



Transcript for Participation House Support Services Video

(music, logos)

Announcer: Participation House supports individuals with developmental disabilities and/or complex physical needs to live in their own homes, participate in the community and enjoy life with family and friends.

Liz Ryder, Parent: When Jay first came; he was still in high school. I've always said if he didn't come and live in such a supportive environment, that he would never have been as independent, mature, and allowed to mature the way that he has been here with Participation House.

Maria Sinovic, Board President: As we age, we become aware that we are not going to be around forever and it gives us a lot of peace and comfort knowing she's in a home where the staff know her, the staff is really interested in promoting her interests and looking after her really well, and knowing she will be well looked after long after mom and dad are not able to be a part of her life anymore.

Gary Jazey, Foundation President: Our son at first was apprehensive. When it got down to time for the move, he started thinking "my parents don't want me" or something like that. We realized he was a little concerned about it but once he got into his new home, life changed for all of us. And it was almost instantly that our home was no longer his home. His home was where he was. He felt that good about it. And the feeling that it gives a parent to know your child, your baby now feels more comfortable somewhere else, out of your care and can do it successfully, makes you feel so grateful.

Brian Dunne, Executive Director: People and families want to live in communities, want to be supported in the community, and want to have a home environment, want to feel safe, so good accessible housing is very important to the people we serve and their families. We all have things we want to do in our lives and people with disabilities also have hopes and dreams of things they want to do with their lives. So we support the goals and dreams that they have the best we can. That may be an activity in the community, it may be a job, or a volunteer role. It may be going to school. As we grow and mature, those dreams may change and hopefully we can help support people to reach their full potential, whatever that may be.

David Wighton, Community Development Co-ordinator: Meaningful days are important to everybody and particularly to the people we support here at Participation House. So we work hard to find out what is really of interest to the individual.

Shannon Riley, Senior Co-ordinator: So if we have an individual who is very creative and artistic, for them it's meaningful to go to an art class or to a pottery class so it varies from person to person. But it's being involved in the community. It's getting to know everyone out there. It's not just being here at the house. It's getting to meet others.

Liz: He just recently started working, delivering medications for a pharmacy, and he's involved in the community in Special Olympics in several things. He does floor hockey and bowling and in the wintertime he skis, so he keeps really busy and it's been really good for him to be here.

Gary: We'll get a call when we think he's coming over and it's "I gotta do this and gotta do that." It's not that he doesn't want to come over. He's busy. He has his life, just like I have my life and we have our lives. He's got his life and I think at first, parents have a hard time understanding it. They're no different than anybody else. They want to be the same as everybody else. They ARE the same as everybody else. And so they enjoy life like everybody else and it's because of places like Participation House that they can do this.

Maria: On Sundays, Chrissy always comes to our house and when she leaves at nighttime, there's a big smile of recognition on her face when she sees the van driver who picks her up. And when she enters the door here, there's also a big smile on her face and although she doesn't speak, she tells you with her eyes that "all is fine in my world," and often her big smiles let you know that "this is a really good spot for me to be."

Shannon: I think what I like most is family involvement, and that family is involved in the decision making with their family member, especially those who may not be able to make decisions for themselves. I really like that about the agency. I really love the mission. I love the fact that we're so involved with the community, and as you can tell, the houses are beautiful. The houses are homey, not just a house. They reflect their personalities and I find it's a very warm environment.

Brian: We know at the moment of probably 20 families who have come to us looking for some help. Their son or daughter has graduated from school, with very significant needs and no supports. Or they're an aging parent who are now embracing their own needs in the aging process and their 50 or 60 year old son or daughter who has always lived with them all their life, is now in a crisis situation. So we're seeing both ends of it and there is

a great need to pull these families together, and to try to work with them to raise the issue of more supports and funding for those families.

Maria: They are respected. They are well-served. Staff is always interested in the good of the individual, so the activities in which our people are involved are tailored to their needs. Families are welcome, families are part of Participation House and I think in order for parents to feel at ease with their children living here, you need to feel that you can continue to be part of their life, and I really feel that Participation House does that to a very great extent.

To make a donation or for more information, please go to www.participationhouse.com or call 519-660-6635.