

**OHIO VALLEY RESIDENTIAL SERVICES**

# Providing Residential Choices & Compassion In Our Communities

*For People With Developmental Disabilities*





## **OVRS Cares for People with Developmental Disabilities**

Ohio Valley Residential Services provides places to live and personal care for teens and adults with developmental disabilities. They live in group homes and apartment buildings as well as with foster families.

Our Respite Care program offers clients short-term stays with foster families. And our Supported Living program supports clients who live on their own and need minimal assistance.

## **We Offer Three Long-term Residential Choices**

### **Group Homes**

We're proud of the variety of alternatives we offer. About 40 people with developmental disabilities live in eight houses that we own and operate in neighborhoods across Hamilton County. Each client has a private bedroom because we believe that privacy is important.

### **Apartments**

Our innovative apartment buildings differentiate us from other organizations that care for people with developmental disabilities. More than 70 clients choose to live in one of our 13 small apartment buildings, where each has a full apartment with a kitchen that most share with a roommate. Some choose this option because they have even more independence than they would in a traditional group home.

### **Foster Families**

Another 40 clients—children as well as adults—choose to live on a long-term basis with a caring foster family. We recruit, screen and train our foster parents. Then, we place clients in their homes and monitor the living arrangements to ensure we've made a good match. Some of our clients have lived with the same family for decades, and call our foster care providers "Mom" and "Dad."

## **Other Services Provide Compassionate Care**

### **Respite Care**

Some families occasionally need a break from caring for a loved one with a developmental disability. In such cases, we have respite care providers, similar to foster parents, who care for our clients for anywhere from a few days to a couple weeks. We provide respite care to about 20 people a year, sometimes on an emergency basis when a family has a crisis.

### **Supported Living**

Some people with developmental disabilities live by themselves and just need some occasional help to remain independent. We send our staff to their residences for 15 to 40 hours a week to assist with duties such as cleaning, cooking, grocery shopping, banking and medical appointments. We provide this assistance to a half-dozen clients.

Our innovative apartment buildings differentiate us from other organizations



We feel it's important that our clients have **choices**



#### **Our Level of Personal Care Varies**

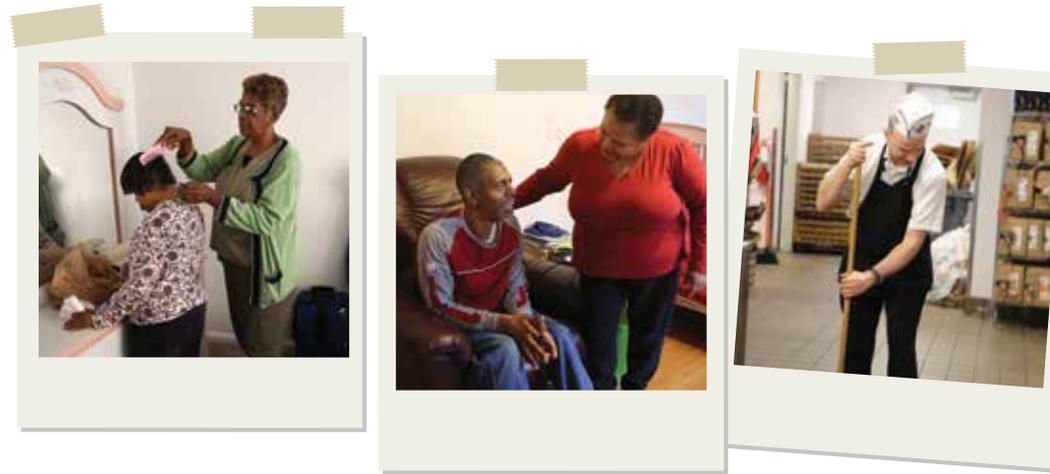
We feel it's important that our clients have choices. So we not only offer various residential settings, we also give each client as much care as they want. Some need a lot of assistance with dressing, bathing, cooking and cleaning. Others just need a little help. As they age, the level of care we provide for them increases. They also have choices about what to eat, how to dress and how to enjoy their leisure time. And we advocate for and support individuals with their employment choices, whether it's a job with an organization that serves people with developmental disabilities or a job at a private employer.

#### **Our Compassionate Staff is Committed to Our Clients**

Many of our employees have worked with us for years, as far back as the 1970s. They've developed strong relationships with our clients. We recruit employees who are passionate about working with people with developmental disabilities.

#### **We Live in Communities across Hamilton County**

Our clients are your neighbors, customers and friends. They shop at local stores, attend neighborhood festivals and go to community parks. Our residences are located in neighborhoods such as Pleasant Ridge, Western Hills, North College Hill, Deer Park, Madeira, Westwood, College Hill, Madisonville, Kenwood, Norwood, Delhi, Cheviot and White Oak.



We nurture a sense of **belonging**

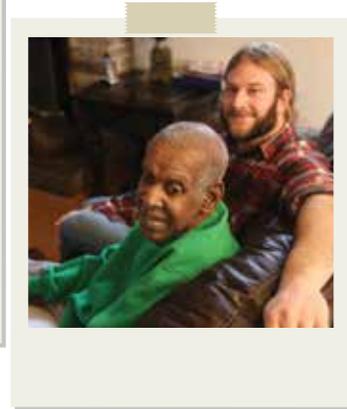
#### **We Nurture Family-like Atmospheres**

Though the atmosphere in each of our homes varies, we strive for family-like environments. We nurture a sense of belonging, encouraging strong relationships among clients and between clients and staff. Our clients include married couples and siblings. Some of our older clients have lived with us since they were young adults. They go out to dinner together and to the movies and even go on vacation together.

#### **We're Proud of Our History**

Ohio Valley Residential Services was founded in 1973 as a way to provide homes in the community for people with developmental disabilities. Before then, many lived in large institutions. We were originally called Opportunity Village and were located in a three-story building in Lebanon, Warren County. About 1980, we moved our clients to Hamilton County, where our housing model changed to one with group homes and apartments. Since then, we've expanded our housing locations and services.





# FAQs

## What is a developmental disability?

A developmental disability is a severe and chronic disability that is a mental or physical impairment—or a combination of both—that becomes apparent in childhood and is likely to continue indefinitely. It results in substantial limitations in life activities such as self-care, communication, learning, mobility, self-direction and capacity for independent living.

## How do people choose OVRs?

The decision about where to live usually starts with Hamilton County Developmental Disabilities Services. It assigns a service facilitator to work with individuals and families to select one of the many county organizations in the county that provide residential services. Meanwhile, OVRs is always glad to discuss our services directly with potential clients and their families. We also offer tours of our residences.

## How are we funded?

OVRs is grateful for all the financial support we get. We are funded by the Hamilton County Developmental Disabilities Services, which relies heavily on tax levies; the federal Medicaid program; clients' personal earnings, their supplemental federal benefits and payments from their families; and private donations.

## How is OVRs operated?

An eight-person board of directors oversees OVRs. An executive director reports to the board and leads a staff of more than 150 employees. OVRs is a private tax-exempt charitable organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. All of our homes are licensed by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities or certified by Hamilton County Developmental Disabilities Services.

## Mission Statement

**To enrich** the lives of persons with developmental disabilities and their families by providing individually focused services, safe environments and opportunities for integration into their communities.

*Donations help us buy extras for our clients that enrich their lives and make them more comfortable.*

## Community Support is Crucial

Though government funding provides most of our support, private donations help us buy extras for our clients that enrich their lives and make them more comfortable. Examples include health care items, vacations and home renovations. Donations can be made online at: [www.ovrs.org/donate.htm](http://www.ovrs.org/donate.htm)

Or mailed to us at:  
OVRs, Development Staff  
2261 Victory Parkway  
Cincinnati, OH  
45206

In addition, you can call us at 513-281-6800 ext. 102 to discuss a major gift, a planned gift, or a gift of stock.

We're always looking for professionals to serve on our board who can share their talents and expertise.

# Our Clients Are Amazing

## SOSAIA T.

Sosaia, who lives at the Ivanhoe Home in Norwood with seven other clients, spoke his first sentence in 2013. When an OVRS employee excitedly told him she had understood him for the first time, he got excited too and started laughing. Sosaia is in his mid-20s, and has been living with OVRS since 2008. Since arriving at OVRS, he has become more independent, learning to do more things for himself. He is a sweet man with a great smile.



## MICHELE G.

Michele, who is in her mid-50s, lived in various settings before deciding that she preferred to live in a big house with a foster family. Until the 1970s, she had lived at the Orient State Institute in central Ohio. Later, she lived in an OVRS group home, then by herself in an apartment with OVRS staff helping her at times with some duties. Now, she lives with an OVRS foster family in Forest Park with two other clients. She loves to take walks and chat with people along the way. She also enjoys knitting and crocheting. She works at a Kroger Bakery.



## PATTY M.

Patty, who is in her early 50s, has had many firsts since moving to an OVRS home in 2003. She has had her first birthday party, her first roller coaster ride and her first long-distance vacations—to Dollywood in Tennessee and Universal Studios in Florida. She also had her first visit from Santa Claus, who came to visit her at the Galbraith home in Madeira, where she lives with five other clients. She works on an assembly line at the Jackson Adult Center, run by Hamilton County Developmental Disabilities Services.



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[www.ovrs.org](http://www.ovrs.org)  
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