



Watercolor by Joan McGarry

Chesapeake Center

Expanding Opportunities for Adults with Disabilities

50 YEARS ★ 1967-2017

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

How exciting to be involved with a successful nonprofit that has been in business for 50 years! This occasion is very humbling for me when I think back to the initial position I held with the Chesapeake Center in 1981 as a Live-in House Counselor! It has been so fulfilling to work for the same company for 36 years in various roles along the road to the Center's success. Supports and services for adults with various disabilities have changed since the Chesapeake Center's meager beginnings in 1967. Thanks to Mrs. W. Alton Jones and her foresight in helping many Talbot County agencies get off the ground, and the dedication of family and community members, the Chesapeake Center Inc. is proud to be a major employer, a large Talbot County land owner and a successful nonprofit business.



It is said that, "there is no growth without change." This holds true in the field of services to individuals who have a disability. In 1967, a meaningful day for those adults who received services from "The Vocational School for the Retarded," consisted of going to local businesses like Rowen's Stationary to package wooden toys or fold flat the boxes from merchandise that was received. In later years the Chesapeake Center, Inc., offered training to individuals for refinishing furniture and chair caning. These items were then sold to community members. Over time the services offered by the Chesapeake Center expanded to include housing, more advanced assembly work and support for individuals to live independently in the community.

As the Chesapeake Center, Inc. continues to grow and change we envision an exciting future where adults who have a disability are contributing citizens who enjoy choosing where to live, where to work and how to enjoy their free time. So, put on your sunglasses because the future CONTINUES to be bright for The Chesapeake Center, Inc. We look forward to celebrating our 50th Anniversary with you!

Donna L. Harrison, *President & CEO*

ABOUT CHESAPEAKE CENTER, INC.

Chesapeake Center, Inc. is a private, non-profit service provider for adults with disabilities, celebrating 50 years of continuous operation in Easton, Maryland. Chesapeake Center has evolved over the years as a comprehensive system of services designed to assist adult individuals with disabilities to reach their potential for independence by pursuing opportunities in housing, employment, transportation, natural supports, friendships and community activities. Their mission is to promote independence and an integrated life through interaction and association with other individuals and groups in the local community.

The Chesapeake Center's vision is to realize a caring community in which adults with disabilities become empowered to demonstrate their choice of residence, career, friends and activities where they are safe from abuse, neglect, recrimination and ridicule. The Chesapeake Center was created by a dedicated group of people who recognized a need in our rural community to support those adults with disabilities. In the early years, the Chesapeake Center was a place where individuals could come for day activities and receive training in basic skills.

Today, these kinds of programs may seem like they would be a priority for any community. But it was not always so. When Chesapeake Center was founded, adults with disabilities were rarely seen in our communities on the Eastern Shore, or for that matter, across the country. Adults with disabilities were either institutionalized or kept at home and were not integrated into our everyday way of life.



An aerial view of the Chesapeake Center, Inc.'s campus in Easton, MD.

As children, they were not introduced to other children since they did not attend schools. This was very difficult for the families of these children as there was no place where they could learn or socialize. In 1975, Public 94-142, or the Education for all Handicapped Children Act, was enacted by Congress. This required that all public schools provide equal access to education and one free meal for children with physical and mental disabilities. Initially in Easton, this was provided at the school at Idlewild Park. Even so, after their public school education, and as adults, there was little opportunity for these people to be given work opportunities, except at the most menial levels.

It was not until 1990 that the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) became law and prohibited discrimination against individuals with disabilities in all areas of public life, including jobs, schools, transportation and all public and private places that are open to the public. In 2008, the American with Disabilities Act Amendments (ADAAA) further expanded individual rights, including guidelines for reasonable accommodation to qualified workers. But barriers still exist. Our public places are still not accessible and transportation remains a problem if you are disabled and have to rely on others for your mobility. We must work as a community to embrace those adults with disabilities because we all benefit from their diversity and inclusion.

The Chesapeake Center has been actively supporting the integration of adults with disabilities into our community over these past 50 years. The Center has grown and adjusted to make the services they provide more flexible and more accommodating.

Under the leadership of Executive Director, Donna Harrison, with governance by a Board of Directors, the Chesapeake Center manages a budget of state and federal funds and individual contributions to hire 110 full time staff and 25 part time staff. Chesapeake Center manages the operations of Chesapeake Bay Industries, Inc., Chesapeake Group Homes, Inc., and Chesapeake Developmental Unit, Inc. Together, they provide supervised housing, transportation, training and career opportunities while operating 365 days a year.

Chesapeake Center, Inc. manages a multi-building campus, located at 713 Dover Street that includes administrative offices, a large work center, a bakery and residences, while serving a diverse adult population from the Mid-Shore region. They also own and manage 13 group homes and maintain a fleet of 25 vehicles.

Chesapeake Center is certified by the The Maryland Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) a state-wide developmental licensing authority and by the Office of Health Care Quality. Chesapeake Center is a Member of SourceAmerica (formerly NISH) and the Maryland Association of Non-Profits. They are active in many local and community organizations including the Talbot County Chamber of Commerce.



Any person with a developmental disability who is at least 21 years of age may seek services. Common disabilities include physical impairments, psychiatric disorders, intellectual disability, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, and learning disabilities. Individuals are determined eligible for State funding through the Coordinator of Community Resources located at each County Health Department and can then choose their service provider. Chesapeake Center daily serves over 100 adults with various disabilities: 74% reside in Talbot, 13% from Dorchester, 11% from Caroline and 2% from Queen Anne's counties.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Donna L. Harrison, *President*

Lisa A. Korell, *Vocational Services Director*

Kelley Malone, *Residential Services Director*

E. Kirk Phillips, CPA, *Accounting Manager*

Jennifer Willey, *HR Specialist*

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Chesapeake Center

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50 YEARS ★ 1967-2017

Celebrating 50 years of services to adults with disabilities in our community



1967



1979



1974



1985

Mrs. Alton Jones purchased the property on Dover Road known as the Vocational School for the Retarded.



1967

Mrs. Jones donated funds to build the Developmental Unit property and other property to be used as a future Endowment Fund for the Center.



1974

Chesapeake Bay Industries, Inc. was created as a self-funded regional sheltered workshop.



1979

Chesapeake Group Homes, Inc. created its first residence with funds from the State of Maryland, Developmental Disabilities Administration.



1980

Chesapeake Head Injury, Inc. was created to serve adults who had sustained a traumatic head injury; the operation ran until 2003.



1985



Chesapeake Center has been making Crab Mallets for 20 years, providing training in wood-working skills.



1990s

National Award Winner for Performance Excellence from Source America, formerly known as National Industry for the Severely Handicapped.

Chesapeake Center also received this award in 2005, and also the Management Excellence Award in 2007.

2004

Capital Improvements made to 713 Dover Rd. facility in Easton, MD.



2009

Chesapeake Center, Inc. received the Talbot County Chamber of Commerce Non-Profit of the Year Award.



2015

Chesapeake Center, Inc. purchases it's 13th Group Home in Easton, Maryland.



2017

VOCATIONAL & RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

Chesapeake Bay Industries, Inc. (CBI) a division of The Chesapeake Center, provides portal transportation for adults who receive vocational services using 15 passenger vans, eight caravans, four wheelchair vans and five sedans. Three part-time drivers average 3,170 miles per week. CBI is the sole supplier of cotton wiping cloths sewn for the U.S. Navy's submarine service through a government set aside contract. The work center also provides small assembly and kitting to local businesses. These jobs provide income to the workers so they can become more self-sufficient.

Chesapeake Group Homes, Inc. provides supervised residential services, available through 13 staffed group homes and additional apartment rentals. The agency provides onsite staff to support the daily living requirements for individuals who live there and to promote community involvement. Some homes are handicapped accessible with accommodations throughout the structures to provide for independent mobility for those living with physical and mental disabilities.

The Chesapeake Developmental Unit, Inc. provides a wide range of training, coaching and work environments that provide meaningful work and some gainful employment that assists individuals with disabilities to reach their potential. A trained and dedicated staff, under the direction of Lisa Korell, supports individual training plans for about 100 participants with coaching to transition individuals to a community work environment. Chesapeake Developmental Unit documents great success recently in expanding opportunities to place individuals with local employers and plans to expand investments in these efforts.



BUSINESS CONNECTIONS

Over the years, the Chesapeake Center has joined together with the business community to provide vocational and employment opportunities within the Center's manufacturing facility and within our neighborhood. Here's what some of our business partners have to say:

"The Chesapeake Center has been our trusted partner in providing excellent product to the Government through the AbilityOne Program, while creating job opportunities for dozens of people with significant disabilities. I congratulate them on their 50th anniversary."

Gary Poindexter, Senior Account Manager, SourceAmerica

"For many years, The Chesapeake Center has stood strong and has been a major contributor to the success of Celeste Industries. Lisa Korell and her team have worked tirelessly over the years to provide Celeste with superior products and on time deliveries."

Dean Wriston, Purchasing Mgr, EHS Mgr, Process Eng, Celeste Industries

"The Chesapeake Center has given us the opportunity to employ dependable and hardworking employees. The job coach has been very supportive and helpful in ensuring employee success."

Will Butler, General Manager, Dominos



"Chesapeake Center should be applauded for the tremendous work they do in our community."

Beth Winter, Owner Wades Point Inn

"Our team is more productive with the addition of the employee from the Chesapeake Center. It is a wonderful opportunity and the assistance from the job coaches for supportive employment, makes the employee dependable and reliable."

Ryan Gaultney, Manager, Pasco's

LIVING THE LIFE — TIA'S STORY

When Tia left her grandmother's home and care in 2009, she was nervous and shy, not sure what to expect from living in a group home setting. She had been showing signs of extreme anxiety and other symptoms that interfered with her ability to make friends, hold down a job, and develop the skills and confidence needed to live life as independently as possible. Chesapeake Group Homes (CGH) provided the structure she needed in a small group setting alongside her peers with disabilities to develop a daily routine, learn how to plan her day, meals and leisure activities. She also receives encouragement to express her feelings and thoughts rather than hold them in.



As her self-confidence grew, so did Tia's determination to live on her own. CGH responded by providing an opportunity to live as independently in the community as possible while still receiving staff supports. As a result, in 2016 Tia moved into her own single bedroom apartment and is living successfully in a diverse community among neighbors without disabilities. Licensed by the Developmental Disabilities Administration, CGH provides the apartment option for people with developmental disabilities who have learned the skills necessary to live independently in the community with staff supports as needed.

For Tia, routine supports provided from staff at scheduled times help her maintain the independent skills she already has while also encouraging more involvement in the local community, such as working out at the YMCA. Tia also benefits from the support she has had from extended family who live in the area. The responsibilities of living life independently are not always fun—like paying her bills—But this only motivates Tia to work harder to increase earned income. When asked what she likes most about her life today she says smiling shyly, "Making dinner for my boyfriend, visiting with him, and I can go to bed as late as I want to."

SUPPORT THE CHESAPEAKE CENTER

Your tax-deductible donation to the Chesapeake Center will help us continue to build a community where adults with disabilities become empowered to demonstrate their choice of residence, career, friends and activities where they are safe from abuse, neglect, recrimination or ridicule. PLEASE JOIN US in helping these individuals become vital members of the community by making a donation today.



YES! I WANT TO HELP with my donation of:

- \$500 \$100 \$ 25
 \$250 \$50 \$_____ other

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

My check is enclosed payable to Chesapeake Center

Please charge my gift to: _____ VISA _____ MasterCard _____ Discover

Card # _____

Amount \$ _____ Exp _____ Signature _____

My gift is eligible to be matched by: _____



Mail to:

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