



2023 ANNUAL REPORT



**BLUE WATER
DEVELOPMENTAL
HOUSING INC.**

Inspiring. Individual. Independence.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



LISA BEEDON
Executive Director

The individuals we serve are just that: individuals.

Every day I am inspired by their wit and humor, their desire to live life to the absolute fullest, and their joy as they discover various corners of the world in both big and small ways.

The Blue Water Developmental Housing, Inc. staff and I are so honored to be a part of the colorful and fulfilling lives led by the amazing individuals we have the opportunity to support every day, throughout the year.

Seeing the world through their eyes helps remind all of us to be more patient, more caring and more compassionate to everyone we encounter, be that at work, at home or anywhere in life.

I'm grateful I have the opportunity to serve in this role and I'm in awe, daily, for the inspiration I receive by working with the individuals we serve.

Sincerely,

Lisa

BWDH: ON THE MOVE

In 2023, Blue Water Developmental Housing, Inc., was on the move.

After spending more than 20 years renting a suite of offices in Marysville, the BWDH administration moved to a new location in St. Clair Township in August 2023. The organization purchased its new office building.

The move to the new location was triggered by a number of factors, according to Vonda Willey, director of administrative services at BWDH.

"We needed to improve the space we have available for training staff, and the new building has really helped us out," said Willey. "We have space to hold staff trainings in-house now."

All BWDH staff is required to complete licensing rules and regulations training, and direct care staff is also required to complete basic care training, Willey said.

"Our agency requires 20 to 24 hours of direct care training each year, and then St. Clair County and Macomb County both have training requirements, as well," said Willey. Staff also needs to complete fire and safety training.

Staff is also provided with training on BWDH internal policies



New location on M29 in St. Clair Township

and procedures regarding nutrition, general direct care, and cultural diversity.

To help organize the training schedule, BWDH also hired a training and safety coordinator. "She's also maintaining our safety training and policies to make sure we are up to speed each year," said Willey.

Because BWDH was able to purchase its new administrative location, "It saves us money," said Willey. "We are no longer paying rent. So we've made an investment in the organization, and we have three tenants here, so we are bringing in income, as well. It's a win-win."

TEAMING UP FOR A GOOD CAUSE

Let's go Red Wings!

Blue Water Developmental Housing teamed up with the Detroit Red Wings during 2023 to plan a fundraiser to support the BWDH Employee Relief and Employee Education funds.

This fundraiser is not only helped raise funds for two worthy causes, but, more importantly, it helped promote Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) and community inclusion.

"Community inclusion is vital for individuals with developmental disabilities as it fosters social interaction, relationships, and a sense of belonging," said Andrea Bubel, director of the residential services division at BWDH. "Inclusive communities celebrate diversity, challenging stereotypes and promoting acceptance. Participation in community activities contributes to skill development, enhancing independence and overall quality of life."

The fundraiser took place on January 11, 2024. Everyone who attended the game as a part of the BWDH group received a ticket to the game, a shirt, and time on the ice after the game was over.

"It was a night that any hockey fan would dream about, and we got to experience this with some help from some generous sponsors," said Bubel. "With their help, we treated some of the people we serve to a great experience."

Sponsors for the event included: RX Specialites, Meijer, CIA, SEMCO Energy, St. Clair County Community Mental Health, Beacon Wealth, and Bator Lobb PC.



BRIGHT LIGHTS, BIG CITY

Everybody needs a vacation now and then.

A group of four women supported by Blue Water Developmental Housing, Inc. is no different than anyone else in that regard, and they have begun regularly planning excursions, both near and far, with assistance from those who support them.

According to Lea Lewis Hicks, team coordinator with BWDH, staff brought together the four women – two each from two semi-independent living situations in Home of Their Own settings – and helped them plan a vacation to Florida in March of 2023, and then an October 2023 trip to Chicago.

The four women were accompanied by a total of four staff members.

"We went to Chicago by train," said Lewis Hicks. "Traveling by train was an experience in itself. They enjoyed the train ride very much."

Once in the Windy City, the group took the town by storm – and by wheelchair. The four support staff members used the chairs to provide the women they support with accessibility.

"We went to the aquarium, and we got to see the sting rays," she said. "They each got a stuffed animal at the aquarium resembling their favorite animal there."

The group visited Navy Pier and rode the big and picturesque ferris wheel at the end of the pier.

The group also enjoyed a hearty meal of Chicago-style pizza, which was a big hit. That was followed by a visit to Chicago's famous "Second City" comedy stage, where they took in a show.



"We saw a game show there called, 'You've Got Game.' We laughed the entire time," she said. "One of the women with us doesn't talk and she was laughing the whole time. That was really great."

Lewis-Hicks said that the group has also visited Tennessee and done shorter, more local trips.

"They just keep coming up with ideas," she said. "They just love it all. And they deserve it, too. They deserve the same quality of life that everyone else has. Going on vacation definitely makes a difference in their attitude about life. You can just tell when they need a break from the routine of life and it's time to go somewhere."

"It's very rewarding to see how these women light up. They should not live any differently than the rest of us do. They are all happier for it."

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.

2023 FINANCIALS

EXPENSES

2022-2023

Residential Services in Licensed Settings:	\$7,925,862
Staffing Supports in an Unlicensed Setting:	\$5,068,726
Administration:	\$1,788,084
Total:	\$14,782,672

REVENUE

2022-2023

St. Clair County Community Mental Health:	\$10,288,733
Macomb County Community Mental Health:	\$2,661,849
Supplemental Security Income:	\$779,011
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services:	\$345,072
Other:	\$509,316
Total:	\$14,583,981



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DEVELOPMENTAL
HOUSING INC.**

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