



UPDATE FROM  
THE PHOENIX RESIDENCE, INC.



FALL 2021

## Close the Gap Spotlight: Barbara Sims

Growing up on the south side of Chicago, Barbara Sims learned quickly that you have to work hard for what you want. It wasn't until she moved to Minnesota though in 1996, when she discovered her passion in life—and it all stems back to her early days here at Phoenix!

She started out part-time at The Phoenix Residence as a Resident Assistant (similar to today's DSP role) at Phoenix's original flagship building, all while working another full-time job.

### Building a Relationship

In all her years here in Minnesota, there's one individual who stole Barbara's heart – Patrick, who now lives at Howard House. Barbara first met Patrick when she worked as a Direct Support Professional at another disability provider. The two instantly became best friends!



*Barbara with Patrick from Howard House, who she works 1-on-1 with.*

"Working with Patrick is the best thing that could have happened to me, because he taught me...to take my time in understanding," said Barbara. "We grew to listen, comprehend and respect [each other]."

**"Barbara pushes staff and individuals to advocate for themselves, and she always provides support and gives feedback to anyone that is in need of it."**

*– Jill Moody  
Assistant Program Director*

When Patrick moved from his other home, Barbara requested to continue working with him, even if that meant going to another provider.

### Coming Back Home

And just like that, Barbara was back here at The Phoenix Residence! These days, Barbara continues to work with Patrick 1-on-1, while also being the Appointment Coordinator for several other Phoenix homes.

Patrick now has dementia, and it really has taken a toll on him. But Barbara's passion for helping him live a fulfilling life, remains! "For Pat to see a familiar face daily means a lot to me," said Barbara. "Whenever I do work, he shows me that he truly appreciates it."

To learn more about Barbara's journey, please visit [www.phoenixresidence.org/news.html](http://www.phoenixresidence.org/news.html)

**Inspired!** That is the word we embodied these last few months as we admired everything our staff, family members, and supporters do for us on a regular basis. Thank you for making an impact on Phoenix!

This quarter, we celebrated the heart of our organization—our staff—with Direct Support Professional Week and Manager Appreciation Week! This year proved to be one of the hardest we've had to go through, but our staff have stuck with us day-in and day-out. It is hard to put into words how much you mean to us, but we thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

We also launched our Matching Donation Program this summer — and we couldn't be more appreciative of the support we received so far! Whether you donated personally, fundraised on our behalf, or told your friends and family about the program, it means the world to us — so thank you! You all continue to inspire us every day.

*Jackie Larson, Public Relations & Development Coordinator  
The Phoenix Residence, Inc.*



## Close the Gap Update

**This Quarter: \$53,785**

**Total: \$505,666**

**Thank You for Supporting Us!**

## A Week to Say Thank You!

Every chance we get, we say thank you to our direct support professionals, but there's one week in September that is especially important for us — *DSP Appreciation Week!* This year, we had to celebrate virtually once again, but that didn't stop us from showing our support.

We started out the week with a thank you video with clips from family members, board members, and individuals we support. Thank you to everyone who helped us with this thank you video!

Throughout the week, we handed out DSP Week T-shirts and goodies, shared a note from the Board of Directors, delivered bundt cakes to each home, and finished out the week with a message from our President & CEO Darlene Scott. The DSPs even received a surprise bonus — thanks to your donations to our *Close the Gap* campaign! Thank you for making this possible!

The next time you see our staff helping your loved one, be sure to thank them! They are the heart of what we do!

## Achieving Success with Matching Donation Program

We asked — and you delivered! Last newsletter, we announced our new Matching Donation Program, and the response we've received has been incredible! As of early October, **we've raised \$23,533.30 of the \$30,000 goal—we're almost 80% of the way there!**

Thank you to everyone who has donated to this program so far! We have a family member who will graciously match up to \$30,000 in donations to support our *Close the Gap* campaign! **Can you help us reach our goal? We're almost there!** All the money raised will go back to our staff members to provide them with the wages and benefits they deserve.

**TO DONATE: Text MATCHING to 26989 or visit [www.phoenixresidence.org](http://www.phoenixresidence.org) to make your gift today!**

\*Be sure to choose Matching Donation Program in the drop-down fund category.



*Tish from Afton House celebrated her birthday with some bowling.*