



**“Friends
and good
manners
will carry
you where
money
won’t go.”**

— Margaret Walker



casa’s support plans - part five

*This year we are discussing the components of Casa’s Support Plans, highlighting one every month. Please take this opportunity to learn more about these plans and the impact they have on our residents. Our subject this month is **PERSONAL FINANCE**.*

Our next component of Casa de Amma’s Support Plans is **‘Personal Finance’**. Most of us understand the importance of money and the effect it has on our lives but for many, this subject is also very personal. Money provides the means to do things with friends, travel, and express thanks to others or offer support with our generosity, just to name a few. Managing money is a skill that often comes through experience and maturity and there are many learning curves on the road to becoming more independent on this subject along the way. At Casa, our residents get extensive support and training no matter where they are on the continuum of money management. No two resident plans are the same, and with the hard work of our personal finance coordinator **Fran Wong**, they receive the support and structure necessary to grow their abilities to better manage their money.

The support we provide our residents can be summed up as follows — First, Fran helps with a monthly budget and works with each resident based on their needs to be sure that their expenses don’t exceed their income. These important lessons are reinforced through weekly meetings where bank statements are reviewed, and



their budget is evaluated. During these meetings Fran guides each resident making sure all bills are paid correctly and on time. For most residents they pay their rent, electricity, cable, internet and various other expenses from the money they earn at work or through Social Security. Some bills are paid by a check while others are paid online based on the resident’s choice. Fran shows them how to be vigilant so as to avoid being a victim of fraud or incorrect charges. Fran maintain’s contact with resident families, updating them when accounts are running low or when unexpected expenses are on the horizon. Fran has also become famous for the Finance Jeopardy Game she created which is a resident favorite and works with the residents regarding their Social Security making sure their benefits are maximized.

We asked Fran to summarize what her job means to her — “I find that this role is unique in that I get to work with all staff and every single resident. It is always changing. No one day is the same. No one meeting is the same. The role can be shaped to leverage technology and phone apps.” Fran noted the many successes she has seen such as **Riley’s** success and commitment to his budget, **Lauren** who is always ready for her lessons with a notepad to jot down some new concept, **Melinda** enjoying finance sessions and often dropping by to draw out everything on the whiteboard and use the Alexa™ tablet app and many, many more. At Casa money matters, but what matters most is relationships and independence. Thank you to Fran for working so hard to maximize our resident’s independence and for making learning fun!



Who Should Attend

Anyone who wants to learn more about the unique IAC model. Families and professionals interested in creating an IAC, and those interested in being a part of similar programs in their local area.

mark your calendars for june 8th!

Casa de Amma is excited to announce we will be hosting the third annual **Independent Apartment Communities (IAC) Symposium** on June 8th!

The Independent Apartment Communities group (IAC) was formed four years ago to articulate the unique and successful Casa model. We believe that Independent Apartment Communities represent a unique, beneficial and preferred option for housings and supports for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The IAC Group exists to offer education, resources, networking and support for those who want to create Independent Apartment Communities in their local area.

The symposium will have three main purposes; First, it will offer successful examples of IAC’s and serve to cast vision for those not familiar with Independent Apartment Communities. Second, it will provide education, resources and best practices on how to build, fund and operate an Independent Apartment Community. Finally, it will offer networking opportunities and consulting services for those interested in creating an Independent Apartment Community in their local area.

Sessions begin at 9:00am and will include topics such as In-Depth IAC: Learn what differentiates IAC’s from other available housing options, Variety In The IAC Model: Hear from various IAC’s about what makes them unique and how they were founded, Key Elements When Creating Your Own IAC: What are the basics, what questions should be you be asking as you seek to create an IAC in your area, Networking: Connect With Other Groups And Individuals Looking To Create Their Own IAC, Interactive Tour, and for the first time we will be offering sessions for professionals and families covering IAC Programs Best Practices & Philosophies. These inspirational and practical sessions will be helpful for anyone who works or interacts with adults with I/DD.

This event will be offered at no cost to attendees and will include a variety of speakers and a networking opportunity to meet others who share the desire to be part of an IAC.

To register email, **info@independentapartmentcommunities.com**



www.casadeamma.org