



### Celebrating 50 Years

For half a century, we have been dedicated to helping individuals have fulfilling lives while ensuring families in Hutchinson can stay together and thrive.

To honor this special occasion, we are planning a 50th Anniversary Celebration on Friday, September 19, 2025. We encourage all Aveyron employees to save the date as we come together to celebrate our legacy and the people who make our work possible.

### Nearing Our Goal – Thank You for Your Generous Support!

We set a year-end fundraising goal of \$5,000 to continue providing exceptional care and meaningful, local experiences for our clients. Thanks to the generosity of our Aveyron Advocates, we raised \$4,580—bringing us so close to our goal!

32% of our supporters contributed, with an average gift of \$157.93. Every donation makes a difference, helping us create more opportunities for our clients to connect, grow, and thrive.

Thank you for being part of this journey and for your continued support. Together, we are building a stronger, more inclusive community—one where every individual has the opportunity to live a fulfilling life.



### Aveyron Advocates

- American Legion Post 96 Auxiliary
- BC Plumbing & Heating  
Bev B.  
Brian A.
- Charles & Barb M.
- Citizens Bank and Trust
- Crow River Glass  
Dave & Jan S.  
Jon & Diana A.  
Earl & Karen B.
- Factory Direct Furniture  
Father Jerry M.
- Heintz Floor Covering
- Hutchinson Lions Club  
Ken & Patti R.  
Gary & Sherry K.
- Midwest Industries Tool Grinding Inc.  
Gerald & Irene K.  
Peter & Susan K.  
Primary Eyecare  
Sharon C.
- Something To Crow About Health  
Steve & Sandy S.
- Stockmen's Greenhouse  
Susan & Jeremy N.  
Tim & Julie J.
- Town and Country Tire  
VFW Post 906



**Aveyron Homes, Inc.**

**In this newsletter  
you can expect:**

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Aveyron Updates

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Advocating for  
Disability Services

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Staff Profile  
Highlights

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Client Photos

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Nurse's Nook

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Upcoming Events

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# Advocating for Disability Services: Protecting the Future of Essential Care



Photo: Advocates arrive at the Minnesota State Capitol to show support for disability services and speak with legislators.

## **Aveyron Homes Takes Action at the ARRM Advocacy Event**

We are proud to share that Aveyron Homes had the honor of participating in a crucial advocacy event organized by the Association of Residential Resources in Minnesota (ARRM). This event brought together providers, advocates, and policymakers to discuss the urgent need to protect disability services.

Our Executive Director, Kathy Kalenberg, was in attendance, representing Aveyron Homes and standing alongside other leaders in the fight to protect Medicaid and essential services.

The future of essential disability services is at risk. Congressional leaders have proposed a budget draft that includes at least \$1.5 trillion in spending cuts, with Federal Medicaid facing some of the deepest reductions. These proposed cuts could have devastating consequences for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and the providers who serve them.

If enacted, these cuts could:

- Shift Medicaid costs to states, forcing them to reduce funding for critical services or cut provider reimbursement rates.
- Threaten Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS), increasing waitlists and potentially forcing individuals into institutional care.
- Jeopardize essential supports for individuals with I/DD, making it harder for them to live independently and receive the care they need.



Photo: Aveyron Homes' Executive Director, Kathy Kalenberg, proudly representing our community at ARRM's Disability Services Day at the Capitol.

## **How You Can Help**

Legislators rely on feedback from their constituents when making policy decisions. Research shows that direct advocacy efforts—such as emails, phone calls, and in-person meetings—are among the most effective ways to influence lawmakers.

The services we provide are vital, and we must ensure that Congress hears our message loud and clear: Reject Medicaid cuts and protect essential disability services!

Your voice is essential in this fight. Here's how you can take action today:

- *Contact Your Congressional Representatives*  
Tell them to reject Medicaid cuts and support funding for disability services. Every call and email makes a difference.

- *Use the premade message to contact your U.S. Senators and Representatives:*  
<https://www.ancor.org/actions/preserve-i-dd-services-tell-congress-protect-medicaid/>

- *Stay Engaged with Advocacy Efforts*  
Follow updates, attend advocacy events, and stay informed about legislation that affects disability services.

- *Spread the Word*  
Encourage family, friends, and colleagues to join the fight. Advocacy is stronger when more voices are involved.

## **Together, We Can Make a Difference**

The individuals we serve deserve stability, independence, and access to high-quality care. By standing together as a community, we can protect the essential services that make a difference in so many lives. On behalf of Aveyron, thank you in advance for your continued support and dedication to this cause!



Photos above: Advocates fill the Minnesota State Capitol, holding signs and speaking out to protect and support essential disability services.

### Day at the Capitol 2025: Recap

This year's Disability Services Day at the Capitol was one of the most impactful yet, with over 1,000 advocates in attendance and another 1,200 tuning in online. The halls of the Minnesota Capitol were filled with attendees advocating for the importance of disability services and funding. Following a lineup of speakers, including several legislative champions and Attorney General Keith Ellison, advocates met with 175 members of the Minnesota Legislature to deliver a clear message: cuts to disability services have serious consequences.

### Upcoming Legislation to Watch

Proposed legislation affecting disability services:

- HF 2569: Prohibits a Community Residential Setting from being within a quarter mile of another.
- HF 2434: Governor's Budget Bill.
- SF 2598: Changes to MNChoice Assessment Frequency.
- HF 1477: A bill removing Community Residential Settings and small Assisted Living settings from city licensing exemptions.



### 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, and our clients.

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.



### 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 benefits not available from all providers 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!



# Exciting Office Updates & Welcoming Our New Program Coordinators!

*Photo: A look inside Aveyron Homes' main office, featuring our refreshed front lobby, updated IdentoGO fingerprinting room, and newly carpeted basement level.*

After a year of careful budgeting, our office has received a much-needed refresh—or as we like to call it, a "carpet upgrade" after years of dedicated service!

We invite you to visit our main office at Aveyron Homes, Inc., 222 5th Ave NW, Hutchinson, MN, to see the updates for yourself. While you're here, feel free to ask about career opportunities, client openings, or our IdentoGO fingerprinting services. We always appreciate connecting with our community—stop by and say hello!



## Welcome Our New Program Coordinator, Jada!

We are thrilled to welcome Jada L. back to Aveyron Homes as a Program Coordinator at our School Road site! Jada brings a strong background in childcare, having spent six years in the field, including nearly three years as a lead preschool teacher. She previously worked at Aveyron as a Direct Support Professional (DSP) and is excited to return in this new leadership role. Jada holds an Associate of Science degree in Early Childhood Education from Ridgewater College. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with family and friends. She is eager to support our clients and be part of the Aveyron team once again. Please join us in giving Jada a warm welcome back!

## Welcome Our New Program Coordinator, Erin!

We are excited to welcome Erin S. to Aveyron Homes as a new Program Coordinator at our 976 Osgood Ave. home! Erin brings 24 years of experience. She has worked with individuals with Level 4 Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in various roles, including House Manager, Highly Qualified Paraprofessional, and Behavior Technician. Her deep understanding and dedication to this field are also shaped by her personal experience as a mother to three sons with ASD. Outside of work, Erin enjoys gardening, playing guitar, and quilting. We are thrilled to have her on board and appreciate the knowledge and passion she brings to our team. Let's give a big welcome to Erin as she joins the Aveyron Homes team!





# Team Aveyron

## Now Hiring!

Direct Support Professionals (DSPs)



Contact Human Resource Manager, Natalie Reiter. ([natalie@aveyronhomes.com](mailto:natalie@aveyronhomes.com)) for more information!

- 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, including fingerprinting.
- Receive pay for hours worked before assigned payday.
- Company paid life insurance is available for eligible employees.
- Starting pay \$20/hr after training, with competitive benefits.
- Aveyron pays 100% of premium. Employees scheduled 20 hr/week get virtual health care KAVIRA, for employee and dependents.
- 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

We are proud to recognize **Nancy M.** as this quarter's Outstanding Team Player! Nancy is always willing to cover open shifts, switching shifts during the week, assisting when staff are sick or need schedule changes, and she will step in to help Program Coordinators when needed. Nancy brings a client to church, and completes the daily task sheet which helps oncoming staff stay informed and prepared. Thank you, Nancy, for your hard work, availability, and commitment to Aveyron Homes. We appreciate all that you do!



## Upcoming Staff Anniversaries

**Yvette F.**  
April | 15 Years

**Denise H.**  
April | 1 Year

**Kathy K.**  
April | 33 Years

**Shawn N.**  
April | 12 Years

**Deb S.**  
April | 21 Years

**Dorothy S.**  
April | 29 Years

**Lili D.**  
May | 1 Year

**Katie S.**  
May | 1 Year

**Marisol M.**  
June | 12 Years

**Hailey P.**  
June | 2 Years

**Bella R.**  
June | 2 Years

**Keerstin V.**  
June | 2 Years

**Delaine Z.**  
June | 3 Years

## A BIG Welcome to new staff!

**Melanie H. | Carol L. | Darla P. | Harley K. | Kim S.**

## How Are We Doing?

Since 1975, Aveyron Homes has been dedicated to supporting adults with disabilities in McLeod County. As a non-profit organization, we provide essential services to our clients, employing members of our community.

**Your feedback helps us continue to serve our community with excellence.**

Please share your stories with us by addressing Aveyron Homes, Inc., 222 5th Ave. NW, Hutchinson, MN 55350, or by emailing our Administrative Assistant Delaine ([delaine@aveyronhomes.com](mailto:delaine@aveyronhomes.com)).

Additionally, we encourage you to leave a review on Google to share how Aveyron Homes has positively impacted you or your loved ones.



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# Get ready to spring into Spring: Seasonal Prep and Activities



As the snow melts and flowers begin to bloom, spring offers the perfect opportunity to refresh and reset. Whether it's sprucing up your home, ensuring your car is road-ready, or getting outside to enjoy the fresh air, a little preparation can go a long way in making the most of the season.

Here are some tips to kick off spring with a clean slate and a sense of adventure:

## Spring Maintenance Tips

For Your Home:

- **Inspect Your Roof and Gutters:** Check for damage from winter storms and clear out debris to ensure proper drainage.
- **Seal Cracks and Openings:** Keep pests out by sealing gaps in windows, doors, and walls.
- **Service Your HVAC System:** Schedule a professional tune-up to ensure your air conditioning is ready for warmer weather.
- **Clean Outdoor Spaces:** Tidy up patios, decks, and yard spaces for spring enjoyment.

For Your Car:

- **Check Tires and Alignment:** Inspect tread wear and ensure your tires are properly inflated.
- **Change Oil and Filters:** Regular maintenance keeps your engine running smoothly.
- **Test Your Battery:** Cold weather can weaken a battery, so it's good to check its health.
- **Wash and Wax:** Remove salt and grime from winter to prevent rust and keep your car looking great.

## Outdoor Activities to Welcome Spring

Once your spring chores are done, it's time to get outside and enjoy the beauty of nature. Whether it's soaking in the fresh air, exploring new spaces, or engaging in interactive activities, there's no better time to connect with the outdoors. Here are some fun and creative activities to welcome the season and make the most of your time outside!

### Spring Story Walk

Head out on a nature walk with a partner and tune into your senses. Discuss and observe signs of spring:

- Something that smells like spring
- Something that looks like spring
- Something that sounds like spring
- Something that tastes like spring
- Create a story or draw your findings using a storyboard template.



### Spring Scavenger Hunts

- **Opposites Hunt:** Use an egg carton to collect pairs of nature objects with opposite qualities—like rough/smooth, bright/dull, soft/hard. Place them in opposing spots in the carton. Start by brainstorming opposites to look for in nature.
- **Hand-Sized Objects:** Search for items that fit these criteria:
  - Smaller than your hand
  - Longer than your little finger
  - Wide as your hand span
  - The size of your thumbnail
  - Something that fits perfectly in your hand
  - Trace your hand on cardboard, tape the objects to the outline, and display your unique finds!

Spring is the perfect time to refresh your surroundings and reconnect with nature. Enjoy the season to its fullest!





**BECKY AND EDEN WALKING TOGETHER**



**ARRON ON A WALK IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD**

**Stepping Into Spring:  
Enjoying Community Walks**

As the weather warms up, our clients have been making the most of the sunshine by enjoying community outings, from peaceful strolls through the beautiful deer sanctuary to leisurely walks around their own neighborhoods. Getting outside, even for just 30 minutes, offers incredible benefits for both mental and physical health—boosting mood, increasing energy, and improving overall well-being. Plus, you never know who you'll run into along the way! So take a moment to step outside, breathe in the fresh air, and embrace the joys of spring.

**From Stones to Masterpieces:  
Rock Painting Fun**

Clients tapped into their creativity with a fun and colorful rock painting activity! Thanks to the generosity of our Health Care Coordinator, Katie S., who donated rocks from her own collection, everyone had the opportunity to transform an ordinary stone into a unique work of art. Each painted rock reflects the creativity and joy of its artist, bringing a pop of color to the outdoors. If you see these vibrant pieces around, take a moment to admire them—they might just inspire you to create your own nature art!



**JEFF AND DON DISPLAY THEIR PAINTED ROCKS.**



**PAULA, KATIE JO, AND DANA SHOWCASE THEIR PAINTED ROCKS.**



# Nurse's Nook: Work/Life Balance



Achieving a harmonious work-life balance is essential for healthcare professionals, as it directly impacts personal well-being and the quality of care provided to clients. A 2021 survey revealed that over 52% of U.S. physicians felt their work schedules did not allow for adequate work-life balance, with 21.3% strongly disagreeing that they had sufficient family time after work. [Source: www.statista.com](https://www.statista.com)

The consequences of poor work-life balance extend beyond individual well-being; they affect employee retention rates and healthcare costs. Healthcare workers experiencing work-life imbalance are more likely to face job dissatisfaction, leading to increased turnover rates. This cycle poses challenges for healthcare organizations, emphasizing the need for supportive work environments.

To foster a healthier balance, Aveyron Homes supports flexible working hours, and provides earned sick and safe time (ESST), which have been shown to enhance focus, motivation, and productivity among healthcare workers. [Source: https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9910372/](https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9910372/)

On an individual level, engaging in self-care practices such as exercise, hobbies, and quality time with loved ones can mitigate stress and prevent burnout. Working with clients who share your interests creates a win-win situation. As healthcare professionals, prioritizing your own well-being enables you to deliver compassionate, high-quality care to those you serve. Remember, "It is not how much you do, but how much love you put in the doing." —Mother Teresa

By embracing a balanced approach to work and life, you not only enrich your own health and happiness but also enhance the lives of your clients and colleagues.

## Volunteer Opportunities at Aveyron Homes

Looking for a meaningful way to give back? Aveyron Homes welcomes volunteers to help enrich the lives of our clients and support our community!

### Ways to Get Involved:

- Activities & Crafts: Play games, lead crafts, cook, or share a hobby with clients.
- Outdoor & Maintenance Projects: Help with painting, landscaping, or vehicle cleaning.
- Community Outings: Occasionally assist clients with outings, such as church visits (limited opportunities).

### Volunteer Requirements:

Volunteers complete basic training, including a background check and site-specific guidelines. Join us in making a difference! Contact administrative assistant, Delaine ([delaine@aveyronhomes.com](mailto:delaine@aveyronhomes.com)), to learn more.

## Aveyron Homes Joins Ridgewater College Health Care Job Expo

In March, Aveyron Homes had the great opportunity to participate in the Ridgewater College Health Care Job Expo. This event provided a valuable platform to connect with job seekers and showcase the rewarding career opportunities available in healthcare.

We truly appreciate Ridgewater College's support in helping the next generation of professionals grow their careers. The expo was a beneficial experience for our team, and we look forward to future collaborations to continue building a strong and dedicated workforce in the healthcare field.



## Consider making a gift today and become an Aveyron Advocate!

Your generosity will help Aveyron Homes support local families, fund community outings, and invest in local workers.

As a non-profit organization, **your donation is 100% tax-deductible**, and every dollar makes a difference. Donations can be mailed to Aveyron Homes, Inc., 222 5th Ave NW, Hutchinson, MN 55350.





## Don, Jeff, and Joan Enjoy Hutchinson's Annual Ice Show

Community connection and support play a vital role in enriching the lives of those we serve. Events like Hutchinson's annual Ice Show provide a wonderful opportunity to come together and celebrate local talent!

Joan, a longtime fan of the event, once again attended this year to cheer on the daughter of Nicole, one of Aveyron's Program Coordinators. This year was even more special because she brought along Don and Jeff to enjoy the show alongside her.



## Experience the Thrill of Bingo at Mystic Lake Casino!

From classic bingo to the high-energy Cosmic Bingo, Mystic Lake Casino makes for engaging and fast-paced fun! For bingo enthusiasts like Genessa, this event is always a highlight—she always leaves feeling like a winner! Whether you're a seasoned player or just looking for a fun evening out, bingo at Mystic Lake is a great way to experience the thrill of the game.



## Elena and Charlene Enjoy a Relaxing Day in Howard Lake

Elena and Charlene took a trip to Howard Lake for a fun and relaxing day out. They explored a few new thrift stores, discovering hidden treasures. After their shopping adventure, they stopped for lunch at A&W, enjoying a meal together. It was the perfect way to spend a chilly day out, appreciating friendship, community, and the simple joys of exploring new places.



## Brianna and Elena Explore Willmar for a Day of Shopping

Brianna and Elena took a trip to Willmar for a fun day of shopping. It was Brianna's first time visiting Willmar, and Elena was excited to show her around—especially where to find the best sales! After a successful shopping trip, they stopped at KFC to enjoy a meal. It was a great day of exploring, bargain-hunting, and making memories together!

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

*Thank you for reading!*

# Upcoming Events

IN THE HUTCHINSON AREA



## April

- **April 1 – April 18 | Wed-Fri: 10 AM – 5 PM, Sat: 10 AM – 3 PM** A collection of abstract acrylic paintings by ME Fuller will be on display at the Hutchinson Center for the Arts. Free and open to all.
- **April 3 | 10:00 AM– 6:00 PM** Peace Lutheran Occasional Sale. 1/4 of sales will be given to Mcleod Alliance.
- **April 5 | 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM** April Indoor Farmers Market at the Historic Depot (Farmers Market Pavilion) 25 Adams St SE.
- **April 6 | 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM** Lions Pancake Breakfast at the Elks Club. \$12.00 per ticket.
- **April 6 | 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM** Plant-based cooking class at Hutchinson Seventh-day Adventist Church. Free and open to all.
- **April 7 – April 18 | 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM** Income Tax Event through United Community Action Partnership (UCAP) located at 904 Highway 15 S Hutchinson, MN. Free for eligible people.
- **April 10 | 3:30 PM – 5:30 PM** Fare for All-Reduced priced produce/meat at Oak Heights Church 1398 South Grade Road SW Hutchinson. Get packs of fresh produce and frozen meats up to 40% off of retail price.
- **April 11 | Starts at 11:00 AM** Peace Lutheran Fish Fry at Peace Lutheran Church 400 Franklin St SW Hutchinson MN. Adult tickets \$17.00. Chicken tickets \$8.00.
- **April 12 | 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM** One Book One Community Meet the Author at CrossPoint Church, 1215 Roberts Road SW, Hutchinson, MN. Meet the Author event for Gunflint Falling: Blowdown in the Boundary Waters by Cary J. Griffith.
- **April 19 | 6:00 AM** Special White Good, Hard Goods & Electronics Pick-Up
- **April 19 | 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM** Free Easter Egg Hunt, snacks, drinks, crafts and fun! Hosted at Hutchinson Evangelical Free Church 1020 Highway 7 West, Suite D Hutchinson, MN 55350. Free and open to all ages. Egg hunts will be staggered by age group.

## May

- **May 1** Spring City Wide Garage Sales
- **May 1 | 8:00 AM– 7:00 PM** Peace Lutheran Occasional Sale. 1/4 of sales will be given to Mcleod Alliance.
- **May 2 | 8:00 AM– 6:00 PM** Peace Lutheran Occasional Sale. 1/4 of sales will be given to Mcleod Alliance. \$3 Bag sale from 4 PM – 6 PM.
- **May 3 | 3:30 AM – 5:30 PM** Join us in celebrating the moms in your life! “Mom’s Just Want To Have Fun” Pop-Up vendor sale at Home Again, 11 Main Street North Hutchinson. Mocktails and muffins will be served.
- **May 8 | 3:30 PM – 5:30 PM** Fare for All-Reduced priced produce/meat at Oak Heights Church 1398 South Grade Road SW Hutchinson. Get packs of fresh produce and frozen meats up to 40% off of retail price.
- **May 9 | 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM** Bear Lake Sunshine Society annual plant and bake sale with various house plants, flowers, vegetables and baked breads, cookies, etc. Hosted at 215 Hassen Street Hutchinson, MN.
- **May 11 – May 13** Silver Lake Citywide Garage Sales
- **May 18 – May 20** Glencoe Citywide Garage Sales
- **May 28, 4-7pm | May, 29 9-6pm | May 30, 9-12** Christ The King Annual Rummage Sale annual rummage sale. Everything priced to sell fast!

## June

- **June 6 | 11:00 AM – 1:30 PM** Dairy Day at Library Square Park
- **June 9 | 6:00 PM** Hutchinson Jaycee Water Carnival Medallion Hunt Kickoff. \$500 prize to the first to find the Hutchinson Jaycee Water Carnival Medallion! Medallion Hunt Kickoff and Exclusive First Clue will be given at Music in the Park.
- **June 12 | 4:30 PM – 7:00 PM** St. John’s CCCC Annual Ice cream social. Serving original homemade turkey salad sandwiches, BBQ’s, potato salad, coffee, pie, cake and more! Located at 13372 Nature Ave. Hutchinson, MN 55350
- **June 12 | 7:00 PM** Hutchinson Jaycee Water Carnival Boat Parade
- **June 14 | 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM** Hutchinson Jaycee Water Carnival Community Day
- **June 15 | 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM** Hutchinson Jaycee Water Carnival Grande Day Parade
- **June 15 | 10:00 PM – 10:30 PM** Hutchinson Jaycee Water Carnival Fireworks