
Intentional Communities: An Innovative Solution

A number of intentional communities are in the process of development or already in existence throughout the United States. Below are some examples:

- ❖ **Building Ohana**, Spokane, WA.
<https://www.buildingohana.org>
- ❖ **Main Street**, Rockville, MD
<https://mainstreetconnect.org>
- ❖ **Patuxent Commons**, Columbia, MD
www.ptxcommons.org
- ❖ **A Kindred Spirit**, Tampa Bay, FL
<https://onekinroof.org/the-future/>
- ❖ **Home of Our Own**, New Glarus, WI
<https://www.homeofourown.org>
- ❖ **Friendship House**: Fayetteville, NC
<http://friendshiphousefayetteville.org>

“The purpose of intentional communities is to bring together neighbors of all ages on a daily basis to provide assistance and to share the ups and downs of everyday life—to develop bonds of friendship and, over time, a culture of neighborliness—of friendliness, kindness, helpfulness, and consideration. It puts into action the belief that ordinary people of all ages and abilities can be assets in addressing the difficult challenges facing various vulnerable groups.”

Generations of Hope



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– Vision –
To create an inclusive community where all individuals, including those with developmental disabilities, can live a meaningful and purposeful life.

WHAT IS HOPE?

WHO:

- ♦ A group of parents, siblings, friends and partners of adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).
- ♦ We advocate for the long-term housing needs of individuals with IDD.

WHAT:

- ♦ A safe, sustainable, affordable housing option for adults with IDD.
- ♦ An inclusive community for a diverse and multigenerational population that includes our target population.

WHEN:

- ♦ Now, as parents and caregivers are aging and need to find solutions for their adult children.
- ♦ Almost 1 million family caregivers are over the age of 60.

WHERE:

- ♦ The Triangle (Raleigh, Durham, Chapel Hill, Cary) and surrounding communities.
- ♦ Either a stand-alone development or as part of a larger, mixed income development.

WHY:

- ♦ Aging parents are ill-equipped to meet the ongoing needs of their adult children with IDD.
- ♦ Living in isolation, adults with IDDs have little access to natural supports and relationships that promote fulfilling lives.

What is an intentional community?

An **intentional community** is a planned residential community with shared vision and values.

What are the benefits?

- ♦ **Provides More Choices:** People will lead richer, healthier lives with less risk of ending up in hospitals, nursing homes, large state institutions, or homeless.
- ♦ **Makes Financial Sense:** Expanding the scope of available resources means that more people will have their needs met.
- ♦ **Increases Flexibility and Control:** Families want the needs and desires of their loved one to define his or her lifestyle, not agency rules that are the same for everyone.
- ♦ **Focuses on Contributions:** This approach enables individuals with disabilities and their families to contribute rather than take from society. Individuals and their families share their gifts, talents, and connections to the community, rather than being an untapped resource.
- ♦ **Builds Community:** By coming together, we are creating a community and personal network for individuals with disabilities that can outlast formal organizations.
- ♦ **Creates a legacy:** This model represents a new way of thinking that can characterize a new generation of supports for people with developmental disabilities.

(Center for Independent Futures).

WHAT IS THE NEED?

There are many barriers which the largest minority group in America, people with disabilities, must face to live meaningful lives. Included in these are the lack of opportunities to receive supports; find competitive employment; and live in inclusive communities.



41st

North Carolina ranks 41st among the 50 states in their efforts to serve individuals with developmental disabilities.



12 K

There are over 12,000 people on the "List of Unmet Needs" in NC with a typical wait time of 10-12 years before they can get Medicaid Waiver services.



20%

One in five people in the US live with a disability. 20% of Americans need some form of assistance to help them live their lives to the fullest.



6.7%

6.7% of individuals with IDD in NC were living in state-run institutions, compared to the national average of 1.7%.



15%

Only 15% of working age individuals with IDD worked along side non-disabled individuals earning market-driving wages.
(Case for Inclusion)