


[WWW.AVEYRONHOMES.COM](http://WWW.AVEYRONHOMES.COM)

## Here's what has happened in the last months and what's to come!

### Sweet Thanks for a Generous Cookie Donation

On behalf of our clients at Aveyron Homes, we express our sincere gratitude to Girl Scout Troop #30111 for their incredible donation of 40 cases of Girl Scout Cookies. Their generous donation brought immense joy to our clients, allowing them to enjoy a wide verity of these delightful treats. Your support is invaluable in making a positive impact on the lives of those we care for. Thank you for being a part of our mission at Aveyron Homes!

### A Warm Welcome to Our New Health Care Coordinator

We are excited to announce the newest addition to our team, Katie S., who joined us last month as our Health Care Coordinator. Katie brings a wealth of experience and a compassionate approach to care. We are excited to have her with us and invite everyone to extend a warm welcome to Katie as she embarks on this journey with our team.

We also want to extend our thanks to Stephanie W. for overseeing the position for several months. We appreciate her willingness to extend her time with Aveyron Homes as we worked to secure a new Health Care Coordinator for the position. Thank you for being part of the team, Stephanie!

### Save the date: Celebrating 50 Years of Service

Aveyron Homes, Inc. is thrilled to announce that we will be celebrating our 50th anniversary on September 19, 2025. For five decades, we have been dedicated to providing living assistance to adults with disabilities, thanks to our hardworking and passionate staff.

Stay informed by visiting Aveyron's Facebook page and subscribing to our newsletter, where we will share updates and highlights as we celebrate our ongoing journey and Aveyron's commitment to service.

### Did you know Aveyron offers fingerprinting services through IdentoGO?

As one of only two providers in Hutchinson, we take pride in offering this essential service to our community. Choose Aveyron for your fingerprinting needs and experience the ease and reliability that sets us apart.

Whether it's for a job, foster care, or other needs, our services are available every Tuesday and Wednesday from 10AM - 2PM.

Pre-register for an appointment through *IdentoGO* on their website or by phone using their customer service line 844-539-5541.


**Aveyron Homes, Inc.**

In this newsletter  
you can expect:

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Community  
Updates

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Mental Health  
Resources

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Staff Profile  
Highlights

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Summer  
Activites

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Client Photos

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Upcoming Local  
Events

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PC NICOLE AND CLIENT JOAN WITH GOPHER  
CAMPFIRE TREASURER, CRAIG S.



### Successful Bake Sale Fundraiser for Local Wildlife Sanctuary

It is with great excitement that we share the success of our recent bake sale fundraiser, organized by our clients and staff to support the Gopher Campfire Wildlife Sanctuary.

New legislation in Minnesota mandates enhanced fencing to reduce or eliminate contact between wild and farmed deer. For the Gopher Campfire Sanctuary, this means installing secondary fencing to protect their resident deer population.

Our clients and staff, who often visit the sanctuary to enjoy the local wildlife, were inspired to contribute to funding a new fence for the sanctuary. Together they organized a bake sale with all proceeds going towards the fencing project. The bake sale took place on Thursday, June 6, and received so much support from the community that we were encouraged to host a second bake sale the following Friday, June 7.

We extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who participated in the bake sale and to all who have donated to this important cause. Together, we are making a difference in preserving our local wildlife.

### Heartfelt Thanks to Future Farmers of America Program at Buffalo Lake-Hector High School

We are deeply grateful to the Future Farmers of America Greenhouse at Buffalo Lake Hector Stewart for their generous donation of flowers, tomatoes, and jalapeno plants to Aveyron's clients.

Our clients have been enthusiastically planting these around their homes, creating beautiful and vibrant surroundings. This donation has not only enhanced the aesthetics of our community but also provided our clients with a wonderful, therapeutic activity.

BECKY, EDEN, KELSEY, AND JAMIE PLANTING DONATED  
FLOWERS FROM FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA .



**Support us and become an Aveyron Homes, Inc. Advocate today!**

Aveyron Homes has been committed to supporting vulnerable adults in McLeod County since 1975. Our non-profit organization is now providing essential assistance to 54 clients, and we are proud to be a local company that serves and employs more than 70 in our community.

Your feedback is invaluable to us. We would love to hear your stories about how our staff are going above and beyond to help others in need. Please share your experiences through Aveyron Homes.

Address letters to **Aveyron Homes, Inc., 222 5th Ave. NW, Hutchinson, MN 55350** or email Aveyron's Administrative Assistant Delaine (delaine@aveyronhomes.com).



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### Exploring the Exciting World of AI

At Aveyron Homes, we are committed to embracing new technologies that support our mission and improve our ability to provide exceptional care and assistance. So we are eager to explore the innovative world of Artificial intelligence (AI) to enhance our operations.

We are learning to implement AI in various practical applications to streamline our work and improve efficiency. For instance, in the realm of social media, AI can assist us in creating engaging content, manage emails more effectively, and create targeted advertisements to reach individuals who share our passion for helping others. AI generates valuable feedback and assists in revising policies to ensure they are up-to-date and effective, so our Human Resources department will also benefit from AI by utilizing it to develop applications and interview packets. With these advancements, we aim to enhance our recruitment processes and better serve our community.

### In Memoriam: Daniel B.

It is with heavy hearts that we share the news of the unexpected passing of our client, Daniel B. Daniel was well known among our staff and fellow clients, who remember him for his kindness and warm personality. He enjoyed watching the Vikings and spending time with his cat, "Sugar." He was a talented woodworker and refurbished furniture he bought at antique shops and yard sales.

Daniel was also a collector of old trucks and in the summer he looked forward to being outdoors. He will be deeply missed. Our sympathies go out to his family and friends during this difficult time.



### Enhancements in Office Security, Phones, and Parking

We are excited to announce several upgrades at our main office aimed at enhancing security, communication, and safety for our staff and visitors. Our updated security system now features an alarm that automatically alerts the police when unauthorized access is detected. In addition, our revamped phone system includes a new voice messaging system where callers can easily select extensions to reach specific individuals and utilize a convenient call-back feature. Furthermore, our office parking lot has received a fresh overlay, providing improved accessibility and safety for visitors and employees.

We look forward to utilizing these enhancements to ensure a more efficient workplace environment at Aveyron Homes.



PHOTOS CAPTURING THE TREE REMOVAL PROCESS FROM OSGOOD'S BACKYARD.

In our commitment to continuous improvement across all our sites, Aveyron Homes recently completed the successful removal of a tree on our Osgood property, contributing to the upkeep of the property. Additionally, as part of our strategic estate management, we sold our 4-plex apartments in April, aligning our resources to better meet the evolving needs of our community.



PHOTOS DEPICT THE REMOVAL OF A LARGE TREE BEHIND THE OSGOOD BUILDING, WHERE IT IS BEING CUT DOWN AND PROCESSED INTO WOODCHIPS, CREATING AN OPEN SPACE IN THE BACKYARD.

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# Legislative Session and Changes, and Summary Report

The Association of Residential Resources in Minnesota (ARRM) has recently shared an update on the legislative changes passed during the 2024 session. To explore the complete list of legislative actions, we encourage you to visit ARRM's website at <https://www.arrm.org/resource-center/publications>.

Here are the key points from ARRM's summary report:

- The timeline for conducting 45-day meetings has been revised to within 60 calendar days or 45 days of service, whichever is shorter.
- 16 and 17 year old Direct Support Professionals can now administer medications as part of their job duties.
- Effective January 1, 2025 (or upon Federal approval), a unit-based service will allow direct care during short-term acute hospital stays. This means our staff can provide support such as aiding with meals and assisting in communication with hospital staff, without assuming medical responsibilities if approved by Case Managers.
- Modifications will allow earned sick and safe time to be used for arranging or attending funeral services, memorials, or addressing financial or legal matters after the death of a family member.
- Updated qualifications now include additional degree fields and relevant work experience for Designated Coordinator and Designated Manager positions.
- New service suspension and service termination forms are to be used as of August 1, 2024.
- Effective August 1, 2024, all clients must be offered assistive technology, remote support, or both before the Commissioner of the Department of Human Services will authorize or re-authorize services that include direct support staff.
- The definition of disability under the Minnesota Human Rights Act now includes "impairment that is episodic or in remission and would materially limit a major life activity when active." This update aims to expand protections against discrimination based on disability status.



## Estate Planning? Consider Aveyron's Endowment Account!

Aveyron is a 501c3 organization. Donations to our Endowment can have an impact well into the future! Each year, the earnings may be spent, but principal funds remain untouched, creating a long-term safety net for Aveyron, our clients, and staff members.

Contact Aveyron's Executive Director ([kathy@aveyronhomes.com](mailto:kathy@aveyronhomes.com)) for more information on estate planning, or to contribute other gifts to Aveyron's Endowment account.



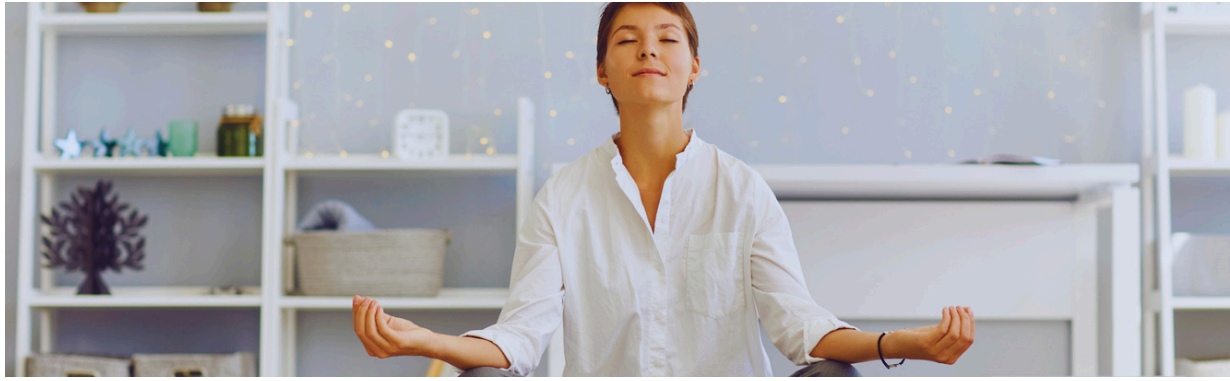
## We're accepting referrals for our residential homes!

Aveyron currently has 11 homes that support and interact with each other.

Clients who live in our 245D Licensed Residential Homes have additional benefits including:

- Free Wi-Fi
- Free streaming TV services
- Representative Payee option
- Each site has its own vehicle

Contact us today **(320) 587-6277** to find appropriate placement for those who are in need!



## Supporting Our Staff: Mental Health Resources and Benefits

Did you know that Aveyron staff have access to a variety of resources designed to support mental health and overall well-being? These benefits are available to both full-time and part-time employees, ensuring comprehensive support throughout their employment journey. Our offerings include:

- **Employee Assistance Program (EAP):** Confidential counseling and support services available 24/7.
- **Free Counseling Sessions:** Staff can access free counseling sessions each calendar year to address personal or work-related challenges.
- **Health Insurance-Sponsored Mental Health Benefits:** Coverage for mental health services as part of our health insurance plans.
- **Dedicated Paid Time Off (PTO) or Mental Health Days:** Opportunities for dedicated time off to recharge and prioritize mental wellness.
- **Kavira Telehealth:** Convenient access to telehealth services for counseling and consultations through an online or mobile app.
- **Online Therapy:** Access to online platforms for therapy sessions tailored to individual needs.
- **Fit Choice and Health Rewards:** Programs promoting physical fitness and healthy lifestyles.

To further support staff in developing healthy habits this summer, we encourage you to explore the free *Uptime* app!

*Uptime* offers quick summaries of books, documentaries, educational courses, podcasts, autobiographies, and more, available in text, audio, and visual formats all through the convenience of using your mobile phone. These courses cover a wide spectrum, from practical guides on managing mental health and navigating day-to-day challenges to inspirational stories and educational insights.

Additionally, through Aveyron Homes, staff can benefit from the *Optum Community* app, which provides access to 1,965 programs supporting residents across our community. These programs encompass a wide range of social services including housing, food assistance, financial support, transportation options, educational resources, and more.

At Aveyron Homes, we take pride in providing robust resources and support systems to ensure the well-being and success of our dedicated staff members. Human Resources is also always available to provide additional resources and assistance to ensure our team members have the support they need to thrive.



## Team Aveyron



### Now Hiring! Direct Support Professionals (DSPs)

- Enjoy many community outings with the clients.
- All homes are located in Hutchinson.
- Hours available include evenings and weekends – perfect as a 2nd job!
- Star Tribune Top Workplace 2024, 2023, 2022 and 2021.
- Aveyron provides all necessary training on site.
- Competitive Pay and Benefits
- Employees scheduled 20 hr/week get virtual health care KAVIRA, for employee and dependents. Aveyron pays 100% of premium.
- Dental insurance is available for eligible employees.
- 401k match is available for eligible employees.
- Existing employees can receive a referral bonus of \$100 if listed on an application of someone who is hired!

**Apply online TODAY!**  
[www.aveyronhomes.com/careers](http://www.aveyronhomes.com/careers)

### Outstanding Team Player:

Mikayla P. has seamlessly stepped up to the Program Coordinator role at School Road. She brings a positive attitude, innovative ideas, and fosters a strong teamwork atmosphere. Her dedication is evident as she works open shifts, is a reliable employee, and ensures smooth operations and excellent communication among her staff. Mikayla's skills in



redirecting client behaviors and actively participating in client activities are commendable. We are excited to see the continued positive impact she will have on our team!

### Upcoming Staff Anniversaries

**April J.**  
August | 20 Years

### A BIG welcome to new staff!

- Eveline A.
- Liliana D.
- Denise H.

- Aveyron has received the Top Workplace Award for 2024 based on valuable employee feedback. Thank you for being an integral part of our team and contributing to making Aveyron a fantastic place to work!
- Get ready to celebrate Direct Support Professional Week in September 2024! Aveyron will dedicate an entire week to honoring the achievements of our hardworking staff, from September 8 - September 14, 2024.
- During open enrollment week, Aveyron introduced a new health insurance plan offering two affordable options maintaining an 80/20 premium split with Blue Cross Blue Shield. This update provides our staff with greater flexibility and support for their healthcare needs at a lower cost than the Medica renewal.
- We're delighted to welcome several new clients to Aveyron Homes. Thank you for choosing us to meet your needs. We are committed to delivering exceptional service and ensuring Aveyron feels like a true "home" for all.



## Discover the Best Fishing Spots and Summer Activities in Minnesota

Make the most of your summer in Minnesota with these fantastic fishing spots and affordable activities. Whether you're casting a line or exploring new trails, there's something for everyone to enjoy!

### **Lake Marion**

Located approximately 6 miles south of Hutchinson, Lake Marion park includes amenities such as picnic shelters, boat access, and camping space. Visitors can fish right from the shore or from fishing piers for the chance to catch Black Bullhead, Bluegill, Carp, Northern Pike, Walleye, White Crappie, Yellow Perch, Sunfish and much more!

### **Lake Preston and Lake Allie**

Located 20 minutes southwest of Hutchinson, Preston Lake in Buffalo Lake and Lake Allie in Renville County offer an abundance of options to suit your needs. Anglers can expect to find a variety of fish in both these locations, including Brown Bullhead, Carp, Channel Catfish, Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike, Pumpkinseed, Walleye, White Crappie and Yellow Perch.

### **Minnesota River and Mississippi River**

While lake fishing in Minnesota is fantastic, the region's rivers and streams offer some of the biggest catches.

The Minnesota River and its major tributaries are home to massive flathead catfish, along with walleyes, sauger, and channel catfish.

The Mississippi River, starting in Northwest Minnesota, winds through thousands of lakes filled with bass, panfish, walleye, muskie, and more. A standout spot along the river is Lake Pepin, where the river broadens and is abundant with white bass and northern pike.

### **Explore Minnesota's National Parks**

While exploring Minnesota, don't forget to visit some of our beautiful state parks! Did you know there are four free entry days to all Minnesota state parks each year? The next and last entry fee-free day for 2024 is Friday, November 29, 2024. These parks are open year-round and within 30 miles of most Minnesotans.

**Walking and Biking Trails:** Hutchinson boasts an extensive network of trails perfect for hiking and biking. The state's Luce Line Trail extends from Cosmos to Plymouth and runs right through the heart of Hutchinson, offering breathtaking scenery along the Crow River.

**Picnics in the Park:** Many parks have designated picnic areas where you can enjoy a meal surrounded by nature. Every Thursday through July, you can visit Hutchinson's Library Square to enjoy a day of music in the park!

**Outdoor Concerts and Festivals:** Throughout the summer, various communities host outdoor concerts and festivals. Check out the end of this newsletter for upcoming venues near you!

**Farmers Markets:** This summer, make sure to visit Hutchinson's farmers markets for fresh produce and homemade goods every Wednesday and Saturday. It's a great way to support local farmers and enjoy a community atmosphere!

**Kayaking, Canoeing and Swimming:** Many lakes and rivers offer low-cost rentals for kayaks and canoes, including Hutchinson Paddle Sport Rentals. Paddle through Minnesota's beautiful waterways and experience the tranquility of nature, and take a dip to Lake Ripley in Litchfield for a cool swim!



## Client Photos

Pictured below are Samara, Sally, and Teri, preparing various goodies for the bake sale fundraiser. They volunteered their time to bake and package delicious desserts for the fundraiser, with all proceeds going towards funding a second fence for the Gopher Campfire Wildlife Sanctuary. We also extend our gratitude to the other clients and staff who contributed their time and energy to make the bake sale a great success!



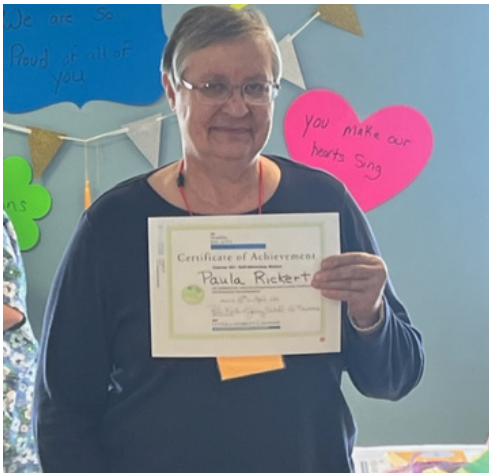
**STAFF BELLA AND HAILEY WITH CLIENTS JOAN, PAULA, AND KRIS RUNNING THE BAKE SALE STAND.**

**CLIENTS JOAN AND JOANNE WITH STAFF MIKAYLA AND NICOLE AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KATHY.**





# Client Photos



## Celebrating Paula's Achievement!

We are thrilled to celebrate our client Paula, who graduated from a 12-week Self-Advocacy class in April. Attending every Monday, Paula showed incredible dedication and commitment to her personal growth. Her hard work and perseverance have paid off, and we couldn't be more proud of her accomplishment. Congratulations, Paula, on this wonderful achievement!



## A Trip Back in Time with Jeff, Paula, and Kris

Jeff, Paula, and Kris had a blast attending the "Back to the 50s" event hosted by the McLeod County History Center. They enjoyed a classic cars show, live music, and food, all within the setting of the History Center. It was a fun evening filled with nostalgia, laughter, and good times!



## Adam Enjoys Floral Donation

Adam has been enjoying the beautiful flowers donated by Future Farmers of America Greenhouse. His approval was evident as he smelled the sweet-smelling flowers, bringing a touch of summer's beauty to his home all season long.



## Don and Jeff's Beautiful Planters

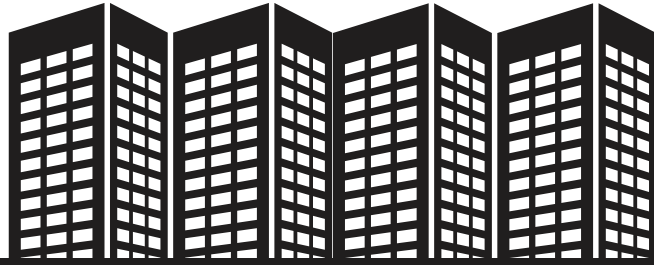
Thanks to the generous flower donation from the Future Farmers of America Greenhouse, Don and Jeff have created stunning planters that brighten up their surroundings!

<b>AVEYRON HOMES, INC.</b>	320-587-6277
<a href="http://www.aveyronhomes.com">www.aveyronhomes.com</a>	222 5th Ave NW Hutchinson, MN 55350

*Thank you for reading!*

# Upcoming Events

IN THE HUTCHINSON AREA



## July

- **Third Tuesday of Every Month** | 9AM-6PM FREE Laundry Day at the Royal Wash House on Highway 7 West
- **July 3, Every Wednesday | 2:30PM-5:30PM** Farmers Market
- **July 6, Every Saturday | 8AM-12PM** Farmers Market
- **July 8-July 29, Every Thursday | 6:30PM-8PM** Music at the Park in Library Square
- **July 12-13 | 5PM-11PM** River Song Music Festival at Masonic West River Park - \$30 admission July 12 and \$50 admission July 13
- **July 15 | 10:30AM** "Czech Heritage" Breakfast Social at McLeod County History Museum
- **July 18** Hutchinson Crazy Day, Shop Throughout Hutchinson
- **July 26 -28 | 8AM-11PM** "Orange Spectacular" Tractor Show at McLeod County Fairgrounds
- **July 27 - 28 | 10AM - 5PM, 11AM-4PM** Minnesota Pottery Festival at Masonic West River Park
- **July 31 - Aug 4 | 8AM-10PM** Meeker County Fair at 1230 N. Armstrong Ave. Litchfield, MN 55355 - \$8 admission for adults, free for seniors (over 70) and children

## August

- **Aug 7, Every Wednesday | 2:30PM-5:30PM** Farmers Market
- **Aug 3, Every Saturday | 8AM-12PM** Farmers Market
- **Aug 1 | 4PM-6PM** "Ice Cream Social" at Our Savior's Lutheran Church
- **Aug 2-3 | 7PM** HTC Presents "Matilda" at Hutchinson High School Auditorium - \$20 tickets online or \$25 at door
- **Aug 7-9 | 10AM-10PM** Renville County Fair at Fairgrounds, Bird Island, MN 55310 - \$7 admission
- **Aug 10 | 10AM-5PM** "Minnesota Garlic Festival" at McLeod County Fairgrounds - \$10 admission
- **Aug 13 | 10:30AM** Genealogy Club at McLeod County History Museum
- **Aug 15-16** McLeod County Fair at McLeod County Fairgrounds
- **Aug 17 - Sept 29 | 9AM-7PM** Minnesota Renaissance Festival at 12364 Chestnut Blvd, Shakopee, MN 55379 - \$22.95 admissions for adults, \$20.95 for seniors (over 65)

## September

- **Sept 4, Every Wednesday | 2:30PM-5:30PM** Farmers Market
- **Aug 7, Every Saturday | 8AM-12PM** Farmers Market
- **Sept 13-15** "Family Fun Fest" at St. Anastasia Catholic Church
- **Sept 13 | 10AM-6PM** 50th Anniversary Arts & Crafts Festival at Library Square
- **Sept 14 | 9AM-4PM** 50th Anniversary Arts & Crafts Festival at Library Square
- **Sept 21 | 8AM - 5PM** "Elks 43rd Annual Gun show, Coins & Knives" at McLeod County Fairgrounds
- **Sept 22 | 9AM - 3PM** Elks 43rd Annual Gun show, Coins & Knives at McLeod County Fairgrounds
- **Sept 28** White Goods Pick Up Curbside, City Wide