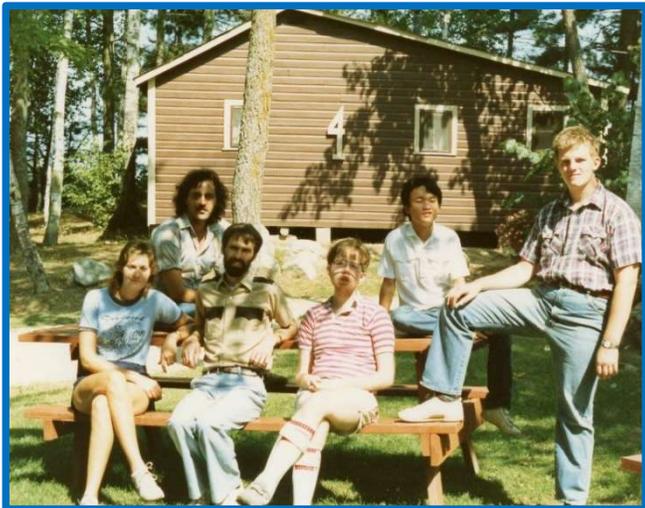




Dear Friend,

It's hard to believe that more than four decades have passed since I first walked through the doors of Hammer & NER. What began as a job quickly became my life's calling. In those early years, I lived and worked alongside 14 young men—including Steve—who were just beginning to discover their strengths and dreams.

Today, as Campaign Director, I ask you to make a gift that supports the *Together, We Ensure Tomorrow* campaign so the people we support can age with dignity as I have seen happen for Steve.



Steve (far right) with his dormmates and staff at camp in 1986—a moment from a time when we were all growing, learning, and finding our way together. Though I was behind the camera, the memory has stayed with me ever since.

Steve and I began our journey together in the late 1980s as he moved from the dorm into a home in the community. From that moment on, Steve and his family became part of my own life and the heart of the Hammer community. As a home manager at the time, I worked alongside our dedicated staff and Steve's devoted family to ensure he had a stable, loving home where he could grow and flourish.

Those early years were filled with possibility as we helped move people out of institutions and into neighborhoods where they belonged. Together, we built something new, hopeful and enduring.

Time has passed quickly and much has changed. Steve now lives in an accessible home where he can move freely, safely, and with dignity. And I am preparing for the next chapter of my life—retirement.

The world Steve grew into depends on strong, stable philanthropic support.

Will you join me in supporting a future for the individuals living at Hammer & NER by making a gift to the *Together, We Ensure Tomorrow* campaign?

I am who I am today because of this community and you. For 44 years, I have witnessed compassion in action: people giving, advocating, and lifting up individuals who deserve every chance to live meaningful, self-directed lives. It has been the honor of my lifetime.

But our work is not finished.



Together, We Ensure Tomorrow: Our Campaign for Hammer & NER focuses on supporting aging individuals and their caregivers. We are close to reaching our \$5 million goal, but we need your help. With anticipated changes to Medicaid funding and the growing needs of those we serve, your support is urgently needed to prevent disruptions in the consistent, skilled care so many rely on.

Thank you for all of the ways that you have supported our mission. I invite you to make a gift to our campaign to ensure a future where people receive the lifetime support they deserve. Help us continue the mission we have shared for so long.

I am deeply grateful for every shared moment and act of generosity along this journey. Because of you, countless individuals have lived lives filled with dignity, joy, and belonging. As longtime leaders retire, I am confident in the new team guiding our mission forward. As Steve's care transitions to these dedicated staff, your support remains essential.

Your generosity ensures that tomorrow's generations experience the same belonging, dignity and compassionate care Steve discovered decades ago. As I enter my final months before retirement, I ask—one last time—for your partnership in strengthening the care that sustains our community. I leave with a full heart and deep hope that you will continue standing with Hammer & NER.

With heartfelt appreciation,



Ellen Timmerman-Borer

P.S. Please plan to join us on April 30 for our Campaign Celebration. We would be honored to include you—and any friends or family who choose to support the campaign.

Hammer.org/together-we-ensure-tomorrow/



I recently had a chance to visit Steve at his home. With accessible space and an open floor plan Steve's caregivers can respond quickly and safely to his changing needs. Together, we're creating homes that support independence, comfort, and lasting family security.