

Every person deserves the opportunity to live a fulfilling life, and for individuals with developmental or intellectual disabilities, a variety of supportive services can make all the difference. Across our community, there are a range of services and resources designed to promote independence, dignity, and connection.

Community-Based Services provide individuals with the chance to live, learn, and grow in the neighborhoods they call home—rather than in isolated settings. These services foster inclusion and create stronger, more diverse communities.

At the heart of these efforts is a commitment to Protecting Rights, ensuring that every individual is treated with respect and empowered to make choices about their own lives. This foundation supports opportunities for meaningful employment, where individuals contribute their skills and talents while earning a paycheck and building independence.

Person-Centered Planning ensures that support is tailored to everyone's strengths, capabilities, goals, and preferences. By putting the person—not the system—at the center, services are much more responsive and effective.

Beyond work, individuals are encouraged to engage in Community Life, from social activities to civic events, strengthening their sense of belonging. Opportunities for volunteering not only benefit the broader community - but also provide individuals with a sense of purpose, connection, and pride.

Together, these efforts highlight a simple truth: when people with developmental and intellectual disabilities are supported to fully participate in society, the entire community is enriched.

Riverside Foundation: A Community for Those With Developmental Disabilities

A Vernon Township Community Mental Health Board (VTCMHB) grant recipient, Riverside Foundation enriches lives through services and support.

Since July 1976, Riverside Foundation (Riverside) has been dedicated to enriching the lives of adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities through high-quality services and compassionate support. Their mission is to ensure every individual that is served can make meaningful choices, build independence, and thrive in a positive, caring environment.

Riverside believes in advocacy, education, and full community inclusion. The organization works in close partnership with families, volunteers, and the broader community to empower individuals, support their staff, and foster a professional, compassionate workplace where respect and dignity guide all that they do.

The organization operates a licensed Intermediate Care Facility (ICF), providing residential services to 87 adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. It

additionally manages seven Community Integrated Living Arrangements (CILAs) and one intermittent CILA throughout Lake County, Illinois, supporting an additional 30 individuals. Looking ahead, Riverside plans to expand by opening three additional homes in the next two years, further extending their reach and impact.

The Riverside Community Center is hub of the Community Day Program, which offers a robust schedule of educational, developmental, and leisure opportunities. Participants strengthen their life skills, express creativity, and engage meaningfully with the community that is created there. Individuals can explore local culture through museum visits, enjoy regular outings to restaurants, stores, and theaters, and take part in activities like bowling and movie nights. They additionally contribute through volunteer opportunities, fostering both personal growth and community connection.

Together, the residential and day programs provided by Riverside form a comprehensive system of support that empowers individuals to reach their fullest potential—socially, emotionally, and personally.

Riverside lives by five guiding principles:

- o Supportive - Promoting independence while offering assistance as needed.
- o Inclusive - Ensuring full participation in community life.
- o Person-Centered - Tailoring supports to each individual's strengths, needs, and goals.
- o Empowering - Building skills, confidence, and self-advocacy.
- o Compassionate - Providing services with care, respect, and dignity.

The organization's unwavering commitment is to promote the health, happiness, and independence of the individuals that are served, while always treating them—and their families—with dignity, respect, and understanding.

Learn more at riversidefoundation.net or call 847-634-3973.