

2017-18

annual report



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Indianapolis IN 46216

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THE VILLAGE OF
merici

BY *Creating*

A STRONG SENSE OF

Community

WE WILL *create*

A STRONGER SENSE OF

Belonging.

our mission



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

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.

The Village of Merici is a 501(c)3 organization.

From the Executive Director:

Opening in 2014, The Merici Village Apartments was the first of its kind in Indiana. We provide over 2,000 hours of support each month to 52 individuals who direct their lives using a person-centered focus. Our goal for 2019 is to continue expanding housing options and support services to meet the needs, goals and wishes of those we serve in the Indianapolis area. We have purchased a second building with the goal of opening 30 more apartment units in the Lawton Loop neighborhood.

The Merici Book Clubs support over 50 additional individuals in 5 social-literacy programs weekly throughout Indianapolis and the surrounding area. We are planning expansion of the Book Clubs to include Carmel and Fishers in 2019.

Colleen Renie OTR ATP

our people



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innovation



More than 13 years ago a group of parents and families met in Indianapolis to discuss what will happen to our adult family members when we are no longer able to care for them. They challenged one another to think outside of the traditional residential housing options and supports needed by individuals to live in the community.

During 2017-18, we developed the Merici Kitchen Project to offer training, for adults with developmental disabilities, in culinary and kitchen operations. The goal is for the individual to gain better employment opportunities.

The Merici Kitchen Project is supported by financial grants from **Lilly Endowment, Inc., Citizens Savings Foundation** and **Catherine Rooney**.

A commercial training kitchen was designed and equipped by C & T Design and Equipment Co. We provide training in basic kitchen sanitation, knife skills, and culinary skills.



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



The Merici Village Apartments garden provides the persons we support with knowledge of gardening to include seeds, plants, vegetables, and flowers without the use of pesticides and other non-organic substances. The persons we support have developed a passion for the natural world and sustainable living through the growing of vegetables and flowers that they can use in their daily lives.

individuality



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

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

The persons 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 and use supports and services that are offered.



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.

Community Integration provides opportunities outside of the home or residence for individuals to gain personal, social and vocational competence. These are critical to living successfully in the community.

The persons we support are active partners in determining the activities residents want to participate in and the skills they will work to develop. Our staff work together with the individual and his/her family to identify compatible, comfortable and challenging community life experiences and interactions.

Together we develop goals and a plan to achieve them which will then result in increased independence and greater quality of life.



integration



*By creating a strong sense of community,
we can create a stronger sense of belonging.*

The persons we support access the Indianapolis community as participating citizens by voting, paying taxes, working, shopping, dining and being independent. They use public transportation or Uber and Lyft to access the area.



The persons we support spend time with friends and family and have expanded their participation in healthy living styles including exercising at local fitness clubs. The Merici Walking Club integrates neighbors in a weekly fitness activity. Through coaching they are an integral part of the Lawrence and Indianapolis communities.



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

invitation



We welcome the families, friends, and neighbors of the persons we support who live in the larger community.

We also recruit and welcome community helpers and volunteers to participate in daily activities as well as occasional or special events and opportunities.

*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 residential opportunities in the new building as well as facilitate the development of program services for the persons we support.



2017-18

sponsors



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Dorsey Foundation Inc
Lilly Endowment Inc.

Gifts of \$10,000 - \$24,999

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