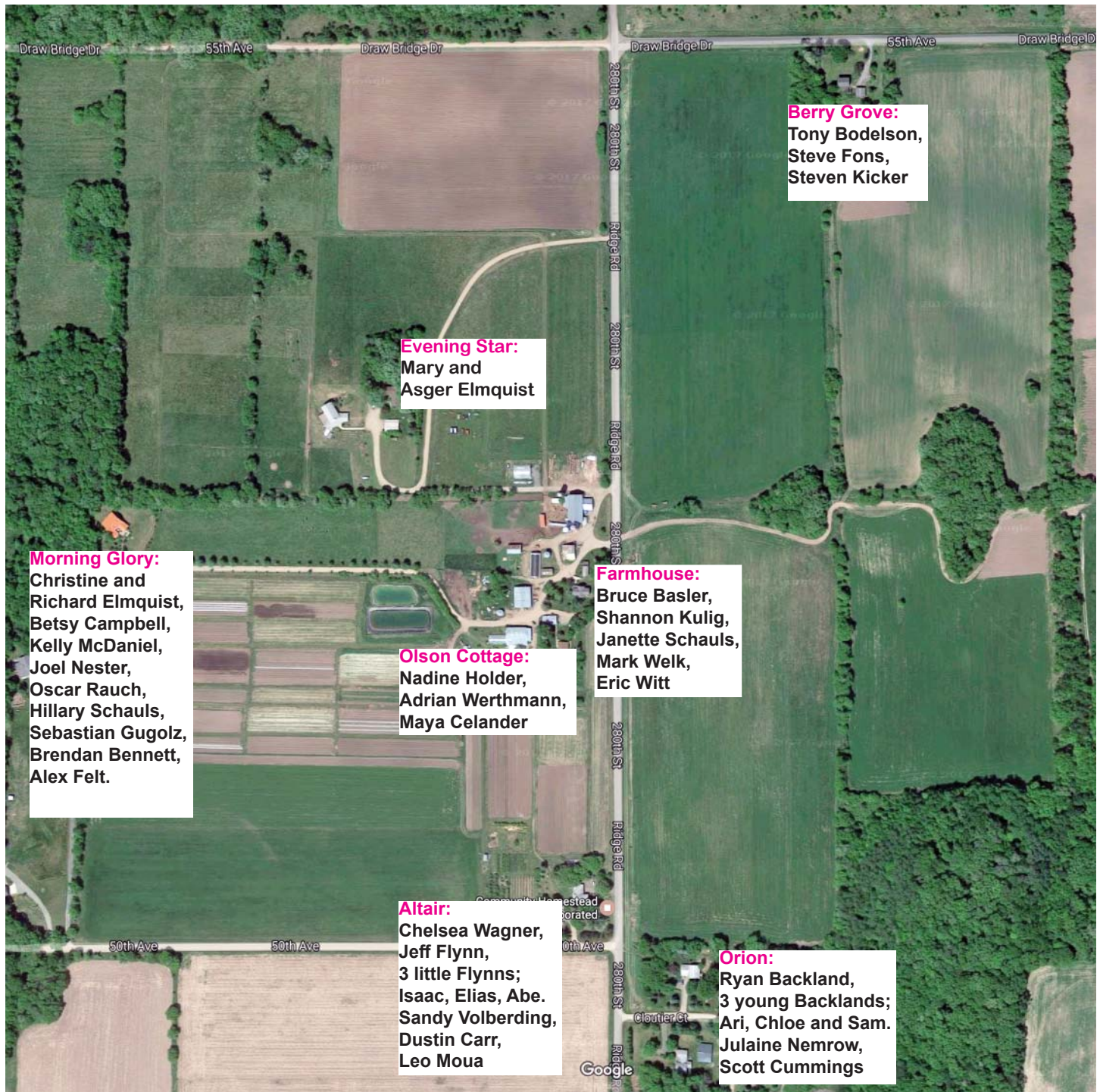




## Who is where in 2017?

We are seven households of all ages, abilities, and personalities. So far, each household has lived as a team, an extended family of people all helping each other and creating a home, and a great way it is to live! Here we all are in 2017!

As we expand our space, we see an opportunity to expand our style! In the future, people with special needs can choose to live in team homes or in an apartment, with just as much community, friendship, moral support and busy place to belong, but in a different home setting. Yay, even more choice! Now is the moment to jump in and lend your efforts (buy a ticket to the banquet? Give big? Share your building skills?).



And our day program folks: Terra Corpuz, Jon Erspamer, Stephan Hoag, Alex Hansen, Travis Hansen, Makinzie Miller, Clark Travnick and our summer people too, looking forward to seeing you all again!



## Moving into the Farmhouse

-Shannon, Kulig, Janette Shauls, and Bruce Basler

**Bruce:** I moved the Farmhouse, my room, I like it. It's tidy. All my stuff. Fix it. Fixing the house, huh. I like it here. I like my room. Downstairs, I eat downstairs, I like to eat. New people, Janette.

**Janette:** It feels good to be back. I'm happy. The curtains are pretty. That guy (Joel, contractor) is fixing the house. Bruce lives here. There are cute rats (Shannon's pets). We eat breakfast downstairs. I stand around. My room is tidy too.

**Shannon:** At the beginning, I felt pretty hesitant about moving. I liked living in Orion and I didn't really know anything else. However, as we drew closer to the house being move in ready I became increasingly excited about the new space.

The week before moving in was an emotional roller coaster. Between trips to Menards, Walmart, Home Depot, and every goodwill and thrift store between Osceola and the Twin Cities, we moved furniture, clothing, people, pets, and attempted to settle in. After several late nights and a few early mornings, Eric, Mark, Janette, and myself moved in to the Farm House.

For about a week, we continued to accumulate furniture, garbage cans, soap, all the little things people forget about when moving into a new place. We hung pictures, quilts, and closet organizers in Janette's room. Then Mark's new bedroom furniture arrived and we had the opportunity to



experience a true La-Z-Boy life. I rebuilt a wardrobe and packed all my shoes into it. Eric has yet to unpack his room, but he seems to be getting by. Then we got ready for Bruce. We traveled to Amery Slumberland and picked out a unique, accent recliner for the living room, which Bruce has definitely claimed as his spot. And, on a fine Wednesday morning, Bruce, Travis, and I moved all of his things into his room.

Now, almost a month after the first set of moves, Farm House feels like a comfy home we can all come back to at the end of the long days and kick up our heels.

We all owe huge thanks to everyone who spent any time working in or on the house. What a lovely project!

## Sandy moved to Altair -Chelsea Wagner and Sandy Volberding

Good morning Sandy! We are going to do an interview for the spring newsletter. Does that sound ok?

**Maybe I'll get some new friends this way!**

So you have been in Community Homestead for a long time, and this is your first move. How has it gone so far?

**It's good. Going real good. Kids are pretty friendly to me, once they get through being loud. Been looking out the window, seeing the world.**

What do other people say?



*Photos: Above: Alex, Eric, Shannon, Bruce*

*Middle: Janette and Mark*

*Lower: Sandy, Pretty, Isaac and Elias*

**It's good! Exciting.**

What do you miss about Evening Star?

**Ohh... Not too much. My swing. I'll get it, I'll have it.**

How do your pets like it here?

**They like it. Pretty is a singer. He sings so beautiful. Getting closer to Easter! I hear him right now. Heard him chirp! He likes the sun..**

Anything else you want to say?

**Nope.**

## Berry Grove -Tony Bodelson

This is an older house with a bit of character. Many people have walked through the doors before us, and here we are now, Steven Kicker, Steve Fons and me. Now Berry Grove may be a bit of an older house, but inside something completely new is happening, in terms for Community Homestead. Steven, Steve, and I are currently working together on skills for living independently. Both “Steves” have goals about living on their own. We’ve been working on things like meal prep, house cleaning and general house upkeep to try and make sure we all are aware of what it really takes to live on our own. As I came pretty much straight from dorm living to Community, we are all learning together, which makes this all the more exciting for all of us. The three of us have a real opportunity to learn and grow together in a safe and welcoming environment with back-up just up the road.

It’s been a couple weeks now and we’re all getting used to each other’s quirks and habits with minimal squabble. I have to say it’s much different to my previous experiences in Community. Having lived in two houses, both having about 9 people living together, makes this house seem vacant! So in the end Steve and Steven are moving to a goal of independence, a space somewhere else within community to call their own, where help is still just next door when needed. We all still have a lot to work on together to keep Berry Grove a successful middle step, but we’re definitely off to a great start!



## Another Step -Mary and Asger. Elmquist

In our mid seventies, we have stepped back from living with life sharers. Sandra has moved to Altair, with her birds and fishes, and seems to like it there. We have been life sharing in various communities for most of our lives, and we have enjoyed it, and have learned a lot. Much of our personal growth is surely because of all the people we have lived together with, who have challenged us and led us, and become our friends.

It is our wish and hope to remain part of Community Homestead but Evening Star suddenly becomes quite a big space for two people. We would like to move to a smaller dwelling which would be elderly friendly, close to the community center, which would also serve us as our home for the foreseeable future.,and which would free Evening Star up for lifesharing once more.

## What I’d really like!- Steve Fons

I grew up-I don’t even remember where. I lived with Mom and Dad. I lived in one house, it had a fireplace and everything, and then we lived in a house with big trees in it; me Greg, Paula and Mom and Dad.

I tried all those living places but it was not the thing I wanted. Over in Texas there was a guy yelling when I was in bed already. Another house was not so good either because I didn’t like the house parents. They were mean to all of us and Greg got me out of there. I lived in an apartment with a room-mate, and rode a bicycle and everything. We moved to a trailer park, and then to Florida in a condo, and Mommy died there. And Daddy died at Greg’s house.

Then I came here. I like mowing the yards and weed eating. I am good at that. Richard likes what I do and he likes me. I like riding my bicycle into town. I like meeting everybody here. There’s lots of people here, you wouldn’t even know them all! I like the Germans who come in the summer. They are funny but they can’t speak English right. I eat at other houses you know, and I know everyone. I can get frustrated when I can’t do something. I like to go fishing and bowling and movies, any kind, it don’t matter.

I like that idea of being in an apartment on my own; have my own radio, tv and go to bed early and no one’s making noise, and there’s no one to have to share a bathroom with, knock, knock, knock, “can I use the bathroom!” Being on my own! I could be on my own when I wanted and, when I didn’t want,I could go anywhere here, over yonder, and see anyone when I wanted.

*Photo: Steve Fons, Steven Kicker, Tony Bodelson*

## Home Again, Home Again, Jiggity-Jig -Ryan Backland

After a few year absence from Orion; Scott, Sam, Chloe, Ari, and I have returned. Julaine, for the first time, is experiencing life with a bakery attached to the house. Old haunts are being revisited. The fire place rekindled. The treehouse examined for updates. But all seems as we remember.

Walking from a different direction to the Community Center, Farm, Garden, presents a whole new perspective than that from Berry Grove, from where we all migrated. The orchard is now a daily sight. The green houses point the way to the Community Center. Morning Glory’s roof is a beacon for lost travellers. Even the cows look different when viewed from the south.



## Our Trip to New York City -Hillary Schauls

My housemate is Richard, he did drop us off at the airport. We got here at 4:30 in New York. We went to Romeo and Juliette. We saw the orchestra and the opera. We walked around the science museum and met Shannon's mom. We saw the earth video with Shannon's mother at the planetarium. There were fossils and stuff. I remember walking around Central Park, seeing the horses with carriages and bikes. I got an awesome taxi sweater from Times Square.

We saw "The Wicked" at the theater. There was a green person. Michael, one of the actors from the Sound of Music with Carrie Underwood, was in "The Wicked". His name was Fiyero, he fell in love with the green girl, Elphaba, she was a witch, they kissed. Glinda did a hair toss. It was romantic (\*Shannon reminds Hillary the show was actually about a great friendship). Oh yeah, about friendship. And also, there was a goat, who was a teacher, but he wasn't a teacher, he was a goat. Nessarose, her sister, was in a wheel chair and couldn't walk. The tin guy was made by Elphaba.

I like the shoes I got. There were so many cute dogs, I pet them, the black one really liked me. I got a new dress before

## That Time We Went to the Opera -Shannon Kulig

In case you have not yet read Hillary's summary of our whirlwind New York experience, I advise you to do so now. Because she briefly, but exhaustively, covered everything we did, I wanted to pick a specific moment to share.

During the time I spent planning our trip, I wrestled with the idea of going to the opera. Nadine convinced me that it would be great - that the atmosphere would be enough to carry the evening even if the show was a wash. Of course, the show wasn't a wash, the Met never is. I planned that Wednesday night at 7:30 we would attend Charles Gounod's operatic interpretation of Roméo and Juliette. Before the show, I asked Hillary to get out her fanciest packed duds. At which point I was slightly disappointed, but then suddenly thrilled. Without formal opera attending clothes, we would get to go shopping! We set out on foot for the perfect dress and after trying on only one

we went to the theaters, I wore it to the opera and "The Wicked". Me and Shannon got manicured. I still have mine on. We got to smell good chocolate at the M&Ms and the Chocolate World at Times Square. We went to an awesome bakery, they had yummy stuff. I had a brownie and Shannon had a giant cookie stand. There was a Fairway Market on the corner next to our house.



We visited Trinity Church and the cemetery, where old dead people are. We took the Subway, the #1 downtown. We went on a ferry ride to the Statue of Liberty. We saw the Ellis Island Museum. We ate lunch at the café. It was pretty cool to look at. I was pooped and I was cold. Man, I was cold! I got to hug Elmo at Times Square and a guy, the Statue of Liberty, crowned me and he draped a flag over me. I also got to hug Minnie Mouse. The last day we went to Bagel Talk for bagels. Shannon bought bagels for her house. On the boat we saw the skyline. There were a bunch of buildings. I took pictures of the skyline with my camera. The New York City store had

lots of sweaters and shirts. In the subway I stood next to the sign that said Wicked and the map. We went to the airport to catch our flight home. We went on so many subways.

*Photo: Above, Lady Liberty, Hillary and Shannon*

*Below, Hillary on her throne.*

(I wish I was ever that lucky), we purchased and returned home to beautify. Following a light supper, we, again on foot, made our way to Lincoln Center.



We arrived rather early and decided to meander through the gift shop. After waiting behind two women in ridiculous amounts of velvet and hattery, we made our purchases and headed into the spectacular building that is Lincoln Center. After climbing several flights of red velour stairs, we ascended to the rear mezzanine balcony and settled into the splendor. Gazing toward incredible crystal chandeliers, Hillary's eye settled on the bar. She elbowed me in the ribs and said, "kiddie cocktails?". I raised my eyebrows and proclaimed that there was no way I would order kiddie cocktails at the opera. We returned a moment later to our balcony perch with the smallest \$12

merlot I've ever seen and a pomegranate soda. The night seemed to be going swimmingly, we found our seats, took a few photos, and scoured our programs. The first half of the show was wonderful – glorious costumes, arias, the French – it was exactly what I anticipated. Hillary seemed pleased; although, she focused intently on the closed captioning available to her, scarcely looking up to actually watch.

At the intermission, we had an intense argument about the end of the show. Had it been up to Hillary, Shakespeare's tragedy would have been more of a romantic comedy, with the two young lovers having a bit of a spat halfway through and then making up in the end. Our argument ended with her declaring her need to use the restroom. I was a bit concerned, the intermission seemed to be coming to a close, but to the restroom we went. Upon our return, we learned that the show had started and the doors could not provide us reentry. Aghhh. I'm pretty certain that was the sound that happened in my head. My heart sunk and for a

brief second I was angry. The usher informed us that we could watch on the orchestra level and so we went down the stairs and found a small movie theater tucked behind the orchestra bathrooms.

There we sat and watched the final acts. I stewed for a bit, but Hillary didn't seem phased at all. We could see a lot better and there wasn't closed captioning. Interestingly, we were able to watch and listen to the music without working very hard to read or remember my meager knowledge of French. It may have actually been better that we spent the second half of the night in a tiny movie theater, by ourselves (apparently the only pair kicked out of the audience), enjoying an opera via screen. I think the worst part for me was we could not resolve our argument! Hillary still thought they lived happily ever after and I couldn't prove they didn't because their final dying wishes were much more advanced than elementary French!

*Photo: Bruce, the pool shark*

## Reflections on Our trip to the Dells -Oscar Rauch and Betsy Campbell

**Oscar:** I thought it would be really nice if we went down to the Dells as a house. We went a previous time with Emily and a whole bunch of people, but we had not been for a while. It was all of Morning Glory, most of Altair, and Scott from Berry Grove, eighteen of us. We drove down in the snow. We met up with Marianne and Jose, Alex and Jacob and Asher who are friends of the community and family members.

We rented a cabin. We had a hard time figuring out the code and punching the wrong number but Richard showed us how.

**Betsy:** They had games there. I liked the games on a machine.

**Oscar:** It had a basement with a bar and we played pool and a bean bag game, and air hockey with Sebastian, Leo and Dustin and I got beat, all the time! Richard and I played the moose and bear hunting game. We watched a movie about baseball, with a dog in it, in the evening. And the dog was really nice in the end.

**Betsy:** I liked the waterslide! Couple of times I went down with Hillary. There's a bar there and you can put your feet underwater in the hot tub, with drinks there! We played basketball in the water. Next time, I am not going to get lost!

**Oscar:** Our group, Leo, Sebastian, Joel, and Kelly and myself, went to the World War Two Museum in Portage instead. This guy talked about all the things he collected and had things he

got donated and it was a two and half hour tour. Really interesting! We met up for lunch at Kalahari and had pizza and soda and Hillary had a big salad and fries because she is gluten free.

**Betsy:** I liked the laser tag. Some people were over there and, zzzzzZZZZppp, we got them!

**Oscar:** We wore a back pack and it was flashing and when people hit you it would vibrate.

**Betsy:** I rode in the go carts and I crashed in the wall. And Hillary crashed and went into the wall and crashed her glasses. Kelly crashed too! I am not a good driver!

**Oscar:** We also did a hike in a state park where there are pictographs and old graffiti that people did when they rode horses. And we did a hike where Betsy managed to do it too.

**Betsy:** It was hard, a lot of steps.

**Oscar:** But you got all the way. And Dustin is scared of heights but he managed to get up, and down. Tony helped him and then Dustin said, "wahoo, I did it" when he was done. And Tony got him a lemonade to celebrate.





## They are Baaa-ack -Alex Felt...

Brendan and I had formed a pretty solid plan for what was coming up for us. About to buy land, and build a little house this summer. However, visiting Community Homestead with a one-way flight, we should have seen this coming.

I arrived solo, Brendan to follow two weeks after, and by day two, I texted him that we will have to have a conversation to reconsider our plans for this year. Hearing about all the exciting visits and volunteers this summer, talk of future projects, plans and trips... I would get enthusiastic and start mentally plugging myself into all these roles I could play, except suddenly I would realize I had planned to leave by May, so I would just have to be excited for everyone else. Suddenly or gradually, I began to rethink my departure date.

Like, how could I leave just as everything was turning green? Just as the garden was getting going? And how could I leave when coming back felt like coming home?

My feelings on the matter were rather formed by the time Brendan finally arrived, and although he hardly had time to catch his breath (sorry, B!), he did agree that another summer in Community was what we both wanted. Dreamy!

Now I am excited for more memorable moments, like long days in the garden ending with walking the cows out to pasture, and all the bounty that summer promises. And to what's next-- well I suppose we'll just have to wait and see!

**Hello Sadie,** here to chase the deer from the garden, guard against raccoons and be the cutest, friendliest, border collie puppy ever seen!



## And Brendan Bennett

If only I had arrived in the light of day, I love seeing the changes in landscape, especially here. From the city heading outward on the cusp of spring one sees soft hills, smooth pasture, leafless deciduous, and defrosting ponds aspiring to lakeliness. I like seeing transitions first hand, maybe that's why I decided to arrive by bus.

Here I am. Finally. It feels good to be back. "Day one?", I ask. Demolish and rebuild the bakery floor. Okay. This process starts after I receive my warm welcomes. Thank you everyone. I hop into happenings hastily, after only being gone one year. It

feels good to be back.

"How about now?", you ask? Well, I've found, and continue to find, time to prune both vine and bush in the orchard. I love fruit. The great floor project presses on, I go to the garden when that has some down time, find free time to draw and read, and I spend moments between with the many members of the community. Oh, it also might be worth mentioning that on day three my one month visit was converted into an until the end of summer visit. Funny how that happens.

So, here I am noticing transitions, awaiting fruit, spending time with a dynamic group of people, and enjoying the privilege of living in a beautiful place.

## Hello and Goodbye -Christine Elmquist

In December we said goodbye to Jordan Panerella. After his great year of Americorps service he returned to his native Montana to start university in Missoula. In January, we welcomed Sebastian Gugolz from Chicago who is here for a year, or maybe more. Charlotte Howland has become our very appreciated monthly volunteer and we are making the most of her before she goes to university in the fall! Maddie Howland and Fransisco joined us for a weekend, and Alex Felt and Brendan Bennett returned, and then (hooray) decided to stay for the Summer. We are happy that Julaine Nemrow is staying for one more summer after completing her Americorps year, and Tony Bodelson and Shannon Kulig are about to finish two fantastic Americorps years and join the Carrying Group here. We look forward to a Spring full of school groups and a summer of wonderful volunteers including six young Germans and a couple of very outnumbered Americans! See you all soon!

## Transition time. -Christine Elmquist

Today it is snowing and yesterday it was 70 degrees. We are rock and rolling with the change of season, trying out every combination of clothing and wondering, when is the schedule changing!

We have spent the winter cozied up with paints, cloth, wool and paper, warmed by the smells of beeswax and wood oil, building up a good stock of beautiful craft products for the year. How lovely to watch huge snowflakes float softly past the window as we create and chat. Then the earth warmed up and all eyes swiveled to the greenhouse. Now we are itching to get out. Done with crafts! We yearn for the smell of earth and the soft caress of soil! And just in time, April arrives to rescue us.



We are now putting the finishing touches to the crafts and boxing them up for fairs (see the coming events!) and preparing for our enormously wonderful garden and the two hundred and thirty or so CSA families that we serve. For several years now, we have been sending in food to the food shelves and shelters in Minneapolis with the help of Siri Hustad and her crew who co ordinate the deliveries. This year, we have a new link with People Loving People in Dresser to do the same thing locally. It means a lot to all of us, to know that so many customers are able to enjoy our delicious, healthy food this year!



*photos: above Terra in the greenhouse  
left: Country Banquet dish*

## Country Banquet Tickets are online right now

**[www.communityhomestead.org](http://www.communityhomestead.org)**

St Paul College chefs Sean Jones and Sara Johannes enlist their students to create an amazing farm to table experience. Fresh from the farm, an organic four course meal is served under a billowing tent, surrounded by fresh air and flowers. Sip wine and nibble artisan cheeses and charcuterie in the flower garden. Tour the meadows and orchard in a hay wagon. Sample beer from a local microbrewery. Dine in country chic style. Help us change people's lives at Community Homestead!

## Donations Dec 7-April 12 2017

Gina Portman Amis  
Margy and Gary Balweirz  
Tom and Jane Bean  
Linda Bergh  
Joyce Borgerding and  
Tom Rauch  
Laura and Bill Briggs  
Kathy and Ron Broom  
Lou and Kathy Chiapetta  
Winston Chuck  
Sherri Colberg  
Jeff Comins and  
Laurie Schmidt  
Karen and Chris Cook  
Kim Donaldson  
Paula and David Graff  
Patricia Henry  
Sheila Hoffman  
Sue and Shawn Horn

Mary Clare Huberty and  
Sherry Hansen  
Ron Johnson  
Rita Lawson  
Jim and Ellen Nester  
Bette and James Overmeier in  
honor of Shannon Kulig  
Duane and Celia Poehls  
Doris Preus  
Mary Jo Rassett in honor of  
Mary Clare Huberty  
Troy Reichard  
Jane Slay  
Cindy Stimmler  
Mary Tomes  
Vicky Weis  
Rebecca Weiss  
Tom Williams

## Coming Events

April 25 **Give Big Day!** Online! [www.Givescv.org](http://www.Givescv.org)

April 29 **Lake Harriet Conscious Living Expo**  
10am-3pm <http://www.lakeharrietspiritualcommunity.org/conscious-living-expo>

May 6 **EarthArts**-you'll find us at the Artbarn in Osceola  
10-4pm [www.earthartswi.org](http://www.earthartswi.org)

June 2 First **Farmer's Market in Osceola** 2-6pm by  
the Millpond 243/Cascade

June 3 **Rhubarb Days:** the best festival of Rhubarb  
everything in Osceola. Come meet us at the Pie booth and  
the craft fair! 9-3pm <http://rhubarbdays.com>

June 9 Come see us at the **Stillwater Farmer's  
Market** Third and Pine, Stillwater, MN

June 25 **The Country Banquet** 5.30-9pm-come  
early at 4pm for the hay rides and tours) Tickets at [www.communityhomestead.org](http://www.communityhomestead.org)

Aug 5 **Hazelfest at Hazelden** We have crafts and  
cookies! 11-7pm <http://www.hazelden.org>

August 19 **Pig Roast and Folk Dance** 3-9pm Yeehaw!