



2022 ANNUAL REPORT



**BLUE WATER
DEVELOPMENTAL
HOUSING INC.**

Inspiring. Individual. Independence.

supporting INDIVIDUALS

Individuals supported receive compassionate encouragement from BWDH staff

LIVING A MEANINGFUL LIFE



Living a life full of purpose and meaning is important to everyone.

Over the past year, individuals supported by Blue Water Developmental Housing, Inc. have been provided with more opportunities to volunteer their time and talents to a wide range of organizations, thus providing even more meaningful community and personal engagement.

According to BWDH Residential Division Services Director Andrea Bubel, providing individuals supported with more volunteer opportunities has provided valuable service to the community, as well as professional and personal enrichment to the individuals.

"A lot of our individuals are looking for a job, so these volunteer opportunities help them prepare for a possible job in the future," said Bubel. "Additionally, we see a lot better behavior and attitude in those individuals who are involved."

Bubel said she organizes the various volunteer activities and puts the call out for anyone interested in helping out.

Volunteer activities have included landscaping projects at Hunter Hospitality House, ringing the bell for the Salvation Army, and maintaining a portion of the Wadhams to Avoca Trail. Bubel noted the individuals volunteering come with a variety of levels of ability.

"I haven't come across anything that our individuals haven't been able to do," she said. "It gives them newfound purpose and it gives them something to look forward to and it helps give them purpose and a reason for getting up in the morning."

BUILDING A COMPASSIONATE TEAM

Team building is an important part of any work environment, and at Blue Water Developmental Housing, Inc., team building has taken fun to a whole new level.

The newly formed Employee Engagement Committee is helping staff from across the organization engage with one another in new and fun ways.

According to Ashley Lueth, Secretarial Assistant and EEC organizer, a number of fun, off-site activities have been planned, such as visiting the arcade at Sperry's Moviehouse. Other activities have included scavenger hunts and fun-fundraisers for the Employee Emergency Fund.

"We want to show our staff we know how hard they work and how much they are appreciated," said Lueth. "These activities provide a way for us to get together outside of work and remind us that we are all part of one organization working together for a common cause."



LIVING THEIR BEST LIVES

Going out to dinner with friends.

Dancing the night away with some of your favorite people.

Volunteering time for good causes.

For individuals supported by Blue Water Developmental Housing, Inc., there can be challenges associated with participating in activities most people consider routine.

Thanks to a group of team coordinators at five different Supportive Living Arrangements managed by BWDH, individuals supported are living life to the fullest.

Each supportive living arrangement has multiple residents and the team coordinators bring residents from all five living situations together to engage in a wide range of outings and activities. These joint activities help individuals supported engage with the community in a variety of ways, be it socializing with one another or serving the community as volunteers.

"It gives them that social interaction, and interacting with the community and their peers," said Dorothy Wareham, Team Coordinator at New Hampshire Home. "We have several who are nonverbal, and they are getting more exposure to others and they are using their words more. One of my nonverbal



individuals will point at the calendar and smile," indicating that she is looking forward to the activities that come up on a regular basis.

"We plan events that they have a say-so in," Wareham said. "It gives them something to look forward to."

Wareham said that friendships have developed between the residents from the different living situations. "They have close friends now. I have residents in my home who don't have family outside of our house, so getting together and building these relationships is especially important."

Wareham noted that participation in these activities has helped the individuals' overall health.

"Their emotions are better," said Wareham. "One resident told me, 'My doctor says I'm much better now that I see my friends, and that I'm getting more of a social life than he has.'"

Family members and guardians have also noticed a positive change. "One of the guardians of a resident said: 'I haven't seen her smile and laugh in a long time.'"

Activities the individuals supported engage in have ranged from going out to dinner together, to attending a Prowlers hockey game to attending organized holiday parties, including a Valentine's Day-themed "Heart Party."

Last summer, the group marched in the International Day Parade in Port Huron.

"We walked in the parade with BWDH and that was on a resident's bucket list after watching a parade," said Wareham. "The resident said, 'I want to be famous, too!' After we walked in the parade, he said, 'Did you see me? I was famous!'"

Wareham said coordinating these activities is worth all of the effort due to the outcomes they have seen in individuals supported.

"To me, this is giving them the best life they can have."

from The EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

At Blue Water Developmental Housing, Inc., we are honored to provide services to some of the most vulnerable citizens in our community. We take great strides to hire compassionate staff who will always put the best interests of the individuals we serve ahead of all else.

Our staff is creative in their approach to tackling challenging issues. They do not hesitate to think outside of the box to help those we serve live their best lives filled with joyous moments filled with laughter and happiness.

One of the end results of that spirit of cooperation is that our staff doesn't approach their work as a job; they care about their colleagues and the individuals we serve as if they were family.

To encourage this family-focused camaraderie, our executive team initiated a new Employee Engagement Committee designed to help the organization, as a whole, better engage with the community, while also helping the individuals we serve better engage with the community, as well.

This committee has helped BWDH become more involved in community activities such as the Port Huron Rotary International Day Parade, the Port Huron Santa Parade, and the Port Huron and Marysville holiday lights displays at local parks.

Additionally, our team recognized that, just like within a family, sometimes team members fall upon hard times. In order to help ease unusually difficult financial burdens placed upon staff members, an Employee Resource Committee, along with an Employee Emergency Fund, has been established. The fund, which is primarily funded by staff, offers team members the opportunity to apply for financial assistance to help pay for a range of unexpected expenses.

These activities help our team members build better relationships with one another, with the individuals they serve, and with our community as a whole. All of that contributes to a better sense of family and community, helping blend home and work into a positive, enriching experience for all of us.



LISA BEEDON
Executive Director

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

Blue Water Developmental Housing, Inc. is a private, not for profit organization that provides a variety of quality housing and support services through residential and community based programs for people with special needs and those involved in their lives.



We use person-centered planning to promote choice, self-determination and the empowerment of each individual in creating their own plan of service.

- Our Specialized Adult Foster Care Homes are licensed for up to six beds that are regulated by the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA), Bureau of Community and Health Systems.
- BWDH offers support services for individuals with disabilities who reside independently or with their families in the community.
- All employees must successfully complete the direct care training program and are also required to have 25 hours of additional training per year.

2022 FINANCIALS

EXPENSES

2021-2022

Residential Services in Licensed Settings:	\$6,952,437
Staffing Supports in an Unlicensed Setting:	\$4,705,923
Administration:	\$1,272,947
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Total:	\$12,931,307

REVENUE

2021-2022

St. Clair County Community Mental Health:	\$9,147,945
Macomb County Community Mental Health:	\$2,453,709
Supplemental Security Income:	\$724,294
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services:	\$571,400
Other:	\$271,202
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Total:	\$13,168,550



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DEVELOPMENTAL
HOUSING INC.**

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