

Highlights & Headlines

MAY 2026

from
HILLTOPPERS, Inc.

NEWS ♦ NARRATIVES ♦ NOTES ♦ NOTIONS ♦ NECESSITIES ♦ AND NONSENSE



LPN Sonya Cannon with Brian and Ruth

Hangin' at Harrison Home

Residents are thriving and engaged in daily life at this unique group home in the heart of Crossville.

There's never a dull moment at Harrison Home. Everyday is a celebration—of life, of love, of family. “Because that’s what we are, family,” says house manager Sonya Cannon. This small group home, tucked away near downtown Crossville, is uniquely poised to serve those service recipients who need around-the-clock nursing care. A staff of two licensed nursing and direct support professionals are on duty at all times to provide the skilled care required for four Harrison residents.

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Brian enjoys a Valentine dinner with his two favorite ladies.



Karla got "pumpkined" at Halloween.

continued from cover

Harrison House was dedicated in 2008 on property donated to Hilltoppers, Inc. and built through grant funding as a single room occupancy home with private bathrooms—a novel and ahead of its time approach for living arrangements for people with disabilities. The home accommodates

communal areas as well as ample private space for each resident. An outdoor pavilion and park was later built on the property adjacent to the home, and this addition enables residents to more fully enjoy the outdoor space and share with their neighbors from Gossage and Clark residences. That means, of course, that activities can be shared with more friends and family, especially in warm weather.

You might think that we highlight the activity of this special group home because of the extraordinary care provided there. You might think we highlight it because the home has become a model for other Tennessee agencies who house the disabled. Nah! Those are two great reasons to sing the praises of this special residence, but the truth is, the real secrets of Harrison Home are

the awesome parties that go on there! Not a holiday goes by without some celebration or another. They celebrate the biggies, of course—Halloween, Christmas, Valentines, 4th of July—but what about National Cheese Day? Or National Snowball Day? Or, better yet, National Shrimp Scampi Day?

“Why not?” asks DSP Sharon Brown. “Sometimes it’s hard for our folks to get out into the community because of physical limitations and medical conditions. Sometimes it’s easier to bring the party here.” That’s not to say that the group doesn’t go out. “We make a point to go out for every birthday, even the staff’s!” Sharon added. Resident Ruth Selby is looking forward to a special birthday next month—her 85th—and it promises to be a memorable event. She’s excited to see what celebrations are planned for her.



Hilltoppers, Inc. is governed by a nine member, volunteer Board of Directors who meet the 3rd Tuesday of each month. We are grateful to have these nine directors to review and guide us, and we thank them for their time, talents and governance.

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www.hilltoppersinc.com

OUR VALUES

RIGHTS, RESPECT & DIGNITY

A priority at Hilltoppers, Inc. is to teach and practice that all people have **Value**; that all people have **Rights**; and that all people will be treated with **Respect** and **Dignity**. Everyone should practice and facilitate **value, worth** and **respect** in their daily supports and communication to others, including providing people with opportunities for: decision making, privacy, exercising their rights and living without unwarranted restrictions.

CHOICE & DECISION MAKING

It is also a priority for the staff of Hilltoppers, Inc. to support all people, their family members, friends, natural supports, and others to share, educate, and encourage the use of supported decision-making strategies. We encourage people to seek and research information that will assist them in learning to make good choices and informed decisions, and how to communicate their choices freely, including complaints.



Girls just want to have fun, especially the Pink Ladies.



Billy's birthday celebration at Burger Station.



Dirt pudding for Happy Earth Day!



Loading the van for another outing.

DSP Sharon Brown's creativity shines through in her craft projects. Her talent is especially well honed having previously worked as an activity specialist at a local nursing home. She brought with her to Hilltoppers a wealth of ideas for projects. Every holiday, every birthday, without fail, is celebrated with vibrant decorations. Homemade Easter baskets, pumpkin carving, DIY Christmas ornaments, painted flowerpots, garden ornaments, and homemade greeting cards are just of the few projects she has facilitated at the house bringing joy and engagement. And when not in full on party-mode, game nights are a common activity. Family members and friends sometimes join the competition and fun!

The care team at Harrison, not unlike other Hilltoppers' caregivers, is completely invested in ensuring the health and happiness of those they support. Staff often drop by the home on their days off, and can regularly be found shopping for party supplies on their own time (and often with their own money). Husbands joke that if they want to see more of their spouse, they need to join Hilltoppers! House manager and nurse Sonya Cannon is completely supportive of the party atmosphere at Harrison Home. "Our folks don't want to sit around and watch TV all day. They love to stay active and connected." She adds, too, that arts and craft projects offer stimulation and have occupational therapeutics for residents who are sedentary. "It's more than fun; it's good for them," she says. ♦



Ruth wishes everyone a Happy New Year at Harrison Home.

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

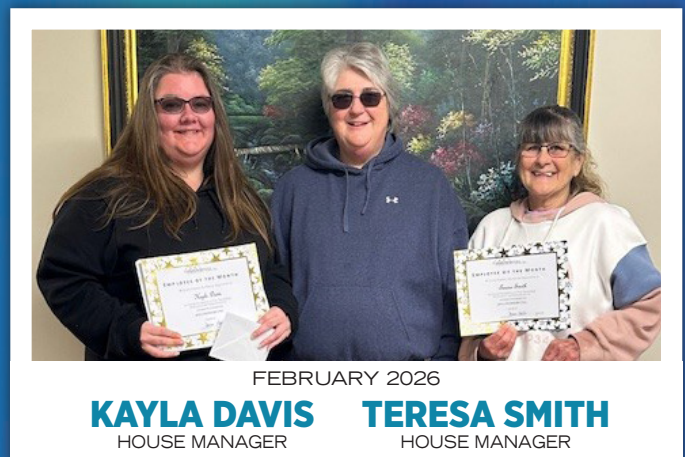
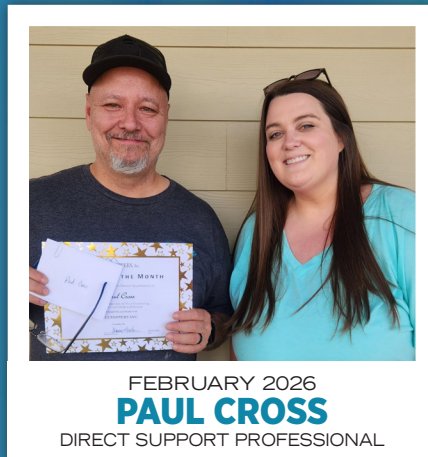


Congratulations to our Employees of the Month who consistently go above and beyond in their roles.

Your dedication, positive attitude, and commitment to excellence make a meaningful impact on our team and our organization. Your positive attitude is infectious and contributes to an amazing team environment. We truly appreciate your hard work and the example you set for others and are grateful for the countless ways you have made a difference. Your dedication, professionalism, and kindness have left an indelible mark on our team.

Hilltoppers' Best of the Best employees have an unwavering dedication, a compassionate approach to serving our care recipients, and a strong sense of community. They embody the values of Hilltoppers Inc. and contribute significantly to the community by caring for its most vulnerable. Thank you to everyone who contributes daily to our shared success—your efforts do not go unnoticed.

If you know a standout employee who exemplifies dedication to care and want to nominate them for employee of the month, please email our director at jeanene.houston@hilltoppersinc.com.





FEBRUARY 2026
CHARLIE NORRIS
 DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL



MARCH 2026
KYA STEWART
 DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL



MARCH 2026
CANDANCE CRONIN
 DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL



MARCH 2026
WHITNEY ENGLAND
 DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL



MARCH 2026
TAMMY THROWER
 HOUSING SPECIALIST



MARCH 2026
CATELIN McVAY
 DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL



MAY 6-12 IS NATIONAL NURSES WEEK.

This year's theme is appropriately termed "The Power of Nurses." At Hilltoppers, Inc. we know well the power of our nurses and the positive impact they have on both our organization and the lives of the people we serve. Celebrating Nurses Week serves to remind us of the dedication and compassion that Hilltoppers' nurses bring to our organization and it is a chance to acknowledge and thank them.

TOP 10 REASONS TO LOVE A HILLTOPPERS, INC. NURSE...

- 10. Compassionate Care.** Hilltoppers' nurses provide empathetic support to our folks.
 - 9. Expertise and Skills.** Our nurses have a wide range of medical knowledge and practical skills, making them vital to the care that Hilltoppers, Inc. provides.
 - 8. Advocacy for Service Recipients.** Our nurses and DSPs advocate for clients' needs and rights, ensuring they receive the best possible care.
 - 7. Continuous Learning.** We're always learning something new at Hilltoppers, Inc.
 - 6. Mentorship.** Many Hilltoppers nurses take on mentorship roles, guiding new nurses and DSPs on the particulars of the folks we serve.
 - 5. Strong Family Relationships.** Our nurses build lasting relationships with service recipients and their families.
 - 4. Flexibility and Adaptability.** Hilltoppers, Inc. nurses have a great ability to adapt to various situations and challenges, showcasing resilience in whatever encounters them each day. That's their superpower!
 - 3. Dedication to Service.** Their commitment to serving others is evident in their daily work and interactions.
 - 2. Holistic Approach.** Our nurses consider the unique physical, emotional, and social aspects of each of person we support, promoting overall well-being.
- And the #1 reason to Love a Hilltoppers Nurse is...**

1. Their hugs and smiles are contagious!

WE'RE HIRING!

We need **Direct Support Staff** and **LPNs** to work with adults who have intellectual and development disabilities. Download an application from our website (www.hilltoppersinc.com) or stop by our office at **86 Duer Court** and fill out an application. We offer a new starting rate of \$16 an hour for DSPs, \$20 an hour for LPNs, plus paid training and opportunities for advancement.



Easter Extravaganza

Our Easter celebration kicked off with a fun-filled Easter egg hunt where everyone searched for colorful eggs hidden throughout the Day Center. After the excitement of the hunt, everyone gathered for a delicious lunch, featuring festive springtime favorites. The party continued with dancing as DJ Matt played the tunes! Of course, the highlight of the day was a special visit from the Easter Bunny, bringing joy and treats to all attendees.



OFF TO SEE THE WIZARD

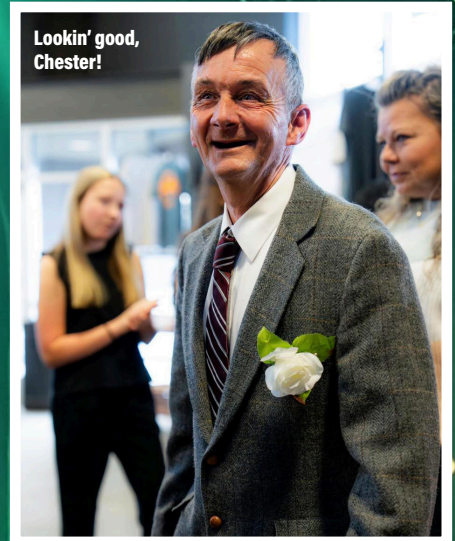
A Night Full of Magic and Fun



Darrell meets the Oz gang.



So pretty in purple!
Lora enjoys the night!



Lookin' good,
Chester!



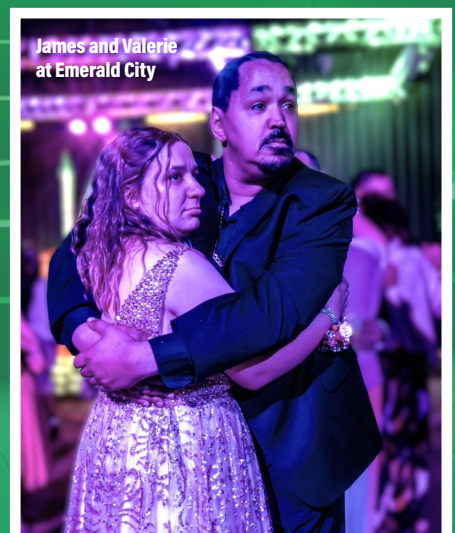
Boogie on,
Jeremiah!



Debbie and Donnie



Derek and Heaven.
Heaven sparkles in her
beautiful prom gown.



James and Valerie
at Emerald City

This year's Prom, "Off to See the Wizard," brought the world of The Wizard of Oz to life. The whole event was all about making sure everyone could join in the fun and feel included. From the Yellow Brick Road to Emerald City, and the familiar faces of Dorothy, Tin-Man, Lion, and Scarecrow, the place was decked out to make everyone feel right at home.

To help everyone have a blast, there were sensory-friendly areas and activities made for all. The decorations were set up so everyone could get around comfortably and enjoy themselves. This meant everybody could really get into the spirit and

not miss out on anything, making Prom 2026 a night to remember for everybody. Everyone enjoyed a delicious dinner, setting the stage for a fantastic party. The local band, Run for Cover, gave a live performance that made the whole night even more lively and fun.

Cumberland Fellowship Church's Special Needs Ministry and lots of volunteers worked hard to pull off this magical night. Their dedication was clear in every part of the evening, from welcoming everyone to keeping the entertainment accessible. Special thanks, as always, to Missy Thompson and everyone at CF. We had a blast!



86 Duer Court
Crossville, TN 38555
(931) 484-2535

Visit us at <http://www.hilltoppersinc.com>
Questions? Call (931) 484-2535

SAVE THE DATE

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ANNUAL PICNIC

May 21 at 10:30 am

MEMORIAL DAY

May 25 - Day Center & Offices Closed

THE ARC CUMBERLAND COUNTY ANNUAL PICNIC & MEETING

June 25 at First Baptist Church in Crossville

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS OUTDOOR BENEFIT CONCERT

July 16 at Fairfield Glade

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Remember to shop and donate at the **Thrift Store** located at **154 East First Street!**

...our Community's Clothing, Furniture and Treasure Emporium

"Your Community Emporium" for Bargains!

The Knights Come Through Again!



Thank you to the **Knights of Columbus Council 16088** and **KIND Charities** for your generous donation to Hilltoppers, Inc. Your contributions help make our mission possible!