Home of My Own™ of WNY

Fall 2026 Newsletter

Building Community. Building Possibilities.

Dear Friends,
We are so excited to be sharing our Fall 2026 Newsletter. I stand in awe of all that has been accomplished in the last six years. We opened our doors this year and have 12 fully rented apartments, bringing our vision to life and changing perceptions of what living with choice could, would, and should look and feel like for our growing community.

As we watch our mission come to life, those apartments have become homes, neighbors have built friendships, and a neighborhood has new meaning. We have continued expanding our vision by creating practical learning experiences that enhance independence for individuals with disabilities living in any setting. Our Life Hacks workshops build upon daily living practices and are focused on continuing "education" opportunities for tenants as well as our community.

This year, we have focused on the next chapter: creating opportunities for tenants to learn, connect, stay active, and participate in community life. We are transforming our lower levels into flexible, welcoming spaces for education, recreation, wellness, and social engagement. Our all-volunteer committees are collaborating with architects, contractors, and donors to develop spaces that meet today's needs and can adapt as our community grows.

We are grateful to everyone who has helped us reach this point—and to those who continue to believe in our future.

Warmly,

Karen Cuddy, ***President***
Home of My Own® of WNY, Inc.
homeofmyownofwny.org

We're excited to reveal our new logo!
An updated look to reflect who we are as we renovate our lower levels.

MORE THAN A PLACE TO LIVE
Our first year of tenancy complete. A year of full occupancy and happy tenants!

- **Quality, affordable housing** supporting independence while maintaining connection to families, friends, jobs, services, and community.
- Apartments that represent choice, dignity, independence and opportunity.
- **Autonomy** to make decisions about homes and daily lives with access to the individualized supports needed to be successful.
- **Choice** of where and how to live—and to be valued, contributing member of a community.

We are proud to see this philosophy becoming a reality in Williamsville, NY.







LIFE HACKS:
Learning for Everyday Life

- **Opportunities** to develop practical skills and greater confidence in managing everyday life.
- **Workshops** focusing on topics that matter to independent living and creating connections. *Participants have opportunities to learn together, share experiences, ask questions, and build relationships.*
- **Programming** provided to support people with I/DD looking to increase their independence in any setting.

OUR LOWER LEVELS ARE ON TRACK FOR COMPLETION BY YEAR'S END!

They will provide expanded spaces to further strengthen our community involvement.



THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY OF SUPPORTERS

- We've reached this point due to the **generosity, encouragement, expertise, and commitment** of so many people and organizations who have invested in our mission.
- 2026 Support from foundations including: **The Margaret L. Wendt Foundation, Golisano Foundation, The Bill and Jean Irr Foundation, The McCarthy Family Foundation, Foundation 214** and other significant private donors and sponsors, have helped make our progress possible. All 2026 donors will be listed in our Annual Report.
- **Every contribution has a purpose.** Together, they help create homes, improve our property, support programming, and move us closer to completing our community spaces.

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LOOKING AHEAD: There is much more to come. Our vision is more than just a building.

Our next phase includes transforming our lower levels into three purposeful community spaces:

- **EDUCATION –** Workshop and learning space for Life Hacks, educational programs, cooking and life skills activities, and community workshops.
- **ACTIVE –** Space to encourage movement, wellness, recreation, and healthy living.
- **SOCIAL** – Welcoming environment where community can gather, celebrate, develop friendships, and enjoy meaningful connection and social engagement.

These spaces will allow Home of My Own® to expand programming and create opportunities for tenants to spend time together. As we continue the build-out of the lower levels, our priorities are to:

- **COMPLETE** welcoming and accessible community spaces
- **EXPAND** Life Hacks and educational programming
- **PROVIDE** opportunities for exercise, recreation, and wellness
- **CREATE** more opportunities for tenants to connect with one another
- **DEVELOP** partnerships with organizations throughout our community
- **OFFER** programming that supports tenants' continued growth and independence

We are always looking ahead for ways to expand our residential footprint to impact the larger I/DD community.

HELP US BUILD COMMUNITY

We invite you to be part of the next chapter of Home of My Own®.

There are many ways to help:

DONATE
Support the completion of our community spaces.

VOLUNTEER
Share your time, skills, or expertise.

PARTNER
Help us develop educational, recreational, wellness, and community programs.

SPREAD THE WORD
Tell others about Home of My Own® and our vision for inclusive, independent living.

Your support can help provide the furnishings, equipment, technology, recreational resources, and programming needed to make our new community spaces welcoming and useful.

Thank you for helping us make independent living a reality!

A home provides independence.

A community provides connection.

Our goal is to provide both.