

Summary of Resources submitted by “National Expert”

October 8, 2009

1. Courtyard and CHORD – Toronto (on web, look up Courtyard, housing for people with disabilities in Toronto, Canada) <http://thechp.syr.edu/TORONTO.html>

This is a case study of the development of two housing co-ops in Toronto that are inclusive of people with disabilities; that is, development of the co-op together with people with disabilities, their families, and friends. The co-ops, Courtyard and CHORD, were developed by a group of people who also formed another organization, Neighbors Allied for Better Opportunities in Residential Support (NABORS), which serves as a vehicle to generate support for participation of members who have disabilities.

The paper was based on a site visit in April 1994. At that time, Courtyard had been open for about 10 months (since July 1993) and CHORD was under construction and due to open in the summer of 1994. The primary focus of this paper is on various components that were utilized in the planning for and development of these co-ops. It is presented not as a model for other groups to follow, but rather to share ideas, strategies, and struggles with others who may be engaged in or interested in pursuing similar efforts.

Vision:

To create a housing cooperative where members have chosen to foster a community spirit. This spirit is based on neighborliness, mutual respect, and helpfulness, with people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities making commitments to one another (including people with special needs). Ensuring that they will have the support to be fully active members of the cooperative will be central to life in this community. Through living and working together for the mutual benefit of the co-op, they intend to foster lasting personal relationships for people who have been isolated because of their disabilities.

The cooperative recognizes that each member has unique ideas and skills to offer and must play a valued role in the management and day-to-day life of the community. They strive to create an environment where members will feel comfortable and secure. They will not tolerate acts of physical violence, intimidation, or discrimination based on age, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or disability.

2. Villages of East Lake - Atlanta, GA www.mercyhousing.org/

Mercy Housing is working to create a more humane world where poverty is alleviated, communities are healthy, and all people can develop their full potential. They believe that affordable housing and supportive programs improve the economic status of residents, transform neighborhoods, and stabilize lives. The program hopes to provide

affordable housing for families, seniors, and people with special needs that lack the economic resources to access quality, safe housing. It is not clear how far along this project is. Further inquiry may provide some ideas for financial support for housing in both Planned Residential Communities and supported living.

3. **Kibbutz in Israel - Kfar Rikva -**
<http://www.kfar-tikva.org.il/home/doc.aspx?mCatiD=57753>

Kfar-Tikva film - <http://www.aranpa.com/Kfar-Syn.htm>

Kfar Tikva (the "Village of Hope") is a scenic, kibbutz-like community in the Galilee that is home for life for two-hundred developmentally and emotionally disabled adults. It was founded in 1964, and is among the most respected and innovative facilities for the disabled in Israel.

Each member is given the opportunity to live life to the fullest in a comfortable and secure setting replete with wide-open spaces, natural vistas, and stunning scenery. The environment is described as a place that affords privacy in one's own cottage and a sense of accomplishment and camaraderie at work. Where the faces are familiar, there is always a helping hand when needed, and everyone is free to be themselves without fear of being perceived as "different" in any way.

A community comprised of friends, co-workers, staff, and volunteers, all forming a family that can be depended on through the good times and the bad. A community where a hard day's work is valued, meals are taken together, and free time is spent with friends, either relaxing or taking advantage of the bevy of enriching social programs that Kfar Tikva offers.

The members of Kfar Tikva all have individualized programs that suit their specific needs and map out their daily routines and activities. These programs are developed through the input of the professional staff in conjunction with the members themselves, and represent a balance between members' preferences and abilities and their therapeutic requirements. Each member is assigned a case manager on staff who is a mentor and advocate, and who also closely monitors the member's progress and updates his or her program as needs and preferences change over time.

While Kfar Tikva functions as its own self-contained community, its members are well integrated in the adjacent village of Kiryat Tivon as well. They have a shuttle bus that makes twelve trips a day into Kiryat Tivon. Many of the members work and shop there, and various programs are offered that bring the members of both communities together on an equal footing.

Fifty of Kfar Tikva's members live outside of the village, in residences supervised by staff from the organization in the heart of Kiryat Tivon. Kfar Tikva provides these members with the critical support system that makes this arrangement viable. Many of

them come to Kfar Tikva on a daily basis in order to work at on-site employment centers, to receive therapy and medical treatment, and to join in social activities and meals. If the need ever arises, these members can return to live in Kfar Tikva. This arrangement provides for flexibility to allow members the independence that many of them strive for, while maintaining the sense of community that is such an important part of their lives. Employment plays an important part in the life of a special-needs adult. It promotes a sense of self-worth, provides a meaningful daily routine, and increases social integration. At Kfar Tikva, there is a major emphasis on the workday, which provides Kfar Tikva's members not only with challenges to be met, but also with the daily satisfaction of a job well done. Some members work in the village itself in various capacities assisting with the upkeep of the village, while others work at on-site businesses, and still others travel to the adjacent town of Kiryat Tivon for their employment.

4. Contact Judith Snow - <http://www.inclusion.com/assnow.html>

Judith Snow, MA is described as a social inventor and an advocate for Inclusion, communities that welcome the participation of a wide diversity of people.

Judith is a founding member of the Summer Get Together and the Integration Action Group. In 1983, along with Jack Pearpoint, John McKnight, John O'Brien, and many others, Judith Snow was a member of the founding Faculty of the McGill Summer Institute for Integrated Education and, in 1994, the Toronto Summer Institute for Inclusive Community.

Judith consults and conducts workshops on person-centered planning, personal assistance, support circle building, family support and inclusive education. Her goal is to foster an understanding of how people with disabilities can be full participants in communities everywhere.

Judith does this work out of a background of being labeled disabled herself. Among other experiences, she lived in a chronic care environment for four years. With the assistance of one of the first support circles, her Joshua Committee, she was able to lobby the Ontario Government to pay directly for her attendant care. She is the first person in Canada to receive individualized funding, money for her support that goes with her and is not controlled by an agency or institution.

Judith Snow is also a faculty member of the Asset Based Community Development Institute founded by John McKnight and Jodi Kretzmann at Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois. This institute is committed to promoting communities that acknowledge citizen capacity and thrive from the rich exchanges that develop when citizens build their own social and physical environments.

Judith has founded the [International Association for Inclusive Citizenship](#).

5. **Wall Residences – Northern Virginia, <http://www.wallresidences.com> Contacts: Jack Wall, M.Ed., Director - 540-745-4216, ext. 4001, jwall@wallresidences.com Kamala Baues, MSW, LCSW, Quality Assurance Director, 540-745-4216, ext. 4002, kbauers@wallresidences.com**

Wall Residences was formed in 1995 with the purpose of providing individualized support to people who have significant support needs. Wall Residences is licensed by the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services. They are affiliated with over ten Local Human Rights Committees throughout the state. They provide services to individuals with a diagnosis of intellectual disabilities, mental illness, and/or a developmental disability. Currently, they are serving individuals with a diagnosis of intellectual disabilities (ID Waiver / Comprehensive Services Act funding), mental illness (Discharge Assistance Planning funding), and/or other developmental disability (DD Waiver funding).

The mission and purpose of Wall Residences is to provide high quality community services to persons who have a primary diagnosis of an intellectual, developmental disability or a long-term mental illness. The service is provided in home and community based environments and is designed to provide a high degree of individual attention, emotional support, and opportunity for self-expression and individualized routine.

The success of the service is measured by 1) the level of improved self-confidence and personal expression accomplished by the resident, and 2) the level of integration and acceptance into the life of the home and community achieved by the resident. How many friends does the individual have? What is the depth of relationships acquired? Is the person respected in the community as a contributing and valued member? Is love a part of the person's life, both giving and receiving? Is the person learning to understand and express their emotions and values, and able to relate to the needs and values of others? Is the person developing a spiritual, reverent response to life? Are hopes, dreams and fears explored? Is the person able to have confidence in physical expression through touching others, vigorous exercise, appropriate diet, careful consideration of medication usage, and other aspects of maintenance of physical, emotional and spiritual health?

The primary focus of Wall Residences is to provide a service around the needs of the individual who receives services, instead of making an individual fit into an existing service setting. The individuals supported sometimes choose to participate in a traditional day program or workshop, but often are provided an individualized schedule of community participation opportunities with the support of their residential support provider. These include paid work, volunteer work, and becoming a regular at the local YMCA, park, or coffee shop. Staff explore with the individual and the natural family what works/doesn't work in supporting the individual, and work together to put together a daily routine that works for the person. They work very hard to create "ordinary" lives for the people they support. It is important that people have meaningful activity and relationships with others in their day to day lives.

The family providers (similar to adult foster homes) are people who have years of experience in the field in other service settings supporting persons with intellectual disabilities. Family providers are evaluated to determine whether they have the necessary commitment to share their lives with an individual with significant support needs. They are highly qualified and committed to the individuals they support and attend Continuing Education Training each year. The organization is currently operating over 140 family provider homes in many parts of the state and has plans to expand services to additional areas.

The philosophy of Wall Residences is based upon the following principles:

- People with disabilities who require continuous available support often prefer to live in a home rather than a segregated facility or group home.
- People with disabilities benefit from the consistency of knowing who will be there to assist them day after day. While the provider families have trained and certified back-up workers, the primary care is delivered by the same people. Shift changes, which can be disruptive for some people, disappear. The daily schedule is created around the needs of the individual, rather than the needs of the program.
- The respect that the community grants to a well-established family will be naturally extended to a person with a disability who lives with the family. Inclusion into the community occurs naturally, without the negative reaction and fear that can occur when a multiple-bed group home is built in a neighborhood.

Examples of Unique Features:

- Wall Residences contracts with highly qualified families to deliver services in their home and community. They are constantly seeking out couples and individuals with the best qualifications, the best homes, and the highest motivation to include the person they serve within their family and community life. Contract families are referred to as “Family Providers”, and dedicate themselves to helping the individual in their care to be accepted and included as one of the family. Services are small and well staffed to meet the needs and preferences of each person referred and placed.
- Placement decisions are made using a detailed interview process and evaluating a wide range of possible placement options for location, characteristics of the home environment, availability of daytime activities, and compatibility with others in the home and for finding the best match of individual needs to the skills, experience and personality of the family providers.
- Wall Residences attracts family providers because they provide the good pay and support. All family providers are treated with the highest professional regard and are continually trained to understand how to improve their services and to meet or exceed the highest standards of care available in the field. In addition to ongoing training and professional supervision, all family providers participate in frequent networking with

other family providers through regional peer review sessions and agency-wide meetings. Family providers are encouraged to contact other family providers for social support, advice, and consultation. New family providers are often paired with an experienced family provider to have access to extra help from a nearby peer family.

- Wall Residences provides a highly qualified Program Manager to provide support and supervision to the professional family provider. The ratio of Program Managers to the number of individuals supported is one to twenty-five.

(the following came from comments by Derrick Dufrense, not the website)

Founders, Kamala (parent) and Jack Wall figured out that, if they run a flat organization, cutting out lots of middle men and infrastructure, they can turn quite a profit by running a simple “adult family home” model. They now have over 150 residences in play; they recruited the best direct care staff they could find; and set people up at home with these staff. Staff commonly go from earning about minimum wage as direct support staff to earning \$50-60,000 a year or more by running their own shop inside the auspices of Wall Residences. Essentially, they profit share with staff and now the residents themselves. They have set up a foundation where they stash some of the profits for the residents.

They provide training to the staff (very progressive), act as a fiscal intermediary, and have a newsletter. It runs like a well-organized network with a very flat hierarchy, sort of like a dispersed cooperative. They have a very modest turnover. Staff love it because the money is quite good.

6. Brookwood Community - Texas - Intentional Christian community
<http://www.brookwoodcommunity.org/aboutus.htm>

The Brookwood Community is a Christian-centered educational, residential, and entrepreneurial community for adults with functional disabilities located in Brookshire, Texas, just west of Houston. Teachers work with the Brookwood citizens to provide an environment of supervised independence. Brookwood demonstrates that all people have a contribution to make to society if given the opportunity. Brookwood provides opportunities to live, to learn, to work, and to play.

The program has been operational since 1985. Today, more than one-hundred citizens live in homes on our 475-acre campus, work in one or more of several on-site enterprises, exercise and play in the indoor swimming pool and gymnasium, attend the worship center, and when necessary, receive care in our clinic. They also serve citizens from the Houston metropolitan area who participate in the day program.

The cornerstone of the program is education: education in the activities of life and work. The organization seeks work that the citizens can perform or learn to perform by guidance and training from skilled staff. These enterprises provide opportunities for participants to learn new skills, enhance their self-esteem, and showcase their contributions. Brookwood's enterprises include hand crafts (candles, ceramics, screen

printing, garden sculpture, and stonecasting), horticulture, retail stores, and the Cafe at Brookwood with entrees prepared by a gourmet chef and staff.

According to the website, the campus provides programs with structure, security, and opportunities for true growth and fulfillment, all promoting a well-deserved sense of self worth. By providing such opportunities, Brookwood expands the horizons of its residents, giving lifelong education that enables them to:

- Develop meaningful productive job skills;
- Hold real jobs in the community's own business enterprises;
- Experience the pride of contributing to their own support; and
- Grow socially, emotionally, and spiritually, experiencing a richer, more fulfilling life.

Weekend and evening activities are therapeutic and highly structured and supervised including aqua therapy, sports and fitness, field trips, hobbies, and special events.

Citizens are encouraged to attend a church of their choice in the area including Brookwood's own inter-faith Worship Center. Area churches also bring a variety of ministries to present at Brookwood's services.



Brookwood is organized into three distinct areas.

- The Village Center (pictured above) consists of The Inn, the Continuing Care and Health Center, the Mabee-Cain Handcrafts Production Center, the Donald W. Reynolds Activities Center, the Brookwood Worship Center, and support housing.
- A neighborhood which is composed of seven large group homes and two staff homes.

- The enterprise zone including 39 commercial greenhouses, horticultural offices, a garden statuary manufactory, one of Brookwood's three retail centers, and The Cafe at Brookwood.

7. New England Village - Cape Cod, MA
http://www.newenglandvillage.org/about_us.html

While visiting their children at a special needs summer camp, a group of parents discussed the reality of their children approaching adulthood. At the time, few residential options were available for adults with intellectual disabilities. Those five couples envisioned creating an appropriate and stimulating residential community for their sons and daughters, and in 1972 they formed New England Village, incorporating it as a charitable non-profit corporation. The Village grew and prospered due to the many efforts of our founding families and thanks to the extraordinary fundraising skills of the New England Village Women's Committee. Their inspiring commitment continues undiminished today.

The construction of the Village's initial three homes and a community building took place between 1971 and 1972. Three years later townhouse style apartments were built for individuals with more highly developed daily living skills.

The Village's community building was designed to also serve as a sheltered workshop facility. However, as enrollment expanded the space available was inadequate and during much of the 70s and early 80s additional space was leased in close proximity to the [Pembroke](#) campus. Desiring a custom designed site, in 1986, New England Village built its modern vocational center in [Hanson](#), MA. Today it is a thriving workplace consisting of a light manufacturing area, a classroom used by the Pathways program, a kitchen and lunchroom, staff offices and warehouse space.

The Village's residential campus also continues to evolve. A home for individuals with more severe developmental disabilities was constructed in 1980, two homes were built and occupied between 1994 and 1996, and two additional homes were completed in the fall of 2002.

In 1993 a bicycle pathway and walking trails were paved and linked throughout the campus. The Village's community building was completely remodeled and expanded in 1997. It was named the Sheingold Community Building in honor of one of the Village's founding families and the Village's first board president. In the fall of 2005, the Village dedicated the Sollar Wellness Center on the campus. This 14,000 square foot building includes a swimming pool, fitness and exercise rooms, a massage therapy room, an art room and a wellness education center.

The website states that the men and women of New England Village share more than a place to live - they share a community. A variety of vocational, educational, and recreational opportunities are incorporated into each resident's daily schedule. The ranch



homes and townhouses were designed specifically to meet the needs of Village residents. Those who require the most direct assistance live in houses with 24-hour supervision. Residents with moderate needs have live-in staff to provide support in daily activities and household duties. Townhouse and studio apartments are available for residents who are ready for a

more independent, yet guided, lifestyle. Programs for those capable of semi-independent living are also offered. To the extent that they are capable, residents take part in the day-to-day upkeep of their homes by doing household chores, as well as preparing meals for themselves and their housemates.

8. **New Jersey -Project Freedom, Scott Elliott - 609-581-4500**
<http://www.projectfreedom.org/locations.cfm> ***

Project Freedom is a non-profit organization that develops and operates barrier-free housing to enable individuals with disabilities to live independently. In addition, supportive services such as recreation, training and advocacy are provided.

Mission Statement

Project Freedom is dedicated to developing, supporting, and advocating opportunities for independent living for persons with disabilities.

Core Values

Project Freedom advocates with and for people with disabilities. Project Freedom believes that persons with disabilities should have an opportunity to live as independently as possible (with support help) and be productive members of society. Project Freedom is a pro-active organization seeking to develop facilities and programs to assist people with disabilities with housing, training, and recreational activities.

Key Goals

Project Freedom will seek to expand the availability of housing for people with disabilities through supplying rental or home ownership opportunities and consulting with other organizations and governmental bodies seeking to establish similar opportunities outside of our geographical area. The organization advocates for persons with disabilities by increasing the awareness of the need for housing and services to assist people with disabilities to be productive members of society.

Project Freedom develops, coordinates or assists other organizations in making available training, transportation and recreational programs for persons with disabilities in the

community. They actively engage in development activities to raise the funds to be able to expand its advocacy, housing and training roles on behalf of persons with disabilities and seek to reach its goals through the participating of a dedicated Board of Trustees, an engaged and expanded base of empowered tenants, consumers, volunteers and members, and a creative, skilled staff.

Many folks who live at Project Freedom live by themselves without any assistance. Others who need more assistance arrange their personal care attendant service(s) through various agencies. Any adult with a documented disability can rent an apartment and have their children (if any) live with them. Applications are not required unless the person has a Housing Choice Voucher or has an annual income of \$21,000.

Project Freedom main focus is to rent apartments to people with disabilities. The organization is not a nursing home, assisted living, a group home, or a medical facility. Project Freedom does not provide supervision or personal assistance. The apartments are administered like any other apartments through a lease. Applicants must be income eligible to be considered. Three locations in Mercer County; Robbinsville, Hamilton, Lawrence, and Trent Center are available. People living in the apartments must be able to manage their lives or have services in place to assist them. They also must have an annual income under \$32,000 for a single person to qualify to live in them. Our apartments are rented through leases, and the lease holder must be of legal age. The target population is between 18 and 55 years of age.

Rents are based on individual incomes and other factors. If the tenant does not have a Housing Voucher, then he/she must be able to afford \$550 in rent for a one-bedroom apartment at our Lawrence campus as an example. The rents vary at Hamilton and Robbinsville. Also, because are apartments are funded through Low Income Housing Tax Credits, federal law prohibit Project Freedom from renting to full-time students.

9. Daybreak Co-housing <http://www.daybreakcohousing.org> Contact: Kristin Wells

This is a proposed cohousing community North Portland, Oregon. It consists of individuals, couples and families of varied backgrounds and ages – with family members from birth to 70 plus - who want to live in a community where they know each other like extended family, while personal needs for privacy and independence are honored.

(no mention of disabilities; and they haven't completed construction)

10. Connecticut - George Ducharme, Pat Beeham, Cathy Ludlum -
gducharme@mcc.commnet.edu

(just somebody to contact)

11. John O'Brien's - "Cultivating Thinking Hearts" - <http://thechp.syr.edu/ThinkHrts.pdf>

The Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Planning Council undertook the "Safeguards Project" conducted by Camphill Village Kimberton Hills in late 1988. The Council promoted and funded many relationship building projects among people with and without developmental disabilities in non-institutional settings. Among these were Citizen Advocacy Programs, Citizen Participation Projects, Permanency Planning and Family Support Services, Cooperative Housing and Shared Homes, which now has come to be called Lifesharing. At the same time it was also acknowledged that regardless of the setting people with developmental disabilities are vulnerable and that abuse is potential even in the less formalized arrangements of lifesharing households. The authors researched the different life situations of people living in these environments. The little book as they call it entitled "Cultivating Thinking Hearts" summarizes their work. The authors presented their findings through original "fictional" letters written for the book by the researchers. They did not reproduce actual project correspondence and wrote to "composite people" rather than to particular individuals. The letters reflect actual events as a context for exploring the four key themes in the study:

- a. Conscious, long term effort to build up healthy community is the only safeguard for all of us, including those among us who are most apparently vulnerable because of their disability. This is paradoxical and difficult work because so much of our human and natural world is deeply wounded.
- b. The single most important task for those concerned with security and development is to invite and support more and more people into life sharing relationships of all kinds and to learn how to assist people to be more capable life sharers.
- c. To do this work we must find ways to feel and see and act integrally, as individuals, but particularly as life sharing groups. We must purposely cultivate thinking hearts with one another.
- d. One art in the cultivation of thinking hearts is the ability to act to create wholes from the apparently broken bits served up to us by our individual and collective histories. This art is similar across scale, whether practiced on behalf of a single person, as when a personal concerned circle helps a person piece together a sense of vision for her future.

12, Deohaeko - Toronto
<http://www.smartcarefoundation.com/docs/pdf/Deohaeko%20Support%20Network.pdf>

DEOHAEKO SUPPORT NETWORK

Deohaeko is a small group of families who came together in 1988 in Toronto, Canada to develop support for their sons and daughters with a disability. They received a government grant to design and build a housing co-operative, Rougemount, which became a 6-storey 100 unit housing cooperative.

The families did not want traditional residential services for their sons and daughters with a disability. They hoped to develop an intentional community in which people with a disability would live with people without a disability. Rougemount became the “where”. The Deohaeko Support Network became the “how” – a Board of families who employ paid workers to work individually with each person with a disability, some of whom require 24 hour support.

“At the heart of Deohaeko, is the belief that; people who have never been able to dream of having homes of their own, will come to live in those homes among other people who will welcome them. In discovering and nurturing everyone’s gifts, a strong community will evolve, so that the dignity, uniqueness, freedom and participation of each individual will be honored and facilitated in a natural, neighborly fashion and that the community will be seen as a preferred place to live.

Like all members of our community, each of the individuals supported through Deohaeko has unique gifts to be offered. Deohaeko is committed to inviting, encouraging, welcoming and sustaining a level of community inclusion, participation and friendship making caring for on another a natural part of life in both the co-operative and greater community.

Firstly, Deohaeko assists members of Rougemount Co-operative to foster a spirit of mutual neighborhood support – the principle upon which this co-operative is established. All community members will find ways to welcome the gifts and talents of their neighbors. Secondly, on an individual basis, each participant will be supported by family, friends, new neighbors, and personal supporters, if needed, to establish a home and share in both the co-operative community and the larger Durham Region community. Deohaeko sees the creation of a support network for each individual as a way to make possible the welcoming, the initial relationship building, the discovery of gifts and the nurturing of community”.

Operational Features:

- Physically: Rougemount is a Co-operative, a place called “home”
- A housing co-operative of six stories with 105 one, two and three bedroom units in suburban Ontario founded by the families of Deohaeko
- Home to about 250 people representing the typical mix of people in the region looking for housing – singles, families, single parents and of all levels of income, different cultures, ages and abilities – among them 6 of the sons and daughters of the Deohaeko families.
- An intentional community where people seek to be good neighbors to one another.

The Co-operative is situated on a bus route, next door to a library and within easy walking distance to shops and amenities.

The Support Network: A family-governed, person-centered approach:

- Deohaeko supports only a small number of people, just their own sons and daughters
- The Board membership is small, made up essentially of parents. It makes decisions about allocating all funds received by the families from the government according to the support plans for the individuals.
- Families hire support people directly for their family members.
- A coordinator works for their whole group, as well as for each individual and their family and helps families deal with times of transition and change. The coordinator meets regularly with each person being supported, some weekly and some daily based on the need, which may change with time.

The role that Deohaeko Support Network takes in the lives of the people they are supporting includes:

- Ensuring quality day to day support.
- Planning for and recognizing opportunities for new relationships.
- Providing a home that is safe and secure, unique, individual and welcoming to others.
- Ensuring a community presence which is legitimate and valued, occurring on a frequent and regular basis.

13. L'arche www.larcheusa.org ***

L'Arche communities, family-like homes where people with and without disabilities share their lives together, give witness to the reality that persons with disabilities possess inherent qualities of welcome, wonderment, spirituality, and friendship.

L'Arche enables people with and without disabilities to share their lives in communities of faith and friendship. Community members are transformed through relationships of mutuality, respect, and companionship as they live, work, pray, and play together. While some of our communities were founded in the Roman Catholic Church tradition, today L'Arche USA communities are ecumenical and welcome people of all faiths.

L'Arche USA is part of the International Federation of L'Arche Communities. L'Arche International serves as the umbrella organization to nine zones around the world.

The first L'Arche community in the United States was founded in 1972 in Erie, Pennsylvania. Today, L'Arche USA includes 16 communities located in Iowa, Virginia, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Florida, Kansas, Alabama, Massachusetts, Washington, Oregon, New York, California and Washington D.C., as well as two emerging communities in Missouri and Georgia.

Each community is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, and is governed by its own board of directors and managed by caring and professional staff. L'Arche communities are united through their membership in the International Federation of L'Arche. There is a L'Arche program in Jacksonville, Florida at the Harbor House. The website does not provide much information on how the program is configured and is operated.

14. Troy Gardens - Madison, WI <http://www.troygardens.org/cohousing.html>

Note: Developmental disabilities not addressed in this community.

The 31 acres of Troy Gardens property is owned by the Madison Area Community Land Trust (MACLT). The goal of MACLT is to provide affordable housing to low-income community members by purchasing land and holding it in trust. Buildings on the land are sold at a lower than market value because the buyer doesn't have to pay for the land, which is owned by the land trust.

20 of the 30 homes have been sold as land trust homes to first-time homebuyers at or below 80% of the median income level for Dane County. These were priced under market value with a restriction on how much profit can be made when they are resold, so that will be permanently affordable to future buyers. The remaining ten units were sold on the open market as conventional homes. Units range from 2-4 bedrooms with a variety of floor plans. All units are fully handicapped accessible on the first floor.

15. Arboretum CoHousing (Madison) <http://www.arboretumcohousing.org/>

Note: Developmental disabilities not directly addressed in this community.

Cohousing is a type of collaborative housing designed to foster a deeper sense of community and interconnectedness than is commonly found in modern housing.

Arboretum Cohousing is a cohousing community that is designed to encourage interactions between people and enrich lives with the pleasure of cooperation and friendship. The community is a mix of affordable market-rate and low-income units. The community is committed to environmentally sustainable practices and building techniques. To encourage connections between people and to reduce environmental impacts, they commit to de-emphasizing the automobile. Arboretum Cohousing is a pedestrian-oriented community. Parking and streets are on the periphery of the community. They encourage the use of alternative means of transportation by locating the community within walking distance of the bus line and within biking distance of downtown Madison, Wisconsin.