

## LIFESHARING

Lifesharing is a residential option offered as an alternative to group homes, independent, or supported living. Lifesharing is a family or individual along with a person, diagnosed with an intellectual or developmental disability, or autism who mutually choose to share a home and life experiences together. The individuals may or may not be related. These carefully matched arrangements become a long term and trusting relationship in which the supported person becomes an extension of that household.

Since 1985, KenCrest's Lifesharing program has successfully brought more than 140 people with disabilities and Lifesharing families together in PA. Some of which have been together for over 30 years. We currently support more than 50 Lifesharing families in seven Pennsylvania counties: Berks, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lancaster, Montgomery, and Philadelphia.

**Choosing Lifesharing** 

Lifesharing creates new and enduring relationships that provide an ideal foundation for learning, encouraging self-esteem, and fostering mutual connectedness.

Our program focuses on the growth and development of each person in Lifesharing. The Lifesharing family supports the person to achieve their fullest potential, according to their individual needs, while providing community access and involvement required for success.

Being a Lifesharing family with a person with disabilities, who may or may not be biologically related, means opening one's home and heart to someone who desires to live in a shared, supportive family environment.

Lifesharing families meet the physical, medical, emotional, and social needs of the people being served. They provide an environment that supports full access to and integration into the community, including activities, events, employment, volunteering, and more. Lifesharing families encourage the person to have goals, dream dreams, make plans, and live an Everyday Life.

Supports

KenCrest provides full support to all Lifesharing families, which continues for the duration of the program participation. Beginning the first day of participation, the family has access to as little or as much support as they want. Supports available to Lifesharing families include, but are not limited to:

• 24/7 on-call emergency support

Ongoing, individualized training conveniently offered in the family's home

Substitute care (up to 30 days annually)

Team support and person-centered planning

Assistance with medical support



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