

Sharing Your Home, Sharing life



“Living together is an art.” William Pickens

Simply put, **sharing a home** is how most of us live the majority of our lives. People who share our lives, accept us for our talents and our faults and will stick by us no matter what - this is what we all wish for.

On top of this, a comfortable home, a safe place to be, interests and hobbies to enjoy and friends to share those moments with, all are things that create a rich and healthy life.

If these are the things that are valuable and the "norm" for most people, shouldn't we offer that same option to people with disabilities as one of the choices for community living? YES!

In 1997 after 25 years of institutional living, a gentleman finally had the chance to move back to his home community. His wish was to move back to his family but his family's life had changed and returning to his childhood home was not possible. Community Living St. Marys and Area knew how important this was to him and helped him find a new family to live with. Today he shares a home and his life with Bob and Susan. They share a home filled with laughter, where the "good" is shared with the "difficult" and most of all where they feel they belong - together! "The moment he walked into our house we all had this feeling, that he knew he was home," said Bob.

Today three people share a home with families on a full time basis, and many others spend an occasional weekend away. Natural families, families who share their homes and especially the person with a disability all welcome the weekends away as a means to recharge batteries and have some fun!

Families are unique and may consist of a single person, a couple or parent(s) with children. They are found in a variety of ways but by far the most effective is word of mouth. While comprehensive screening is completed for everyone, nothing compares to a referral from someone who knows someone who...

Anyone who is eligible to be supported by Community Living St. Marys and Area is accepted. Age does not matter. The youngest person who shares a home is 19 years old and the oldest is 67.

For more information please call the Community Resource Coordinator.