

Provider Profile Summary: *Everyday Lives*

www.EverydayLives.org

At *Everyday Lives*, our mission is to support individuals with intellectual disabilities and autism to achieve greater independence, choice, and opportunity in their lives. Our vision is to continuously improve our services and supports while ensuring they are person-centered, effective, flexible, and innovative. We have a set of values written by individuals we support called *Everyday Lives* in Action: My Life, My Way. Some of these values are Control, Choice, Health and Safety, Responsibility, Relationships, and Employment/Meaningful Contribution. We also have a set of values written by families called *Everyday Lives* in Action: What Families Value. Some of these values are the Unique Role of Family, Supporting Families throughout the Lifespan, Respect and Trust, and Collaboration.

Everyday Lives was founded in the 1960s. Our agency has grown and changed with the times; we understand that each individual we support has a unique story, skills, abilities, interests, and dreams. Using LifeCourse planning tools, we carefully identify services and supports to support each individual. We offer community living homes and Lifesharing opportunities. Our staff supports individuals to become independent, obtain and maintain employment of their choice, get involved in community activities that interest them, and find and keep new friends. We research and map community resources, including community service organizations, churches, schools, colleges or universities, libraries, clubs, recreational opportunities, and businesses to ensure we foster connections that make life richer for the people we support. We ensure individuals are prepared to work in the community with others who do not have disabilities, supporting them to be dependable and prepared to interact with their co-workers.

We support people with communication needs by ensuring staff are well-trained in using appropriate assistive technologies to meet the needs of individuals and we ensure staff are available and equipped to support those who are deaf.

We value our staff and work hard to provide training, develop skills, and make assignments that promote satisfaction for staff and individuals alike. We work hard to retain our staff so they can build relationships with one another, individuals we support, and their families. We conduct staff satisfaction surveys to remain informed and in touch.

Our individuals, families, and staff are all important members of our *Everyday Lives* community. Together we write our mission, vision and values and choose the most important areas to work on and improve. We meet challenges together and we celebrate our successes together. Our individuals and families participate in satisfaction surveys through our Independent Monitoring for Quality, or IM4Q, approach. Through this survey system, individuals with disabilities and their families are interviewed by other individuals and families with disabilities— independently of our staff. We use the results of these surveys to improve the quality of our services and supports.

We invite you to visit our *Everyday Lives* community and we welcome your questions and feedback!