



Living With Dignity ♦ Growing With Pride

Our Mission

Our mission is to provide services that facilitate an independent and productive life experience for individuals with developmental disabilities including mental retardation and autism.

Our Mission's Guiding Principles

Life's WORC is committed to identifying and offering community services to both institutionalized and community children and adults with mental retardation, severe physical disabilities and autism and as well as to their families to:

- **Help the community understand that children and adults with mental retardation and developmental disabilities are people with human rights and abilities, feelings and hopes, who have the inalienable right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness in or near their own home towns and communities;**
- **Develop programs that encourage individual potential for independence as free of physical and social barriers as possible;**
- **Encourage individual growth and development in a nurturing "family like" environment equal to the life style and safety that should be afforded every person;**
- **Advocating, developing and managing programs and services that provide innovative alternatives to institutionalization.**

The mission of Life's WORC is a commitment to the inherent worth and dignity of every individual irrespective of degree or type of handicapping condition. To accomplish its mission, Life's WORC will focus its energy and resources on goals. To insure the achievement of its mission, Life's WORC is committed to actively reaching out to families, community members, medical facilities, governmental agencies, and other private and not-for-profit organizations in order to identify the services and supports needed by individuals with severe disabilities so that they may attain quality of life outcomes within their community. Life's WORC's main mission, to create alternative residential settings for persons with multiple handicaps within the community, has been adopted by service providers nationwide as the best way to provide quality residential service to this population.

Based on the inherent worth and dignity of all people, including those with profound developmental disabilities, Life's WORC has six goals:

1. **Recognize these special individuals as people with human rights, feelings and capabilities.**
2. **Encourage independence and provide a life as free of restrictions as possible.**
3. **Encourage growth and development and provide a lifestyle equal to that of every other citizen.**
4. **Allow residents privacy and personal properties.**
5. **Offer personal choice within the individual's developmental level.**
6. **Prevent institutionalization.**