

**STEINBACH, MANITOBA**

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# enVision Community Living

In 1956, a group of people from Steinbach began to work together to explore a range of supportive service for people living with intellectual disabilities. They all had the same dream – that their children could live with dignity and quality of life in their own community.

More than 50 years later, enVision Community Living provides a broad and integrated spectrum of day time and residential support services for adults with varying abilities. This includes a full range of services for young adults to retirees, and includes a holistic set of programming including residential services, retirement activities, day programming, as well as skill and capacity building toward creating employment and economic opportunities.

Ensuring that basic residential needs are met is essential for enhancing the quality of life of the individuals who are a part of enVision Community Living. Residential services encompass a wide variety of options, from full 24/7 home based supports to independent living. Supports are tailored to respond to individual needs. As much as possible,

households are developed to accommodate shared interests, and to respect each person's choice of housemate.

The Martha P. Rempel Centre for Development (MPRC) provides day time supports and services based on individual needs, interests, abilities and personal goals. Each person is encouraged to pursue personal growth and development, which includes opportunities for community involvement, volunteer jobs, physical fitness and educational or recreational activities. Specialized supports in physiotherapy, occupational, speech and lan- ➔



→ guage therapies are also offered through the MPRC. On occasion, opportunities for paid employment within the community may also be pursued.

The Retirement Program offers daytime opportunities to older adults who wish to engage in a variety of leisure, recreational and social activities with other community members and friends. Services focus on the specific interests and needs of each person. Each person is encouraged to play an active role in planning how his or her services will be delivered. Emphasis is placed on being connected to the community in a reciprocal manner. People are encouraged to contribute to the community and be supported to access resources that exist in the community.

Beyond ensuring a quality home and supportive services, enVision also looks to build the skills of individuals while creating employment and economic opportunities for them.

Eastman Employment Services (EES) offers employment assistance to people with intellectual, social, physical and learning disabilities as well as mental health issues or other barriers to employment. Services are provided to those in Southeast Manitoba who are unemployed or underemployed and are seeking employment. EES helps these individuals develop the skills and contacts necessary to obtain and maintain meaningful paid employment in the community. This includes providing free support to employees and employers to achieve mutually beneficial partnerships.

Eastman Recycling Services (ERS) provides residential and commercial recycling services in the City of Steinbach and southeast Manitoba communities. Recycling services are provided by a team of client workers and staff who pick up materials, sort them

by product and type, bale them for shipping and sell to customers all over North America. The two main objectives of ERS are as follows: Provide meaningful community employment for people with intellectual disabilities; and provide a needed and valuable service to citizens and businesses in southeastern Manitoba.

In 2007 ERS processed approximately 3.3 million kg of recycled materials, enough to fill 160 semi-trailer trucks or a convoy over 3 km in length.

Kindale Industries provides work and work-related training, with some educational and recreational op-

tions. People at Kindale can choose from facility-based work options such as woodworking, sewing, packaging or product assembly. Through the Supported Employment Program, participants can also access community-based work.

Education and training options are also available. People can choose to develop skills in lit-

eracy, numeracy, computer skills and other opportunities designed to meet individual needs and interests. Recreational programming includes swimming/aquasize and aerobics with professional instructors as well as various social activities.

People taking action locally to create economic opportunities and enhance social conditions for people in the community has long been held as a definition of Community Economic Development, as has the concept of comprehensive and integrated approaches to development and social services, and it is easy to see those concepts and values embodied in the history and current organization with “enVision.”

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