



Katie's House, Inc.
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Christmas 2009

Note from the Director

Hi Everyone,

This year the KH Board of Trustees decided to shift our emphasis from our Residential Home to developing and implementing a set of programs that provide life opportunities for young adults with disabilities living in the community and mentoring to families searching for answers. This Newsletter will explain about what and how we hope to accomplish.. Most of you already know about our Residential Program but we hope for so much more for our special adults. For the past several months we have worked on a business plan for the future Center for Advancement which will house all our activities. With this plan completed we will now start to raise funds to purchase a building. We also completed our second book. The first one tells the story of how the dream of Katie's House became a reality and the second one is a guide to help others do the same. The books are available from Katie's House.

Christmas is forever, not for just one day...for loving sharing, giving are not to put away like bells and lights and tinsel in some box upon a shelf...the good you do for others is good you do yourself

Happy Holidays Evelyn Dudziec

Residential Program: For those of you who are new to Katie's House, we support a residential home for adult women with developmental disabilities. The house opened in 2007 and is staffed with Personal Assistants that provide daily care while allowing house members to live independent of their families. The home is not supported by the state. Our goal is to allow as much independence and freedom as possible while still providing full time oversight.

Center for Advancement

In 2009 we developed a business plan for our Center for Advancement. This Center is presently being housed in a church with plans to purchase a building in the future. We have a number of programs to provide educational opportunities, habilitation and interaction with peers. Families have the opportunity while their son or daughter is attending class to be with other parents to discuss how best to plan for the future for their adult child or they can leave for a couple of hours while their child is safe in classes. Once we obtain a building we will provide daytime workshops, respite and evening activities that will enhance the lives of individuals with disabilities and give their families a much needed respite time for themselves as they continue to navigate the complicated system of funding, housing and securing a full life for their loved one.

If you would like to help us purchase a building for our Center for Advancement you may designate your donation for this purpose by writing that in the "memo." line on your check

Family Consulting: This program provides information to parents of young adults with developmental disabilities showing the different options for independent living and housing. *Katie's House* will help parents understand the importance of considering alternative housing during their son/daughter's high school and

transitional years, what supports and services exist, and what information and referral resources are available to meet their needs. *Katie's House* makes available to parents and families a number of workshops where they will learn how to creatively combine housing options and supports that will help their adult son or daughter live as independently as possible.

The Friendship Group: We know that learning new things is exciting but interaction with peers in our Friendship Group can also be a learning experience. In this Program we provide a structured social environment for young adults with developmental disabilities, enabling them to improve their social skills, learn how to better interact with their peers and make lasting friendships. Plus it is fun. The picture to the left was miniature golf night.



"If you are going to doubt, something, then doubt your limits"!

The Services Group: Adults with disabilities can make a difference if given a chance. Participants in this program support community efforts for others that are disadvantaged, sick or disabled, teaching them to give back to the very community that is helping them. Participants engage in such activities as: collecting, sorting and delivering new toys for pediatric oncology patients, the collection of new and used items for needy families living in shelters and assistance to non- profit organizations with their mailing. Oncology Harvest Party Collection on the right provided 24 children with gifts.



Activity Center: At *Katie's House* we believe that learning never stops and that it can be fun. The design of our course offering goes beyond classes by enhancing motor skills, coordination and communication skills. Activities at the Center include Sign Language Education, Dance Habilitation, Music and Crafts. These activities are made available to young adults with developmental disabilities in the surrounding community.



We Can Make A Difference... Just Give Us A Chance