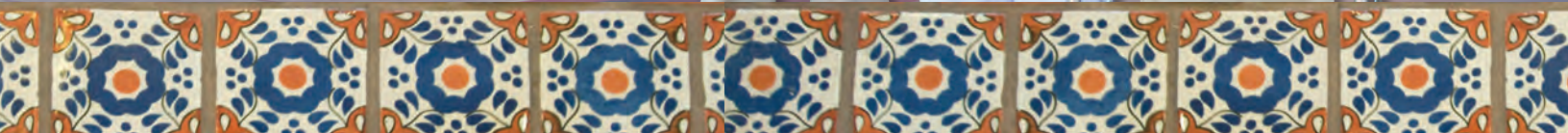




a unique
apartment
community
fostering
growth
and
independence
in adults
with
special
needs

CASA de AMMA



from the start

Casa de Amma began when our founders, Russ and Susie Leatherby, were asking “what would be next” for their son. Like so many parents of special needs adults, they tried to determine what type of setting could offer their son the support he needed — in an independent and supportive environment. It was out of this struggle that Casa de Amma was born!

One feature that makes Casa unique is that each resident has their own apartment with a beautiful living room, bedroom, bathroom and kitchen — equipped with every convenience. The apartment is furnished by the resident so it represents their own unique style and taste. The Casa lifestyle provides a social community which is vital if one is to thrive. Residents enter into “a community within the community” — a vibrant setting where friends, family and staff can be found mingling and interacting. There are various common areas where residents enjoy eating together, playing games and hanging out. Staff members work to support relationships and reinforce social behaviors in an always present but relaxed manner.

We understand that personal choice is important to us all, but it is a critical and often lacking component for adults with special needs. Unfortunately, we have found there is a large gap between having choices and available options when it comes to housing and support. Studies show that most of the options that exist are large congregant living facilities that provide little or no independence and personalized support, or the opposite extreme — life in a group home or alone in an apartment.

Most families communicate to us that the program models of the past are not the right fit for their loved one and they fear the vulnerability and social isolation that comes with living in a small setting. If you ask those who live at Casa there is little doubt they have found a home — because Casa de Amma is the perfect choice when you don't want to live alone but want a life of your own!



our offsite living services

We effectively meet the needs of thirty-five in-house residents, however there is an overwhelming demand beyond what we can realistically support. Currently, we have a waiting list of applicants but move-outs are infrequent.

Our offsite program, Casa's Community Supports, has been developed to help meet the needs of our wait-list clients and families so that their loved ones are able to live more independently. For all Casa's Community Supports clients, the services are the same as for any resident living at Casa. They have the same access to meals, community activities, CasaU groups, common areas, exercise programs, etc.

Our supported living services are provided offsite in the client's home by the same staff members working at Casa. Our staff drives to their home and transports them just as they would for our on-site residents for things such as medical appointments, grocery shopping, or other miscellaneous activities.

The living arrangements are secured independently by their families at nearby condominiums or single family homes. Offsite clients walk to Casa each day for meals, groups, activities, or just to hang out, which keeps them from the isolation that is so common when living alone.

Casa cannot provide onsite staffing at their homes, however a 24-hour a day emergency number is provided, and on-call support is always available both day and night.

While the Casa Community Supports program is still being evaluated to determine the exact number Casa can effectively sustain, we are happy to report it has been a huge success!



— when you don't want to live alone but want a life of your own —



areas of support

Casa's residents excel as the result of our lifestyle support program which covers a variety of subjects. These distinct, yet equally valued components, are emphasized in everything they do.

- **HEALTH & WELLBEING** medical / long term health / nutrition / exercise
- **DAILY LIVING & WORK** personal finance / employment / meaningful activity / apartment living / personal care
- **PERSONAL & SOCIAL** family support system / friends and peer support / social skills support & training romantic & sexual support / spiritual needs.

living

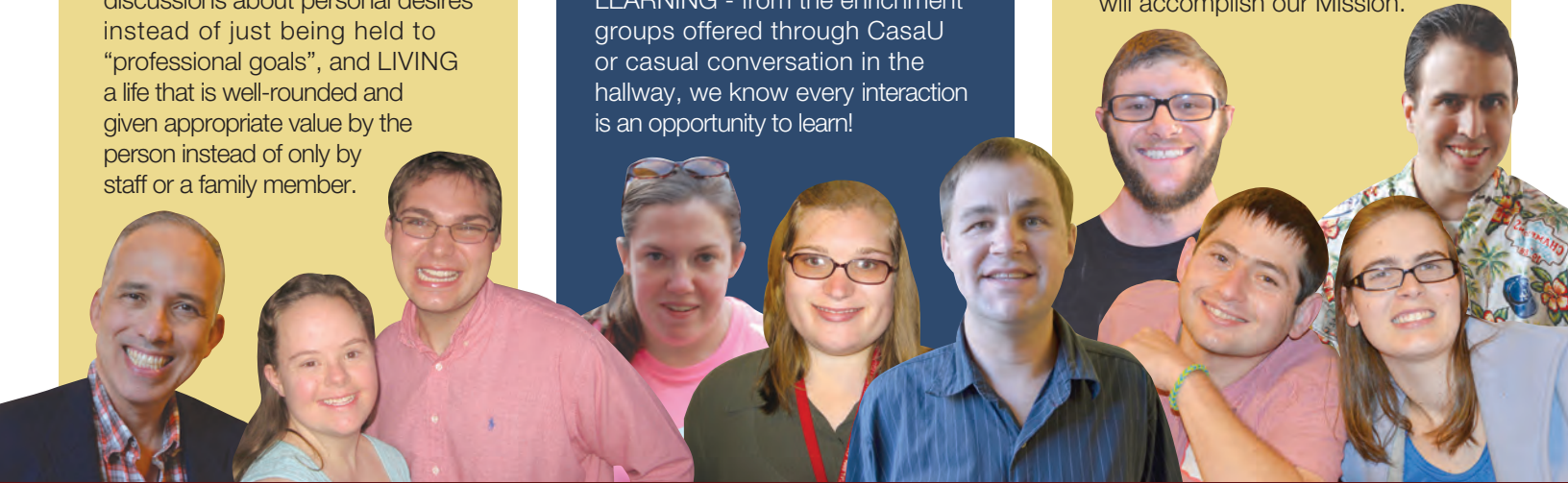
At Casa we define LIVING as the ability to make empowered choices that fit with the hopes, desires and preferences of the individual. It is LIVING a life that is valued by the person, and consistent with their plans for a meaningful life. For many adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their decisions are all too often made for them. At Casa, we are striving to hold high the value of LIVING for each resident. LIVING isn't just the state of being alive; it describes the more subtle yet equally important aspects of choice, access to the community at large, and having options that are similar to other adults. At Casa, LIVING includes things like having your own apartment, being able to pursue hopes and dreams, discussions about personal desires instead of just being held to "professional goals", and LIVING a life that is well-rounded and given appropriate value by the person instead of only by staff or a family member.

learning

Adults with disabilities face many barriers to being lifelong learners. Despite these barriers we know that a commitment to lifelong LEARNING will keep a mind developing and growing stronger. No matter whether a person has an IQ of 120 or 60, LEARNING provides confidence, increases social competency and creates an excitement about the world. We are committed to doing our part by asking probing questions, giving information that will motivate based on an individual's LEARNING style, and praising each step a resident takes to engage in the LEARNING process. Our focus is on four primary areas: social, historical, cultural and experiential. Our Staff directs residents to always be LEARNING - from the enrichment groups offered through CasaU or casual conversation in the hallway, we know every interaction is an opportunity to learn!

belonging

BELONGING can be defined by four characteristics. The first characteristic is to be a part of an environment with people who accept and care for you based on who you are. Next, BELONGING refers to a place where your strengths are celebrated and your weaknesses are supported. BELONGING also includes being a part of a community that recognizes your uniqueness and misses you when you are gone. Finally, BELONGING includes being a part of a community where you have a unique role and identity, and are not just "a number". At Casa de Amma we feel that to the extent we can support every individual in having these four aspects of BELONGING in their lives we will accomplish our Mission.



— when you don't want to live alone but want a life of your own —



who
we
are

Casa de Amma nurtures the abilities and independence of adults with special needs. We provide a broad spectrum of vocational, residential, social and educational opportunities in a responsive and caring environment.

Our programs are designed to meet the unique needs of each resident and provide a fulfilling experience for the entire family. We believe that with individualized support each resident can create a life they are proud of.



supporting casa

Founded in 2004, our goal has been to offer a high quality, affordable, living environment and support programs that are accessible to everyone. As a 501c3 Non-Profit Organization, we rely on support from friends, families, corporations and outside organizations. If finances are a concern, we may provide financial aid to individuals and their families. A variety of fundraising efforts support our programs, provide financial aid to residents in need, fund major capital improvements and strengthen our reserves to ensure years of support as our residents age. With your help, we can continue to provide support services to special needs adults so they can create lives they are proud of and become contributing members of their community.

consulting services

We also offer services for those who are interested in starting a similar community. We can provide consultation, tours of our facility, business plan reviews, and long term executive consulting where in-services, training and programming developed at Casa de Amma are used and shared. We understand the challenges of creating a program such as ours and encourage those who have plans to create an independent apartment community to contact us.



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