



SOLUTIONS FOR ADULT INTER-DEPENDENT HOUSING

SAIL Connect



August 2021

News from SAIL

Established in the Summer of 2019, SAIL consists of a group of parents committed to finding individualized housing solutions for adults with developmental disabilities. SAIL encourages each family to be the architects of their loved ones' housing solution – allowing them to live safely and as independently as possible. SAIL members are committed to supporting one another as we find or create unique housing solutions for our loved ones. We provide mentorship, education, advocacy, and an opportunity to connect with others around the Metro Detroit area via Friendship Connect.

SAIL to Launch Website

We are happy to announce that the SAIL website will be up and running this Fall 2021 and you will be able to join SAIL and become part of our community. We expect the site to evolve as SAIL itself develops as an organization. The site was created to inspire families, create community, foster friendships, and ultimately, help families develop their housing

solution. We will email you when the site is officially launched.

Joining SAIL will provide full access to our website including [SAILing to your IDD Housing Solution](#), a guide created by parents for parents to address some key steps to consider as you develop a plan to move your loved one into a housing solution, access to Friendship Connect online portal and free admission to SAILing Lessons (SAIL's mentorship and education initiative) and Friendship Connect events.

Friendship Connect

Identifying roommates is one of the keys to creating a successful housing solution. SAIL created Friendship Connect as a resource to meet potential roommates as well as friends. The Friendship Connect platform on our website will allow individuals to connect with potential friends who live nearby, have shared interests or are close to the same age. SAIL hopes that families, through



SAILing Lessons- Planning, Dreaming and Working Together

Learn about SAIL's initiative to help parents develop their housing solution. [Page 2](#)



Friendship Connect

Join SAIL and learn about the benefits of Friendship Connect, a SAIL initiative to connect people to people. [Page 1](#)

Friendship Connect cont.

Friendship Connect, will begin to identify potential partner families with whom they can develop appropriate housing solutions for their loved ones.

We are excited to announce that our first Friendship Connect Event will be held Friday, October 8, 2021 at First Presbyterian Church in Birmingham. Details to follow.

SAILing Lessons- Planning, Dreaming and Working Together

Many families delay movement toward independent living for their loved one until he/she is well into adulthood, after siblings have launched and parents face the reality that they will not live forever. Some families are forced to make decisions at inopportune moments - such as the disability or death of a parent. These are not the optimal times to begin the journey. SAILing Lessons will encourage families to imagine the future, and provide a supportive, work group in which to take concrete steps toward an (inter)dependent future for their loved one. There are no easy answers; no one-size-fits-all models. However, every family needs the same information and needs to take the same basic steps in preparation for a successful journey. Lessons will begin in November and will include topics such as Identifying Your Personal Support System; Financial Assets – things to think about; and “Government Speak.”

Look for more specifics in our next newsletter!



SAILing Lessons

**Troy Families Setting Sail**

As of June 2021, the first housing solution under the mentorship of SAIL has been launched with three women choosing to do life together, renting their first apartment in the Troy area. This accomplishment required about a year of work from the partner families and a great deal of trust in each other, not to mention, the trust the young women placed in their parents to develop a housing solution that allows them to live their fullest most independent life. Staff was hired by the families through Employer of Record as opposed to a staffing agency. Families tapped into each of the support staff's strength to address a specific shared goal that aligns with the strength of that team member. For example, one of the staff is quite adept at finding community events. She will work with the roommates on accessing the community and scheduling their weeks. The team is amazing; they are excited to work with the ladies; and the parents are beyond excited to have them on the team!

A lot of groundwork was laid for this launch, but as a parent, you will understand that the heavy lifting is just beginning. Working together as roommates, respecting each other's space and being there as friends are all areas the young women will work on together to help each other live their best, fullest life. As a parent, the process of letting go -- to let a loved one manage their life -- may be the biggest challenge of all, as so much of the life of a parent with a child with challenges revolves around managing their needs and safety.

The possibilities are endless, and it takes planning, trust, and a willingness to roll up your sleeves and committing to a launch!

FAST FACTS

17%

Or only about 1.3 million of those in the U.S. with IDD were receiving home- and community-based services as of 2017.*

* 2021 AbilityLab.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Oct. 8, 2021

Friendship Connect Event, First Presbyterian Church, Birmingham.
TIME: TBD

Nov. 3, 2021

SAILing Lessons, First Presbyterian Church, Birmingham
TIME: TBD

Dec. 3, 2021

Friendship Connect Event, First Presbyterian Church, Birmingham.
TIME: TBD

Jan. 5, 2022

SAILing Lessons, First Presbyterian Church, Birmingham
TIME: TBD

Feb. 4, 2022

Friendship Connect Event, First Presbyterian Church, Birmingham.
TIME: TBD

Mar. 2, 2022

SAILing Lessons, First Presbyterian Church, Birmingham.
TIME: TBD

April 1, 2022

Friendship Connect Event, First Presbyterian Church, Birmingham.
TIME: TBD



Rochester Families Partner with Three Oaks Communities for Inclusive Neighborhoods

A group of families in Rochester has partnered with Three Oaks Communities to build three inclusive neighborhoods in Rochester Hills. Each neighborhood will have a combination of homes for sale to the general public and condominiums for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

Each neighborhood is being designed with physical amenities and services that will encourage choice and community integration for adults who are differently abled. For example, each location is expected to have a Community Builder who will live onsite. This person will be responsible for organizing group events that allow each resident to safely experience the neighborhood and community at large in ways that best meet his or her unique needs and abilities.

Land is currently under contract for each of the planned neighborhoods. Residents should begin moving in starting in early 2024. Those interested in purchasing an IDD condominium or who want to learn more can contact Bill Godfrey at bill@three-oaks.com. Three Oaks Communities has launched a similar neighborhood in Saline, MI. To learn more, visit

<https://www.threeoakscommunities.com/>



SAIL Incorporates as Non-Profit in Michigan, Opens up Membership

SAIL has filed its incorporation papers in Michigan and is in the process of establishing by-laws and a Board of Directors.

As our SAIL community grows, opportunities to volunteer at events or on a committee or even chair a committee will become available. SAIL hopes to help connect people to people and people to resources.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SAIL would like to thank First Presbyterian Church for graciously allowing us to host events at their church.

SAIL would like to thank Cheryl Loveday, Cindy Merten and Joanne Blair for their unwavering support and guidance for the past 2 years.

SAIL VISION

We dream of a day when all individuals, with their unique abilities and talents, can enjoy lives of interdependence, empowerment, and purpose in the community of their choice

FOUNDING MEMBERS

- Susan Chaplin
- Don and Barbara Courtright
- Sara Fentress-Gannon
- Dave and Heather Mingle
- Isidor and Yolande Mueller
- Tom and Diane Mueller
- Susan and Jack Narry
- Jim and Kathy Remski
- Leslie Tons
- Dennis and Ro Varley