Day Habilitation — A Fresh Approach to Day Programming

People Inc. is offering an exciting opportunity for participants of our Day Treatment Centers. Day Services will be enhanced to include a Day Habilitation program format, a person-centered approach focusing on the individual’s needs, interests, skills and choices. Its flexible environment provides chances for individuals to achieve satisfying and rewarding connections and relationships within their communities.

Day Habilitation (Day Hab) is available and recommended for many individuals with developmental disabilities. It is currently available at Elmwood Day Services and will expand to Brighton Park, Central Park Plaza and Orchard Park Day Treatment Centers this fall. People who live in Intermediate Care Facilities will continue to attend Day Treatment Centers as per current New York State regulations. The two programs will work in conjunction and at some locations will coexist in the same building. As a result, participants will receive more individualized choices for their specific interests; gain practical life experiences through external activities and learning opportunities; and continue to develop necessary life skills.

In Day Treatment Centers, individuals enter into an existing structure designed to provide treatment and training for adults with developmental disabilities. With Day Hab, the environment and activities are molded to the participant’s specific, individual needs. This kind of programming gives individuals more choices over their daily activities. They have the opportunity to explore new areas of interest; become involved within their communities; and develop communication and interpersonal skills.

“Day Habilitation focuses on disabilities and on abilities. Day Hab sees the person with disabilities pursuing an individualized goal in life.”

- Margaretmary Moffat Program Manager, Elmwood Day Hab

Day Hab services can be provided almost anywhere in the community where an individual wishes to learn. If someone wants to garden, they can get their hands dirty at Brighton Park’s Blue Rose Greenhouse; if bowling is their passion, participants may join Day Hab’s bowling league; if learning to read is a desired outcome, visits to the library are arranged. Day Hab’s goal is to encourage consumers to become more independent in day-to-day, non-vocational, personal skills such as social interactions, developing money skills, learning to read, arts and crafts, mobility training and woodwork.

Participant Chris Williams is a huge New York Mets and Buffalo Sabres fan. “We go to baseball...”
More than an Employee

James Boles, left, presents Jamie Lembeck with an award acknowledging his 15 years of service to People Inc. Jamie began his career at People Inc. in the Marketing/Development department, but after a spinal chord injury, switched his profession to become a Disabilities Advocate.

Jamie felt it was imperative to break down societal barriers that stemmed from a lack of awareness towards people with disabilities. He became an advisor for the Mayor of Buffalo where he ensures that federal and local policies regarding people with disabilities are enforced. He also devotes his time to Hallwalls, a unique and advanced arts organization in Buffalo, and frequently lectures at the University at Buffalo and Buffalo State College.

“Jamie gives the students a personal perspective on disability and adjustment to life in a wheelchair. He educates the students on how to approach persons with a disability,” said Mary Matteliano MS, OTR/L, Clinical Assistant Professor, University at Buffalo. “The students always comment on how comfortable Jamie makes them feel and this eases their transition into the role of a therapist.”

When asked why he has stayed with People Inc. for all these years, Jamie modestly states, “People Inc. is allowing me to participate in numerous facets of society. I am grateful, especially to Jim Boles and Joe Giansante, for supporting and believing in me. It wasn’t a question of me accepting People Inc., it was People Inc. accepting me and my abilities rather than looking at my disability.”

Closing One Door, Opening Another

It was with careful review and consideration of the agency’s budget and mission that People Inc. decided to close RETAP Thrift Store in July. We are delighted, however, that RETAP will reopen in a new location under the management of Phoenix Frontier, Inc., a nonprofit organization serving people with disabilities.

“This collaboration provides a great opportunity for People Inc. and Phoenix Frontier, Inc. to work together and provide a worthwhile service for people in need,” said James Boles, president & CEO. “The store’s main purpose was to provide employment training to individuals with disabilities,” Boles added. “The mission was to ‘Recruit, Evaluate, Train, Assess and Place.’ However, the focus of RETAP Thrift Store changed and the agency’s Supported Employment and Training Services became more effective.”

Phoenix Frontier, Inc. is scheduled to open the new store at 54 Webster St. in North Tonawanda. There is a possibility of a second location on Kensington Avenue in Buffalo. We will keep you posted of the new openings on our website, www.people-inc.org, so keep checking in!

Job Fair

Stop by People Inc.’s Job Fair, September 21 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 1219 North Forest Rd., Williamsville to learn about exciting job opportunities including direct care, nursing and management. Part- and full-time positions are available throughout Western New York to suit a flexible schedule. Employees receive health and life insurance, 401 (k) pension plan, paid time off, tuition assistance and more. To view a list of available jobs, visit www.people-inc.org/jobs or contact the Human Resource Department at 694-9192 for more information.

Family Care - Creating a Home for Everyone

For nearly 20 years, People Inc.’s Family Care program has provided companionship and residential alternatives for people with developmental disabilities. Providers open their homes to people who may benefit from a smaller, more intimate home environment than a traditional group home residence. Family care providers become very involved in the daily lives of the residents and support consumers’ growth and development by offering understanding, guidance and supervision. They assist with budgets, goals, medical appointments, and provide 24-hour care. Providers are reimbursed for room and board on a monthly basis and receive a difficulty of care payment based on the individual’s needs.