

SHAVINGS

a newsletter from north house folk school

fall 2022



NORTH HOUSE FOLK SCHOOL

Phone: 218 387-9762

Email: info@northhouse.org

Web: northhouse.org

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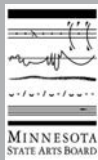
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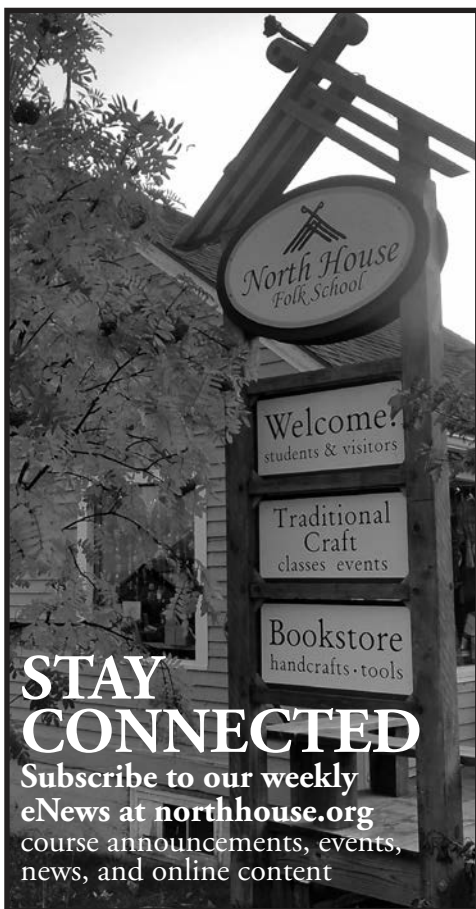
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Front Cover: *An intern rite of passage: After a barrage of lessons in safety and technique, interns have free reign over the handmade prams, kayaks, and other boats that line the water on the North House campus. A sunset row is often a fine way to close out the day.*



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A Letter from the Director

Their hands were all in the air, and what a great way it was to begin. Who likes music? Who likes parties? Who likes singing Happy Birthday? With questions like this, the answers seemed obvious. The hands of every kid under the big top tent shot skyward. Literally hundreds of kids and their parents were on campus for a free Saturday morning performance by the Grammy Award-winning Okee Dokee Brothers as part of Unplugged 2022. “I’ve never seen so many local kids and parents together all in one place in my life,” a neighbor said.

And what happened next was pure magic. Kids from two to eighty-two started singing at the top of their lungs—if you could choose one of the moments you’d dream of having as part of your 25th anniversary celebrations, this was one.

As this moment and many others make clear, North House has much to celebrate. Our first quarter century has been filled to overflowing with all we might have hoped and more. Moments of joy. Unexpected downturns. Steady progress. Shared values. Growing connections. Sobering challenges. In spite of the uncertainties of the past several years, 2022’s returning vitality has emerged with a reaffirmed sense of purpose. The importance of our mission, the power of community, and the inspiration of craft have moved forward thanks to the strength we have shaped together.

One issue of *Shavings* is never enough to share all of the stories, but this issue overflows as well. Our 25th anniversary is far from over—*Ojibwe Winter Stories* with Anton Treuer at Winterers’ Gathering, the annual volunteer Sweater Soiree, and our year-end fundraising campaign await ahead! North House’s family is growing—relish the connections forged by our Intern Program during the past decades. Witness the power of giving—from Unplugged’s innumerable sparkling moments to the intimacy of the Penny Rug Garden.

Ahead, our second quarter century beckons. Already on the calendar, 2023’s Fiber Week, Wood Week, Northern Landscape Festival, Wooden Boat Show, and onward. Mark your calendars. Make your plans. Share the story. And sing.

With appreciation and thanks,

Greg Wright
Executive Director



North House Celebrates 25th Anniversary with Sold-out Unplugged Weekend

North House's campus was transformed during the last full week of September by the return of the big top tent for the 21st annual Unplugged concerts and gala fundraiser. "It was exhilarating to have three sold-out nights at the center of the event's success," shared Greg Wright, North House's Executive Director, "but having the tent literally overflowing with youth and families during our free family performance with the Grammy Award-winning Okee Dokee Brothers made my heart sing." Wright estimated that over 200 families were on campus for the Saturday morning get-together, made possible in part by support from

the Cook County Community Fund. "I couldn't imagine a better way to celebrate the 25th Anniversary than to hear all of those voices singing happy birthday to North House."

"For all of our events we work hard to gather community, celebrate craft, share inspiration, and forge connections," said Jessa Frost, North House's Program Director. "This year we were honored to welcome famed basketmaker Steen Madsen from Denmark and author/textile artisan Kerstin Neumüller from Sweden, both of whom taught courses and were part of our speaker series. Free youth programs defined Saturday morning and



left: An all-star ensemble wowed the sold out crowds on Thursday and Friday night, performing songs from all of their catalogs and some inspired covers. above: Over 350 kids and 250 parents were part of Saturday morning's free family performance with Grammy Award-winning Okee Dokee Brothers.

the Folk Artisan Marketplace featured eleven of our skilled craft instructors.”

Thursday and Friday’s performance included multiple nationally-recognized performers, including Grammy-award winning singer/songwriter Justin Vernon, Grammy and Tony-award winning singer/songwriter Anaïs Mitchell, Phil Cook, Dylan Bizhikiins Jennings of the Bad River Band, Joe Rainey Sr. of the Red Lake Band, Grammy-award winning multi-instrumentalist Mike Lewis, Cook County’s Barbara Jean Meyers, plus the incredibly talented Sean Carey, JT Bates, and Jeremy Ylvisaker. Lewis and Meyers played a central role bringing the performers to the Unplugged stage.

As part of celebrating North House’s 25th Anniversary, Jon Vezner (who initiated the creation of Unplugged starting in 2002) and Kevin Kling returned to the Unplugged stage for Saturday night’s Flannel Formal, which paired perfectly with Chef Scott Graden’s

meal. Wright said, “Having Jon and Kevin on stage was the perfect culmination to this year’s celebration. During the past 25 years many people and partners have stepped forward to help North House move forward. Jon and Kevin are great examples of how people can make a difference in this world.”

“The generosity of supporters and the spirited involvement of numerous local businesses has made Unplugged into an integral part of our fundraising efforts,” reported Tom Morse, North House’s Development Director. Key priorities funded during the event included \$15,000 for scholarships in the coming year, \$15,000 to finalize funding for a first-phase solar panel installation on campus, \$7,500 to advance North House’s growing commitment to youth, and \$6,000 for the school’s year-round Work/Study program. “Our Unplugged efforts include multiple ways for people to support our mission and programs.



The skills, stories, and crafts of eleven different instructors were front and center during the Folk Artisan Marketplace. This year's artisans included two visiting International Instructors: basket-maker Steen Madsen from Denmark and weaver Kerstin Neumüller(left) from Sweden.

Online, nearly 300 bidders participated in our Points North Auction. Points North has become a great way for us to at once highlight our incredible neighbors while also generating support for our mission,” noted Morse.

In total, North House raised a record-setting \$104,000 during the event between auction items and fund-a-need contributions, exceeding the \$100,000 goal, and eclipsing the \$65,000 raised in 2021.

Dates are already in place for next year: Sept 14-17, 2023.

Special Thanks also to this year's event partners: Visit Cook County, North Shore Winery, The Real Milk Paint Company, Voyageur Brewing, Bluefin Bay, Odyssey Resorts, North 61, Askov Finlayson, Cook County Whole Foods Co-op, Fulton Beer, Grand Marais Liquor Store, LHB, Minnesota Public Radio, Sawtooth Knife and Tool, Sisu + Löyly, and Superior Creamery.

North House also thanks: Dirty Dog Mfg., Siren Shrub Co., and Vikre Distillery

Upcoming Events



Winterers' Gathering & Arctic Film Festival: November 17-20

We hope you can join us for this annual celebration of all things winter. Anton Treuer (pictured) will be the Featured Speaker at this year's Gathering. He is Professor of Ojibwe at Bemidji State University and author of 18 books. His equity, education, and cultural work has put him on a path of service around the region, the nation, and the world. His talk, *Ojibwe Winter Stories* will feature tribal oral traditions, as well as Ojibwe language and lore for the coming season. More details for this year's event will be announced soon, but expect four days of winter travel seminars, courses, and workshops complemented by multiple evenings of inspiring and thought-provoking films about arctic landscapes and life.

SAVE THE DATE

**WINTERERS' GATHERING &
ARCTIC FILM FESTIVAL**
NOVEMBER 17-20, 2022

FIBER WEEK
FEBRUARY 13-20, 2023

**MEMBERS' EARLY
REGISTRATION DAY**
FEBRUARY 28, 2023

**NEW COURSEWORK
REGISTRATION OPENS**
MARCH 1, 2023

WOOD WEEK
MARCH 13-20, 2023

VOLUNTEER WEEKEND
APRIL 21-23, 2023

**NORTHERN LANDSCAPES
FESTIVAL**
JUNE 2-4, 2023

**WOODEN BOAT SHOW &
SUMMER SOLSTICE FESTIVAL**
JUNE 15-18, 2023



“A Beautiful & Bustling Family” Intern Alumni Reflect on 25 Years of North House

by **Jessa Frost**

For nearly the entirety of our history, North House has welcomed interns to campus to help serve students and visitors alike while building their own craft skills in the process. The program has evolved throughout the years, with internships as short as three months to as long as 14 months (Covid Year Crew!), but the presence of interns on campus is an essential ingredient to the magic here, adding enthusiasm for craft and folk school learning, new ideas and skills, and esprit de corps to the North House community.

The intern To Do list is long and varied: yes, they sweep the floors and move tables and make coffee, but interns also scale the rigging of Hjørdis, build websites, make incredible video diaries, dismantle beaver lodges, teach hundreds of people to bake wood-fired breads, lead summer camp programs, and of course, sling a LOT of pizzas. The rewards for their efforts include the best timber-framed harborside apartment in Grand Marais, participation in many, many courses, opportunity to gain new skills, and joining the community of craft enthusiasts that make up this special place.

We asked our more than fifty alumni to reflect on North House's impact in their lives: here's just some of what they had to say.

My time at North House was a launching point for my life ahead. It was there that I found my craft and was able to develop in the supportive community that North House had already cultivated. **-David Bauer, 2004**

North House gave me a shove in the right direction and permission, in a sense, to pursue the insane notion of becoming a full-time craftsperson. Everything I did as an intern in 2016 directly impacted where I am now as an educator, a craftsperson, business owner, and administrator. With the support and confidence of the North House Community and staff I continue to learn and become always more than what I was the day before I got there.

-Elizabeth Belz, 2016

Perhaps the most significant of all: the life long friends I have made. Friendships forged out of craft, curiosity, generosity, and kindness. The doors that were opened to me in terms of connections made and skills acquired while also feeling nurtured by everyone around me. Without my North House experience it would have taken me much longer to discover how much I love teaching children, how education is my vocation, and how fulfilling it is to share hands-on knowledge with future generations. I have my North House family to thank for helping pave that path for me, and I continue to feel that gratitude to this day!

-Anna Rubland, 2017

left: Interns assist with field trip programs with local Schools. Beth Homa Kraus paints a bateau at the annual logging history program in 2012. below: Each intern cohort develops a bond all their own. Derek Rausch, Anna Rubland, Rose Holdorf, and Skyler Hawkins in 2017.



My time with North House helped me realize who I am as a creator, and as an educator. North House strengthened my ability to network with other artists and have confidence in my own work. In addition, my internship experience gave me a crash course in quickly becoming a strong community member, wherever you may find yourself. **-Bud Stadler, 2019**

At North House I was exposed to a new way of living and of thinking about art and craft. I gained a deep appreciation for the way in which everyday, functional objects can also be beautiful when made with care and skill, and this has stuck with me through the years. I also lived in Grand Marais for several years after my internship and have maintained a connection to the town and friends I made there, thanks to the rich community that North House has fostered. Community continues to be a big part of my life and the welcoming, non-competitive spirit that North House fosters helped lay the foundation for that. **-Sarah Weeks, 2003**

The internship was a turning point of focus that transitioned my livelihood to working with my hands exclusively. I've benefited from the community of North House instructors in the form of the various projects and friendships I've managed to keep up in the five years since my time there. Nowadays, as a cabinet maker in St. Paul, I draw upon the traditional skill set that I began developing those years ago. North House continues to feel like home. **-Derek Rausch, 2017**

North House has both inspired my interest in craft and offered pathways to keep craft a prominent focus in my life. I can't say enough about how many rich relationships I've developed through my involvement at the school. **-Mike Loeffler, 2011**

Being part of North House changed my life. I arrived as an intern who was interested in woodworking, but when I crewed for Matthew Brown on Hjørdis I didn't want to do anything but sail. Thanks to Matthew, I pursued getting a captain's license and I worked in the trade professionally for about 10 years in the lakes and on the ocean. Now I live in Petoskey, Michigan where I manage a great ski area and sail on our small cruising boat with my wife, Liz and our two sons. I was surrounded by people at North House who were inspiring. I think back to all the folks like Tom Healy, Mark Hansen, Peter Henrikson, Charlie Mayo, Greg Wright, Matthew Brown, and so many more who were all driven by their craft. **-Ben Doornbos, 2004**



The woodshed is a common stop on the intern itinerary. Wood-fired pizza bakes, Try-it: Wood-fired Baking courses, and bonfires—the interns keep the fires burning, literally and figuratively. Lauren Warfield gathers wood for the next event 2018.

I was fairly unfamiliar with the world of folk schools and craft when I started my internship so the greatest impact was meeting so many talented craftspeople and learning about all the amazing traditions and work out there.

-Lauren Warfield, 2018

North House impacted my life because it allowed me to delve deeper into the crafts that I love and build connections with people passionate about craft.

-Wesley Hathaway, 2021

My internship at North House opened my mind to new possibilities in craft education and community building. I'm often amazed at the depth and breadth of these learning opportunities and how they constantly evolve and translate.

-Amir Najam, 2019

It has helped me build skills that have allowed me to make a living, in part, as an artisan and it has given me a forever heart-home of community and place (even if I'm not always there).

-Grace Brogan, 2008



Each internship wraps up with the Intern Portfolio Night, where they present about the crafts they studied, the skills they learned, and their final Slöjd Projects. Lauren Newby in 2021.

North House has solidified the importance of craft in my own life and its impact when working among the community. It has given me permission and guidance to teach, experiment, and learn. I built confidence in many new and basic skills, positively impacting my desire to connect with tradition and people.
-Lauren Newby, 2021

It has exposed me to a community of learning that has shaped my approach to people, making, and teaching. **-Karl Engebretson, 2005**

North House has been an anchor for me in many ways. A constant place to return to on the North Shore. Through North House I have been given the opportunity to meet so many incredible craftspeople who have become fast friends and mentors to me. I wouldn't be making the work I am making, or teaching craft to others, without North House as a focal point to gather, learn, teach, and grow as a creator. **-Sam Gathje, 2016**

My internship created life long friendships and a deep sense of community, and showed me the value of building community around food, around place, and around creativity and craft. **-Carolyn Fritz, 2010**

North House gave me the skills and confidence to build and create and pass those skills on to my children. I was also impacted by the community I was surrounded by. The atmosphere of North House brought me into a caring and nurturing environment. I continue to implement this kind of education into my home as I homeschool my children. My desire is that their lives will be enriched through learning that involves the hands, heart, and mind.
-Melinda Karlson, 2002

What is most surprising about North House?

Its ability, as an institution and as staff, to adapt quickly to changing times and challenges; to take on those challenges, to grow from them, and continue learning. *-Elizabeth Belz, 2016*

The people. How North House brings together people from all walks of life to spend time and build community together. And how those people, despite seeing one another rarely, come together to create something bigger and brighter through craft, education, and camaraderie. That on the outside it is a place that is a curiosity—an unknown to passers by, but inside the classroom walls is a bustling and beautiful family. *-Anna Rubland, 2017*

I think I will always be amazed at how time passes when you are on the North House campus. Either you are present in the moment and time ceases to exist, or time zips by before your eyes and you have to process the experience in pieces later. *-Bud Stadler, 2019*

The global reach and recognition of North House always impresses me. There are membership buttons on the other side of the Atlantic as well as the Pacific. It started with an idea and some hard work, and now the community reaches around the world and across disciplines. *-Derek Rausch, 2017*



I've always found a deep connection through the school and am often surprised at how passionate new students feel about this community. *-Mike Loeffler, 2011*

There's always room for fun, too! Mike Loeffler in 2011.

The culture. The class list is impressive, but it pales in comparison to the stories that are told during the classes and in the evenings over a beer or wood-fired pizza. The people that live around North House and roll through the place on a weekly basis made my life as an intern very exciting. **-Ben Doornbos, 2004**

I think there is so much going on behind the scenes to keep everything running smoothly that a lot of students and visitors don't know about. I feel really privileged to have been a part of that as an intern. **-Lauren Warfield, 2018**

What was most surprising about North House was the quality of classrooms, specifically the lengths the facilities crew goes to to get spaces ready for instructors. **-Wesley Hathaway, 2021**

I'm often most surprised, and moved, by how readily a great conversation can be had with anyone passing through North House. From converging craft ideas, to personal stories, the esoteric, and philosophy - the dialogues find you and follow you around the school. Pro tip: bring a small notebook to keep track of all of the great ideas shared. **-Amir Najam, 2019**

The internship is often just the beginning for folks at North House. Emily Derke interned in 2014 and Amir Najam in 2019. Emily went on to complete North House's Artisan Development program in 2022, and both Emily and Amir continue on as instructors.





*The interns make it happen! Grace Brogan
preps for a community pizza bake in 2008.*

It's been so lovely to see its growth over the last 13+ years, both in the types of crafts being added as course opportunities and the programming being made available, like youth classes and the Artisan Development Program. It continues to become richer with what it has to offer each year—which I think speaks well to the leadership of the organization and the need among constituents. **-Grace Brogan, 2008**

I was surprised by the welcoming nature of North House and how quickly I felt a part of the community. The sense of belonging I experienced enabled me to be myself in actions and in making objects. I was surprised by the generational knowledge of instructors at North House. The origin story, one of

lifting up its community members and their knowledge, inherently connects us to Cook County and respect for its abundance. **-Lauren Newby, 2021**

How bright and vibrant the campus and people can be there all year-round—I interned in the winter. **-Karl Engebretson, 2005**

North House is filled with stories and experiences through making and sharing the making process with others. What is most surprising are the continual moments of transformation that are offered by countless teachers and students. These moments where an instructor makes one perfect cut with a knife, one perfect knot, one perfect brush stroke, and the "eureka!" moments that then shine in students' faces as they begin to understand what all is embedded into a handmade object. **-Sam Gathje, 2016**

The community of North House runs far and wide... I'm always running into people who are connected to the school in some way. **-Carolyn Fritz, 2010**

One thing that is so amazing about North House is the amount of classes and talented people that come to teach traditional northern crafts. It's no wonder that people continue to come back, especially with the community and friendliness that surround it. **-Melinda Karlson, 2002**



The interns also document classes, events, and life at North House. Many of the images on our website and in our catalog were shot by interns. Elizabeth Belz gathers pictures in 2016.

What is your favorite North House Tradition?

My favorite North House tradition is community baking in the brick oven.
-David Bauer, 2004

The first raw egg on a pizza during the new interns first pizza bake.
-Elizabeth Belz, 2016

When I was an intern, I fell in love with Fiber Week. I loved being able to knit or sew with others, while snacking away and chatting. It is the definition of relaxation for me, and I hope to return in the coming years. **-Bud Stadler, 2019**

I enjoyed making the bread for the pizza bakes and interacting with visitors and students, which was our job as interns then. I also remember some of the community events fondly, such as the Solstice pageants, the contra dance evenings in the Red Building, and the bonfire and film festival at the Winterers' Gathering. And of course, sailing on the Hjørdis. **-Sarah Weeks, 2003**

Intern Portfolio Night and Winterers' Gathering. If not that then obviously pizza nights in the summer. **-Derek Rausch, 2017**

I love the cozy atmosphere of the Winterers' Gathering Film Festival. It's a perfect time of year to stay warm and feel inspired about the lifestyles of resilient northerners around the globe. **-Mike Loeffler, 2011**

I don't know if it's still a thing, but I liked the pizza oven nights, mainly because I had no money and I was hungry. **-Ben Doornbos, 2004**

All the community—pizza nights, fika, skill shares, and everything!
-Lauren Warfield, 2018

My favorite North House tradition is Live Crafting. I really enjoy getting the opportunity to hang out on the North Shore and share the good word of craft.
-Wesley Hathaway, 2021

Changing the hand towel rolls in the bathrooms. *-Amir Najam, 2019*

Winterers' Gathering! I love wintertime at North House especially (the fires in the woodstoves, the way the crisp air gives a different feeling to the world, etc), although each season has its special moments. Or maybe pizza potlucks? Because it's hard to beat wood-fired pizza and good company after a day of making.
-Grace Brogan, 2008

The community pizza nights are something I look back so fondly on. It worked to tie together so many like-minded individuals to build the community mindset. I wish I lived close enough to participate more often. *-Karl Engebretson, 2005*

Instructor retreat is my favorite North House tradition. As the rooms fill with instructors, so skilled in their respective mediums, the air seems to hum and the walls reverberate with the creative energy that can only come from dozens of makers assembling to share their thoughts, experiences, objects, and personalities. *-Sam Gathje, 2016*

I love the Wooden Boat Show. *-Melinda Karlson, 2002*

Pizza bakes! *-Carolyn Fritz, 2010*

Time on Lake Superior is a part of everyone's internship and often involves deckhanding on the schooner Hjordis, North House's "classroom on the water." 2010 intern Carolyn Fritz takes the North House Staff out for an afternoon sail.



Tax-wise Giving in an Uncertain Market

by **Tom Morse**

Giving wisely during a year like this is important for any household trying to navigate a period with so much uncertainty, and it can be challenging to figure out which charitable gifts make the most sense when things keep changing.

Below are a few options that may make sense to discuss with your accountant if you're considering making a special gift to North House this year. These strategies offer a range of benefits, especially for people in retirement.

Gifts from Donor Advised Funds

Donor Advised Funds (DAF) can be a great tool for charitable giving that provide several benefits - allowing the donor to claim the tax benefits when funding the DAF, consolidating receipts for charitable giving, and most importantly—allowing donors to make gifts of appreciated assets. If you haven't started a DAF yet, you may want to learn more about gifts of stock, but if you have already funded a DAF, this could be a wise year to shift more of your giving to your DAF while other funds recover. Recommending grants to North House is a simple process once your DAF is established.

Gifts from IRAs

If you're over 70 ½ a charitable rollover from a traditional IRA can be a great way to meet your required minimum distribution requirements without increasing your income. In this strategy

the gift passes directly from the IRA administrator to North House, which can give you the same benefit as taking a charitable deduction on your taxes - even if you're not itemizing. Charitable Rollovers can take a few weeks for an administrator to process, so taking action by early December is wise if you go this route.

Gifts of appreciated stock

With the market making significant changes over the last 12 months, it can be a time when advisors may suggest rebalancing or repositioning investments. For assets held outside of tax-advantaged accounts, this can trigger capital gains taxes—in some cases it may be advantageous to make your charitable contributions by gifting shares of stock, and using cash to purchase other shares. Making these gifts can be as simple as notifying your financial advisor of your intent and having them connect with North House. Note: stocks that have lost value from their basis are not good assets to donate because you would miss the opportunity to claim the capital loss.

North House regularly receives a wide range of gifts from the strategies outlined above. If you'd like more information please contact Tom Morse, Development Director: tmorse@northhouse.org or 218-387-9762. It is always wise to discuss possible tax savings or consequences with your accountant/financial advisor

Continuing a Legacy with the Penny Rug Garden

by Tom Morse

This summer welcomed a new landmark outside of the Green Building—North House's natural dye garden. Inspired by former instructor Karen Smaby, who taught natural dye classes and penny rug courses, the garden was designed by her friends and fellow instructors Cheryl Larsen and Mary MacDonald to foster curiosity among passersby and enrich the student experience on campus. The Penny Rug Garden was tended throughout the year by stalwart volunteers, who seeded it with calendula, Japanese indigo, dyers chamomile, black-eyed susans, and many other plants. We hope you'll stop by the garden the next time you're on campus.

Funds raised by Karen's friends will also support scholarships for students wanting to attend coursework during Fiber Week.

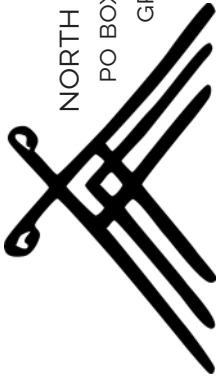


give TO THE **MAX** 
Nov. 17, 2022

Each year GiveMN helps thousands of nonprofits raise millions of dollars from generous folks like you. It's a day that celebrates all that philanthropy accomplishes across the state, and it comes with some added fun—each donation received is an entry for the \$500 and \$1000 prize drawings that support great organizations. We've even seen a \$10 donation result in North House winning \$500, so no matter what level you're able to give we hope you'll join in.

To add to the fun, Greg and Tom will be hosting a Zoom conversation November 16 at 7pm to share updates, preview Winterers' Gathering, and look forward to what the next year holds in store. Register at northhouse.org/givemn

Give to the Max day is Thursday, November 17, and EVERY gift will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to our goal of \$10,000. Visit northhouse.org/givemn to add your support



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PO BOX 759 | 500 WEST HIGHWAY 61
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