

2020 annual report



THE VILLAGE OF
merici

BY *Creating*

A STRONG SENSE OF

Community

WE WILL *create*

A STRONGER SENSE OF

Belonging.

5707 Lawton Loop East Drive

Indianapolis IN 46216

317.292.9408

www.villageofmerici.org

Email: information@villageofmerici.org

The Village of Merici
A Neighborhood for Adults with Developmental Disabilities in Indianapolis

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A Neighborhood for Adults with Developmental Disabilities in Indianapolis

our mission



The Village of Merici provides residential and community opportunities for adults with developmental disabilities that promote a strong sense of community.

The Village of Merici is a 501(c)3 organization. The desire to have individuals and families come together as a community to support one another in leading a self-directed meaningful life is our focus.

From the Executive Director:

In 2020, the Village of Merici happily celebrated its 6th anniversary. Although COVID-19 certainly imposed a variety of challenges, we were grateful to not have to suspend services. We were able to transition to telehealth and virtual meetings, while maintaining best health practices for social distancing. The people we support, our staff, and families have all remained healthy.

We continue to work on expansion projects in order to provide services to more people. We are currently working on a second location in Indianapolis and will be partnering with Old Town Companies on a new integrated community in Carmel, Indiana. Both of these projects are slated to open in the fall of 2022. If you have interest in supporting the capital campaign for the expansion projects, please feel free to reach out to me.

As always, we are grateful for your continued support.
Colleen Renie OTR ATP

our people



Board Members

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Colleen Renie OTR

Director of Services

Kristy Hayes

Community Program Director

Jacquelyn McCracken O.S.F.

Director of Development

Karyl Davis

innovation



Telehealth, ZOOM, Teams, GotoMeetings, Facetime, Google Hangouts, Skype, phone calls – these are the new technology supports that we have learned to embrace during the pandemic shutdown! The people we support have been creative in their responses to the COVID-19 challenges with social distancing, wearing face masks and sanitizing everything. Many of the people we support have lost their jobs or have been furloughed and have been busy learning new skills for when the job market recovers.



We continue to challenge one another to think outside of traditional service plans and find new ways to learn via telehealth and other virtual venues. Staff have been creative in finding new ways to train and provide instructions since community activities have been restricted.

We completed the purchase of a second building on Lawton Loop and look forward to developing 38 affordable apartment units by the fall of 2022. Our capital campaign has begun to bridge the gap between public funding sources and construction costs. Financing is expected to be completed in summer of 2021.

inspiration



"If according to times and needs you should be obliged to make fresh rules and change current things, do it with prudence and good advice."

–St. Angela Merici

With understanding of the desire of adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their choice to live in a



community of people with common interests, we are inspired to develop options that improve quality of life through living in a supportive community.

In the fall of 2020, we launched Merici City Rides, a transportation program that matches volunteer drivers with the people we support to improve access within the Indianapolis community. For more information on how you can volunteer, please call 317-292-9408.



individuality

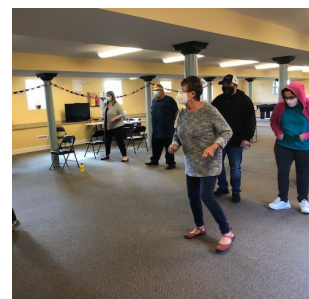


We focus on the desire to have a community of individuals and families who support one another in leading a meaningful life.

The people we support determine their own goals. We focus on a person's capabilities rather than skill deficits and presume competence in the individual's ability to live independently with appropriate supports as needed.

Administrators, coaching staff, and board members believe that all people can live in a home they choose and control, on their own or with others they select, and can participate in meaningful work and activities if appropriate supports are offered. Our community members are active partners in determining the activities in which they want to participate and the skills they want to learn.

We respect and promote choice and people's control over their own lives.



independence



Gaining skills for self-advocacy, employment, and affordable housing are among the most important factors in a person's sense of independence and self-fulfillment.

Opportunities this year for community integration experiences outside of the home or apartment were limited due to restrictions in the community. The people we support have had to deal with social isolation and separation from friends and family. Learning how to cope with these changes was a focus of living. Our staff worked together with the individual to identify compatible, comfortable and safe community life experiences within the restrictions of the pandemic.

invitation



We invite you to watch our I Am Home Series on our website highlighting the people we support. Please visit: villageofmerici.org/i-am-home/

We also recruit and welcome community helpers and volunteers to participate in the Merici City



Rides program to provide free transportation for people to and from work, to appointments and to access the community in a safe manner. Transportation limitations continues to be the biggest barrier for independence in community living.

A very important part of our invitation to you, and to all who may be interested in or supportive of our mission and goals is to ask for financial support. This may be as a regular monthly or annual contribution. Even a one-time gift is welcome – large or small. Your funds will be used to build affordable housing as well as facilitate the development of program services for the people we support.



integration



We are excited to have been selected as one of two projects in the state of Indiana as part of the Moving Forward 2020 housing initiative. Partnering with Merchants Affordable Housing and Old Town Companies – focusing on new technology and transportation in Carmel, Indiana called The North End. This 28 acre project will make available 40 affordable apartments for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in an integrated community setting including a one-acre garden, farm-to-table restaurant and accessibility to the Monon Trail.



The Village of Merici is an approved service provider through the Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Services (BDDS) and is accredited by CARF International for supported living and community integration.

sponsors 2020

Gifts of \$25,000 and up

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Granite Telecommunications
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