



**“Good, better  
best. Never  
let it rest.  
Til your good  
is better  
and your  
better is  
best.”**

— St. Jerome



## casa celebrates fifteen years!

This month we are excited to be commemorating our fifteenth year – and all that has transpired in the last 5,475 days! Our founders, the Leatherby Family along with many encouraging friends, followed their inspiration to create a residential community where adults with disabilities could develop friendships, have a safe place to learn and grow, and create the life they always hoped for. That dream became Casa de Amma! We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Leatherby Family for their enormous generosity and creative vision, for without it Casa would not exist. They recognized the tremendous needs of families with disabled loved ones and took the lead to build the Casa community – which is philanthropy at it’s best!

Casa de Amma was the first of it’s kind. Now often referred to as an **Independent Apartment Community (IAC)**, Casa combined the unique aspects of individual apartments all in one building, offering a “community in a community” where neighbors are friends and these friends turn into lifelong relationships. From inception, the support provided would be individualized and person-centered, to create services based on the individual rather than requiring residents to fit into a specific model. For most this would seem reasonable but unfortunately it isn’t the norm.

Casa residents have also enjoyed many “firsts” since we’ve opened our doors. Some have made their first “true” adult friend, have had their first romantic relationship, experienced the first time apart from mom and dad, have lived in the first apartment of their very own . . . the list goes on and on. In addition, it’s inspiring to watch a resident who never thought they could earn a paycheck, beaming from ear to ear when they deposit their first hard-earned paycheck. Even more exciting is to hear they are being promoted and getting a raise! Among the most notable was Casa’s first couple to get married! This is all part of the growth and accomplishment we are privileged to see day in and day out. We have also supported residents when they lost a parent, friend or family member – all part of life they learn to face with the various support systems we provide. With Casa’s focus on growth and friendship, residents report how they have matured and have achieved their goals. We hear families exclaim “I never thought I’d see that” as their loved ones exceed their previous expectations.

Casa is now that dream come true, because we understand families are happier when their loved one with special needs is living their best life possible. We thank everyone who has been a part of this accomplishment; residents and their families, those who work at Casa and many others who have been part of the growth of our Casa Family – we couldn’t have done it without you!

## we asked our residents how living here has made their lives better

I’m able to be more independent now that I’m living at Casa. I don’t have to just rely on parents, now I have friends, a job and a life of my own!

– Jessica



Casa’s made me more independent. Now I pay my bills, go out with friends and work.

– Riley



Casa gave me my life! I didn’t have a life before, now I have a job, activities, friends and fun!

– Brad



Casa’ has helped me to be more independent. It’s given me a life of my own! – Krista



Casa has given me my wings to fly! Since being at Casa I’m set free from a life of boredom and now I have an exciting life with so many friends. – Kristin



My life is very good. Casa gives me good friends. I like the staff, they are nice and help me. – Lisa



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