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# Register Now for Envision's Go the Extra Mile Walk

*Presented by USI*

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**Come and join us on Saturday,  
October 8th from 10-1 at Winton  
Woods for Envision's Go the Extra  
Mile Walk – Presented by USI.**

Enjoy a scenic stroll around the lake followed by a fun, free festival with games, activities, inflatables, raffles, prizes, vendors, music, and lunch by Outback Steakhouse.

Envision's Go the Extra Mile is designed to support and encourage children and adults with disabilities in Cincinnati. While having fun, you can make a difference in the life of your neighbor with developmental disabilities.

- Come walk and play on event day with your friends and family to show your support.
- Buy or sell raffle tickets for amazing items and experiences.

- Invite others to join you, or start a walk team.
- Help us promote the walk at your social club, class or local store.
- Fundraise with our easy online software.

All these things together create an amazing event that raises funds to help Envision provide life changing support services that people in our community depend on. In addition, we have medals that you can earn, prizes that you can win, and incentives for fundraising as a small token of our appreciation for all your help and hard work.

Each year gets bigger and better, and you don't want to miss out on the fun. Everyone is welcome to join us for a great day at the park for this free community event. **Registration is required. Go to [www.envisionohio.org/events](http://www.envisionohio.org/events) for more information or to register.**

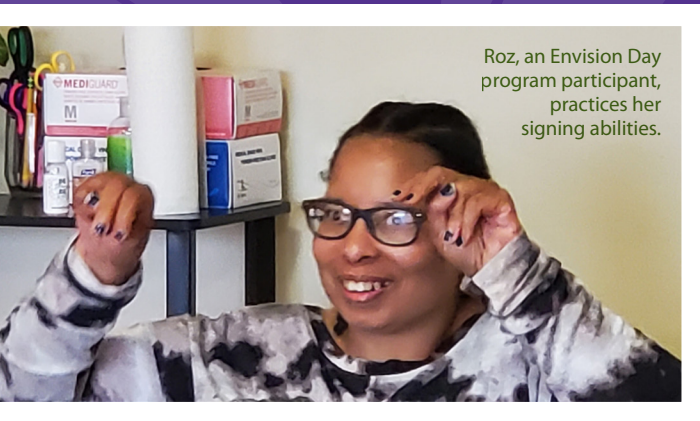
### THIS EVENT IS GREAT FOR:

couples, families, singles,  
people of all abilities,  
well behaved pets,  
corporate walk teams,  
local walking clubs,  
people who support  
Envision, and  
people who haven't  
heard about Envision yet.

Feel free to invite your family,  
neighbors, and friends!

Register today:  
[envisionohio.org/events](http://envisionohio.org/events)





Roz, an Envision Day program participant, practices her signing abilities.



Evie and Samantha work together to learn the sign for "apple." "It's fun," says Samantha.

## American Sign Language (ASL) Class Fosters Compassion through Communication

Envision Day is offering sign language classes to day program participants and staff. The class, facilitated by Jodi Creighton, Community Living and Program Supports Supervisor, takes place bi-weekly and was born out of an urgency to find a more effective way to facilitate meaningful interactions within the day program community.

Melissa Paton, Envision Day Program Director, noticed that program participants often felt "frustration" when they found it difficult to "communicate" what they wanted to say. Joining forces with Creighton, the two envisioned a new program that not only encouraged participants to use their voices, but also forged new friendships along the way.

Students in the class offer input about the signs they would like to learn and are encouraged to adapt the signs to their own abilities. Both Creighton and Paton stress the importance of giving students this type of "ownership" of the class, which fosters autonomy and contributes to the overall success and popularity of the program. Says Creighton, "it really has made such a difference."

Language is taught in the class that allows students to communicate their basic needs, as well as more complex phrases to communicate their thoughts and feelings. This has helped program participants become more skilled at regulating their emotions and more attuned to the emotions of their classmates. As students have become more involved in the class, a mutual respect has developed, giving students a safe space to express themselves and to also learn the important role patience plays in developing and maintaining relationships.

"When we started the class, we initially needed a "talking stick" to make sure everyone had an uninterrupted opportunity to participate. We have quickly evolved and no longer have a need for it," says Paton. Through turn-taking and gentle reminders from Creighton, students have not only learned a new manner of communication, but also how to be a kind and compassionate friend. As one student, Roz, so thoughtfully stated as she observed her classmate communicating a sign, "I'm going to give him time."

Envision Day is a multi-activity day program with social, recreational, and community inclusion opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities in Hamilton County.

To learn more about Envision Day and to donate to our programs, please visit [www.envisionohio.org](http://www.envisionohio.org).

Jodi Creighton interacts with Steve as he signs his interpretation of the word "butterfly".





# When a House Becomes a Home

John keeps an album of pictures that captures the history of his young life. Inside, there is a photograph of John as an infant, dressed in a blue romper, his smiling eyes accentuated by his round, cherubic cheeks. In the photo, you can see John's beginnings, the hope for his life and the promise of things to come.

Another photo in the album is a picture of John when he is 14. No longer the infant in the blue romper, John sits in a plastic chair outside of a large office window, a black grid etched into the glass. He is wearing blue jeans and an oversized white tee shirt, his cheeks still round and full, his eyes full of sadness and apprehension as he wonders what is to come. The photo was taken the day John came to live with Cynthia Taylor, only three short weeks after the death of his mother, his only parent and caregiver.

John, an individual with autism, is an avid artist who loves to draw, collect Beanie Babies, and travel. He especially loves Pokémon and often plays the game online. John is also very good with directions and can expertly navigate his way around the Cincinnati Zoo. "He's my roadmap," says Cynthia. "I absolutely love going to the zoo with John. It's a pleasure."

When John isn't busy exploring the zoo, he also spends his time volunteering at local nonprofit agencies. Adept at computers, John offers his IT skills where needed, and even helps to keep the computers up to date at an area technology lab. Now 24, John has grown into an independent young adult who Cynthia describes as full of "goodness."

Although John initially came to live with Cynthia through the foster care system, due to a unique program offering, he transitioned into the Envision Family Living Program

once he turned 18 and has been with Cynthia since. The Family Living Program allows individuals diagnosed with developmental disabilities to live with screened, trained, and certified foster families in a shared living environment. Through this program, individuals become a valued member of the family and receive support from their caregivers in reaching their goals and aspirations.

Alone and afraid after the death of his biological mother, John was unsure of what to expect when he first came to live with Cynthia and her family. Through kind and consistent interactions, Cynthia has helped John to overcome his fears and has supported him as he has developed new skills that allow him to successfully navigate social situations. Through positive reinforcement, dedication and determination, John and Cynthia have evolved into a family unit that is quite simply just meant to be. According to Cynthia, John is "easy to be a part of this family. He's such a kind person."

This has clearly also been the case for John, who found exactly what he needed in his new family to become the successful and caring young man he is today. Although

not always uncomplicated, together Cynthia and John have navigated both the joys and sorrows of life, cultivating a relationship that is uniquely their own. From traveling the country together to mourning the loss of Cynthia's beloved husband and John's foster father Bill, it is evident that John and Cynthia both feel a strong sense of responsibility towards one another. Says John, "the family's the only thing I care more about than Pokémon. Nobody will hurt them on my watch."

**For more information about the Family Living Program and to support families like the Taylor's, please visit [www.envisionohio.org/donate](http://www.envisionohio.org/donate).**



John and Cynthia pose for a photo with a floral centerpiece that showcases Cynthia's impressive gardening skills





“I imagine everyone coming together in here in the mornings to have their coffee and plan their day. It is really such a beautiful space”

– Melissa Paton,  
Envision Day Program Director



Envision Day program participants enjoy lunch together in their new dining room.

## Envision Day is on Their Way!

Due to popular demand, Envision Day, our day program for adults with developmental disabilities, has relocated to a larger space on our West Fork Road campus. Program participants now have access to a more expansive space where they can socialize and engage in enrichment opportunities. This includes the addition of a brand-new kitchen space, (made possible by a generous grant from the Good Shepherd Foundation), that will give program participants the opportunity to interact while learning basic life skills related to food handling, preparation, and kitchen safety. Melissa Paton, Envision Day Program Director, envisions the new kitchen area as the heart of the program, a place where people can gather and learn together. Says Paton, “I imagine everyone coming together in here in the mornings to have their coffee and plan their day. It is really such a beautiful space.”

When not in the kitchen thinking up new culinary creations, program participants can explore the new space they now call home. In addition to the new kitchen, the program includes a multi-sensory space, a media room, a large dining/gathering area, and a recreation room where individuals can relax and look through a large bay window

at the beautifully landscaped greenspace they have so lovingly helped to cultivate. This includes large planters filled with bursting, fire engine red geraniums and a garden flag that extends a warm welcome to everyone who arrives.

Not only is the new space esthetically pleasing, but it is now large enough to accommodate more than double the number of individuals who currently attend. Says Paton, “people now have the opportunity to enjoy the freedom” that exploring a larger space provides. Much like the lovely red flowers in the garden. Envision Day has become a safe place where individuals can gather, grow, and thrive.

Envision Day is open Monday through Friday 9am-3pm and is currently accepting new participants. The program encourages and offers the opportunity for those attending to plan community outings as well as center-based activities.

**If you or a loved one is interested in building friendships and opportunities in the community, please contact Melissa Paton at 513-667-8189 or [mpaton@envisionohio.org](mailto:mpaton@envisionohio.org).**



# New Youth Respite for Resilience Program Offers Relief to Overwhelmed Families

Envision opened the doors to a new respite program on July 1, 2022. The program will offer short-term respite care (up to 90 days) for individuals ages 8-18 and will provide a safe, enriching, and consistent environment for children and youth with complex needs.

This new program, provided in partnership with the Southwestern Ohio Council of Governments (SWOCOG), addresses the lack of respite care facilities in the community and offers families the opportunity to access services locally. According to Joan Justiniano, SWOCOG Multisystem Coordinator, respite care “need and demand is [currently] greater than availability.” Because of this, individuals are often placed in health care facilities far removed from the communities in which they live. These placements often create hardships for families, forcing them to endure the “pain of separation” and “reality of not being able to care for [their] loved ones. There is a human cost that’s happening [here],” says Justiniano.

The lack of quality respite care locally impacts not only the individuals in need of care, but their families as well. Because of this, families utilizing the program will receive specialized training and education that will allow them to continue to provide quality care at home. Families will also have access to a local resource network that will create connections to the community and additional services based on need.

“Envision is proud to partner with SWOCOG in implementing the Youth Respite for Resilience Program on our west side campus,” says Jim Steffey, President and CEO of Envision. “Respite, especially



Multisensory materials are readily and regularly available to program participants.

for children with challenging behaviors, is something that parents have been asking for and we are happy that Envision can help meet that need.” Adds Justiniano, by “meeting people where they are right now...we can interrupt the cycle of escalation and crisis” that families consistently face and instead help them to build the resilience skills they need for a full and vibrant life.

**Families interested in the respite program at Envision can contact their Service and Support Administrator (SSA) for more information and/or to request a referral.**



A welcoming space at the respite program encourages fun and creativity.



Wall art greets and encourages individuals receiving respite care services.



# 2021 Annual Report



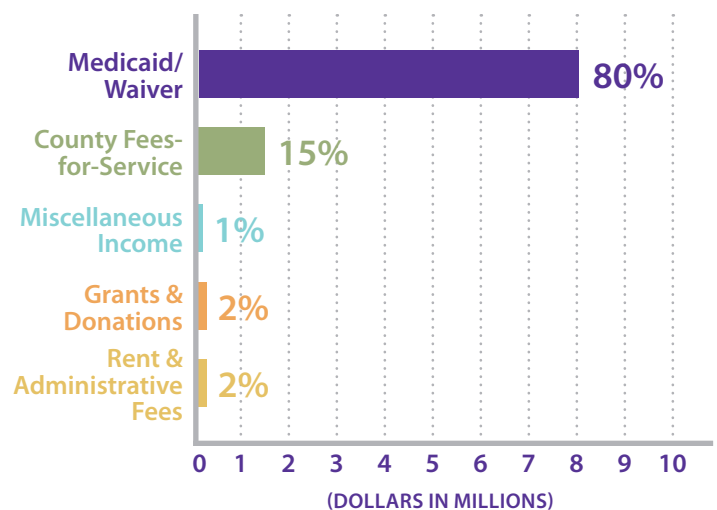
CITE:	304
Mental Health Services:	172
Supported Living:	80
Family Living:	49
Day Program	17



## SATISFACTION SURVEY



## % REVENUE BY SOURCE \$9,431,199





# With Much Gratitude for Our 2021 Donors

## \$25,000+

Good Shepherd Foundation  
Hamilton County Developmental Disabilities Services

## \$10,000 - \$24,999

Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA)

## \$1,000 - \$9,999

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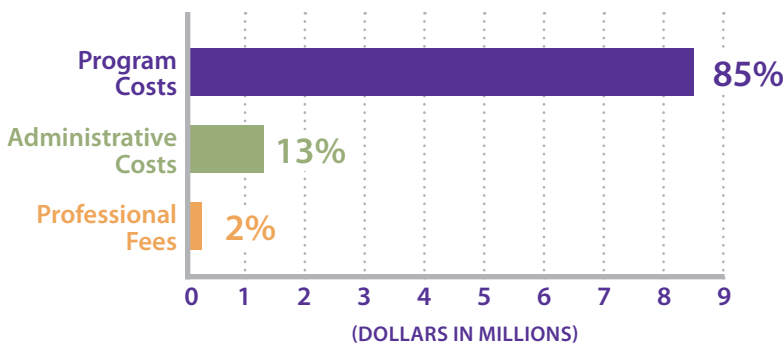
## \$1 - \$99

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## % EXPENSE BY TYPE \$8,876,256





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# Go the Extra Mile Walk – Presented by USI

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Register today at [envisionohio.org/events](https://envisionohio.org/events)



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