



## **Benefits of Lifesharing**

- ◆ **Companionship, friendship and trust**
- ◆ **Consistency and stability in the life of others as well as your own**
- ◆ **Increased involvement and awareness in the community**
- ◆ **Positive relationships, growth and new responsibility**

## **Let's Hear from the Experts**

*Comments from Individuals Living in Lifesharing Homes*

- ◆ **I wouldn't trade this for anything!**
- ◆ **My life is has more purpose and meaning since my family has opened our home!**
- ◆ **I feel loved!**
- ◆ **I finally was able to go on a vacation with those I love!**

## **Westmoreland County Lifesharing Coalition**

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### **Mission Statement:**

*To increase awareness, so that Lifesharing is a commonly recognized concept for providers, Supports Coordination Organizations, individuals and the community as a whole. We aim to encourage people to expand their family circle by inviting others to share their homes, their families, and their lives.*

### **Want further information?**

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#### **Contact your Supports Coordinator**

Westmoreland Casemanagement & Supports, Inc. (WCSI)  
770 East Pittsburgh St.  
Greensburg, PA 15601

Telephone (724) 837-1808  
Toll-free 1-800-353-6467  
Fax (724) 837- 8294

#### **Contact Westmoreland County's Lifesharing Point Person**

(724) 830-3617

**Visit the Pennsylvania  
Lifesharing website**

**[www.pennsylvanialifesharing.org](http://www.pennsylvanialifesharing.org)**

Westmoreland County

# Lifesharing



*Having a place to  
go is  
**HOME,***

*Having someone  
to love  
is  
**FAMILY,***

*Having both  
is  
**A WONDERFUL  
LIFE!***

## Lifesharing- Is it a better option?

### **Better Individual Satisfaction;**

Lifesharers consistently report higher satisfaction with where they lived and their overall livelihood. *(Based on Independent Monitoring For Quality (IM4Q) results from 2007-2010.)*

### **Better Value for Each Dollar;**

For every person served in a typical Community Living Arrangement (CLA) 2 people could be served in a Lifesharing Home. *(Data Source; Lakin, K.C. MSIS and NCI data from 4 states (AL, KY, WY, OK-1,240 Individuals)*

### **Better Retention of Support**

#### **Staff;**

Within our county, across multiple providers, there are many individuals that have benefited from the stability of a Lifesharing home, lasting 15 years or more. Instead of having multiple staff shifts throughout a day, and staff turnover within the agency, an individual in a Lifesharing home has one or two caregivers to care for all of his/her needs, long-term.



## What is Lifesharing?



**Lifesharing enables individuals with a disability the opportunity to reside with an adult or family in their private home as a fully participating member of that family. It is also...**

- ◇ Living with and sharing life experiences with supportive persons who form a caring household.
- ◇ Both a close personal relationship and a place to live.
- ◇ Includes living with a companion or family who is trained and authorized to provide services that the person needs.
- ◇ Providing a supportive and caring home to someone while providing them what they need.
- ◇ NOT a replacement for one's biological family.

Department of Public Welfare, MR Bulletin #00-05-04

## Who can open their homes to be a Lifesharing Family?

1. Lifesharing families are very diverse and include single adults, single parents, an entire family, or any other combination as might naturally occur.
2. Potential families are carefully screened, then matched with an individual to ensure they have compatible interests and personalities.
3. Lifesharing families receive pre-service and annual training and are paid a monthly stipend.
4. Lifesharing families are required to comply with state, county and provider policies, procedures and regulations.



***Lifesharing is more than providing the basics such as food and shelter.***

***It is about sharing life experiences, and building mutual relationships and responsibility.***