



SPRINGBOARD LANDINGS MESSENGER



WE'RE UNDER CONTRACT

Wow! The Springboard Landings team is overwhelmed with gratitude. Because of your support, prayers, and encouragement, we have land! The property is in the Bellevue neighborhood of Nashville, which has always been our dream location. Our work is far from done, but the fun and excitement is just getting started. Rezoning, development, and construction are our next steps. This upcoming year will be full of big moves and exciting decisions. Rezoning and planning will unfold over the next nine months and then we can break ground. God willing, our doors will open in 2024! You will hear more about next steps and how you can help in the months to come.

This leads us to our second exciting announcement of the day: through the end of the year, up to \$30k of donations to Springboard Landings will be matched! More information on the Matching Campaign on page 2.

NOTES FROM THE BOARD

BY: LEIGH SCHONBORG-SIEGENTHALER

Lots of new and exciting things are happening with Springboard Landings. Our Board has been putting in a lot of extra time lately. This brings me to one of the really exciting things to report to you...Our Operations Coordinator, Elizabeth Woodliff, has transitioned from being our part-time employee to our full-time employee.

The work she does is simply amazing, and I'm in awe of how much she accomplishes on a daily basis. It's been such a pleasure getting to know her that I wanted to ask her a few questions so everyone else could get a glimpse into who she is.

What does your day typically look like at Springboard Landings?

My typical day at SL looks different day to day. Since I'm the only employee, I can be working on

financials, fundraising, or on project management. I enjoy getting to do different things.

What can you uniquely say to others about SL that not everyone can say?

As the sole employee, I feel a lot of responsibility to move things forward. I also have a sister on the autism spectrum. The combination of my responsibility and my love for the population means I'm going to keep pushing us forward. We will build this house.

Elizabeth is a special person. She gives all of herself to SL, and you can tell that this means so much to her. Since joining the Board in February, I have been impressed with their dedication to the mission. They all have a reason why SL touches their heart. I hope you find a reason for SL to stay close to your heart as well.

Thank you, and Happy Holidays.



DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Father Mark Hunt credits his parents for teaching him the importance of giving back. In addition to his responsibilities as Chaplain at Mary Queen of Angels and The Mercy Convent, Father Mark is serving a term as Springboard Landings Board Vice President. He got involved with Springboard Landings when he was the associate pastor at St. Mary's. Along with his siblings, he is the steward of the Hunt Family Foundation. This small foundation was founded in 2003 at the bequest of his father, Martin Hunt, at his passing. His mother, known by her friends and family as Doll, was the steward of the foundation until her passing in 2021.



Father Mark recalls a picture of a young crying boy in the family living room while growing up. When asked about the photo, Doll responded that the image reminds the family that there is always someone worse off than them and to act accordingly. Martin and Doll lived this sentiment out to the fullest; volunteering and giving thoughtfully and frequently. They were both involved in multiple organizations and took community activism seriously. Father Mark recalls cold winter mornings spent



FATHER MARK HUNT

selling papers for the local Big Brother project. The Hunts were especially concerned with children and education. Their work aimed to help the disadvantaged.

Father Mark is acutely aware of the struggles of those with disabilities as he has cerebral palsy. He believes our life is a gift from God; how we use our lives is our gift back to God. He, like his parents, intentionally lives according to this belief. Springboard Landings is exceptionally grateful for all he does to help others.

DOUBLE FEATURE

Your Money; Matched

Now through the end of the year, all dollars donated up to \$30k will be matched. Two anonymous donors are putting up the money to ensure that your dollars will be doubled! We are so thankful to our donors and humbled by their generosity. These donors have toured the new land and feel excited about Springboard Landings' future. So, let's do some math....

You Give \$5 = SL Gets \$10
You Give \$500 = SL Gets \$1,000

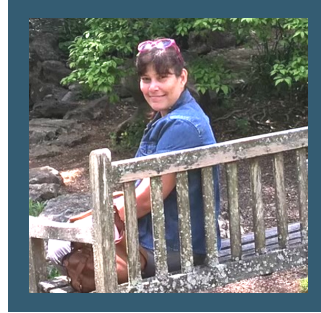
You get the idea! It is not only a good deal, it's also a good investment. Over the years, it was important to be conservative with our donor dollars. We knew a time would come when we would have to do some big spending to make big things happen! That time is now! We are excited to spend money on architects, civil engineers, contractors, and materials. We have been good stewards of your money in our lean years and will continue to do that in high-spending years. Your dollars are investing in the happiness and future of adults with mild developmental disabilities.

DAY IN THE LIFE

BY ELIZABETH WOODLIFF



RACHEL



VALERIE



BRUCE

Rachel, Valerie, and Bruce all live with disabilities in Middle Tennessee. The struggles of day-to-day life differ for each of them and the way in which they adapt is remarkable. Rachel is a bagger at Publix. Valerie's condition does not allow her to work outside the home. Bruce works from home as a file clerk for the state. Their individual routines are uniquely theirs, however, the desire for a sense of community is woven throughout each of their days.

Rachel, on the autism spectrum, finds joy in talking to her coworkers and hearing customer stories from the Publix Deli Department. From her time as a bagger, she has accumulated plenty of her own stories. Her position exposes her to the frustrations and short tempers of people in a hurry. Rachel struggles with these outbursts and has learned coping tools to deal with the aftermath. Her work mantra is, "It's not me, it's them," which she repeats to herself to calm down after these escalations. Despite the troubles at work, Rachel's infectious energy comes out when talking about friends and coworkers and often refers to those around her as "Sweetie."

Valerie suffers from generalized seizures, which are controlled with medications, and drop seizures which are controlled most of the time. These seizures can significantly impact her day, rendering her at risk for falls. The unpredictability of her seizures limits what she can safely do on her own and, unfortunately, makes holding a steady job unattainable. Her days consist of household chores and running errands with a family member when one is available. Valerie's fear of having a seizure while cooking, keeps her from using the stove when no one else is home. A steady routine helps Valerie feel like a normal human being. Valerie wishes that she had more interactions with others and mobility to go places and do things like others. Valerie looks forward to the days she spends with Springboard friends and family (sister, niece, nephew, and parents). She loves dancing, getting Mexican food, and relaxing on the couch.

Bruce was born with a learning disability and suffered traumatic brain injury from a car crash at the age of

twenty. The collision detrimentally affected his visual and short-term memory. He works remotely for the TN Department of Education as a File Clerk. Tennessee teachers are mandated to continue their education through Professional Development Points, which keeps their licenses up to date. Bruce is responsible for ensuring the teachers' Professional Development Points are tracked by the state. Bruce enjoys submersing himself in the teachers' profiles to learn more about them as individuals and how they continue their education. Sometimes teachers will continue their education in a subject they don't teach, which he finds intriguing and applaudable. When not working, Bruce exercises by walking to the YMCA, which is where he's found his most fruitful community. The Y is a rejuvenating outlet after isolating days filled with frustrating technical challenges at work. Bruce does not drive and finds that his lack of mobility limits his social and dating prospects. The Y is his favorite part of the day and has become his principal social channel.

While talking to each of these individuals, the central desire for more community was palpable. Rachel achieves this through deep love and gratitude for her coworkers, while Valerie and Bruce must be more intentional about finding community, which is a challenge considering that neither of them can drive. Finding community is a hurdle in itself. However, for those with a developmental disability, navigating social interactions is yet another obstacle. Occasionally, society does not accept those who are different because doing so would require taking the time to understand those differences. Individuals with developmental disabilities must overcome these struggles before worrying about the daily stressors of life, like paying bills or cleaning the dishes. Despite these obstacles, each individual interviewed shone with contentment and gratitude for the richness of their lives. Each of them contributes to society, loves their family, and finds pleasure in the day-to-day joys of life. Springboard Landings wants to cultivate community so adults with mild developmental disabilities can shed that extra burden and live fulfilling lives.



179 Belle Forest Circle
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Providing adults who need a limited amount of support an option for independent living in a secure, community-centered environment.

Springboard Landings is a member of the Center for Nonprofit Management and The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee.

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Use Your IRA Rollover to Make a Tax-Smart Gift

Want to support Springboard Landings in a big way? If you are at least 70½ years of age and are taking the standard deduction instead of itemizing your charitable contributions, a gift with your IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution, or QCD (IRA rollover) may be the right choice for you.

How it works:

You must be at least 70½ years of age at the time of the gift, and the total distributions up to \$100,000 must go directly from your IRA to Springboard Landings.