



*“Caring support for individuals with developmental  
disabilities within a faith-based environment”*

*Introducing*

## **Jessica and Friends Community**

207 Dew Drop Road  
York, Pennsylvania 17402  
717.747.9000  
[www.jandfcommunity.org](http://www.jandfcommunity.org)

Mr. Mike Whiteman, Executive Director

# Jessica and Friends Community

## CONTENTS

Jessica and Friends Community:	A Message from Our Founders .....	2
Jessica and Friends Community:	Vision .....	3
Jessica and Friends Community:	Statement of Purpose .....	4
Jessica and Friends Community:	Statement of Faith.....	5
Jessica and Friends Community:	Board of Directors .....	6
Jessica and Friends Community:	Four Pillars .....	7
Jessica and Friends Community:	Time Line of God’s Faithfulness .....	8
Jessica and Friends Community:	Opening of Sarah Kathryn’s Home .....	9
Jessica and Friends Community:	Opening of Dew Drop Home .....	10
Jessica and Friends Community:	Funding .....	11

# **Jessica and Friends Community**

## **A Message from Our Founders**

Carl Sandberg once said, “Nothing happens unless first a dream.” On the evening of October 29, 1998, Paulette and I witnessed the birth of a dream right in our own home! Let us take you back twenty-six years. Our third child was born with significant brain damage resulting in her need for twenty-four-hour-a-day care, seven days a week. Over the years, in the midst of our struggles, heartache, and sometimes almost overwhelming difficulties of parenting Jessica, God’s grace has been evident, His faithfulness shown time and again.

We have always tried to make Jessica the center of our family with everyone sacrificing and helping with her care. It has all been worthwhile as we see her smiling face, sweet temperament, and love for life. Since Jessica was born we have asked God HOW He is going to use her in our lives to bring Him glory. Over the years the Lord has given us many open doors of opportunity ministering to others with special needs and those who are hurting.

As Jessica is getting older, we realize that we will not always be here to care for her. As are many other parents who have special needs children, we are burdened for her future. Thus God has given us a desire to provide faith-based homes where developmentally disabled adults can receive compassionate care and training and be given the opportunity to reach their potential.

As we have talked with individuals in various agencies across York County who are providers for employment and group homes for the disabled, all agree that there are waiting lists for both of these services. This solidifies the need in our mind to provide faith-based homes and services for those with disabilities.

For many months prior to our first meeting, we had been talking to interested individuals, asking if they would be willing to share this burden with us and serve on an Advisory Committee. Now let us take you back to October 29, 1998, when we had our first meeting with twelve in attendance. After sharing our vision, at the stroke of 9:00 p.m. the name Jessica and Friends Community was adopted and the birth of our dream was realized!

**Dr. and Mrs. Peter W. Teague**

# **Jessica and Friends Community**

## Vision



Our vision is to provide for individuals with developmental disabilities a variety of services and supports within a faith-based environment. We seek to be a community which affirms the worth of all people, responds to families and individuals seeking a faith-based program, supports personal growth and wholeness, advocates for community and church inclusion, and provides opportunities for spiritual growth and service.

# **Jessica and Friends Community**

## Statement of Purpose



Jessica and Friends Community is a non-profit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and the Bureau of Charitable Organizations of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania offering residential services, training in daily living skills, and social services to adults with developmental disabilities.

The mission of Jessica and Friends Community is to respond to the needs of those with developmental disabilities along with their families who desire a faith-based environment.

Jessica and Friends Community affirms the worth of each person who is developmentally disabled and strives to be a catalyst for their inclusion in the local community and local Body of Christ.

Jessica and Friends Community provides Christ-centered support and services to strengthen each and all persons while enabling them to attain their full potential.

# Jessica and Friends Community

## Statement of Faith



The Bible is the inspired, infallible and authoritative Word of God. There is one God, creator of all things, infinitely perfect, and eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Lord Jesus Christ is Deity, of virgin birth, performed miracles, died a vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, was bodily resurrected, ascended to the right hand of the Father, and will return personally in power and glory.

Regeneration by the Holy Spirit is essential for the salvation of the lost. The present ministry of the Holy Spirit is to indwell the Christian and enable the living of a Godly life.

There is to be a bodily resurrection of the dead--of the believer to everlasting joy with the Lord, of the unbeliever to judgment and everlasting, conscious punishment.

Finally, all those who trust Christ for salvation are united spiritually in one Body known as the Body of Christ.

# Jessica and Friends Community

## Board of Directors

President	.....	Mr. Stu Levey
Vice President	.....	Dr. Peter Teague
Treasurer	.....	Mr. Lew McCleaf
Secretary	.....	Mrs. MaryBeth Staub
	.....	Mr. Dale Bubb
	.....	Mrs. Kathy Levey
	.....	Mrs. Sandy Van Orman
	.....	Dr. Donald Piper
	.....	Mrs. Diane Sargeant
	.....	Mr. Lee Stare
	.....	Mrs. Paulette Teague
	.....	Mr. Robert Teague

### Committees

Executive – Stu Levey

Site and Facilities – Dale Bubb

Finance – Lew McCleaf

Human Resources – Stu Levey

Admissions – Paulette Teague

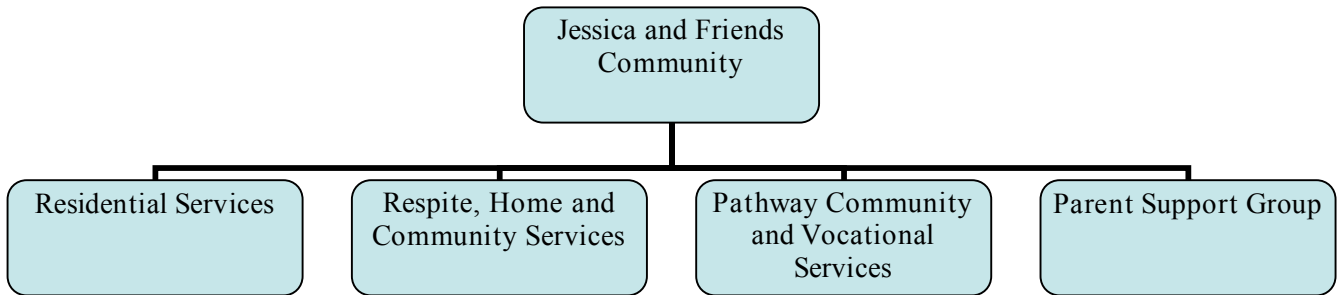
Promotion – Mike Whiteman

# **Jessica and Friends Community**

Strategic Planning – Stu Levey

# Jessica and Friends Community

## Four Pillars of Our Organization



### **Residential Services**

Jessica and Friends Community was founded with the purpose of providing homes for adults who have developmental disabilities. These homes were envisioned to be operated within a faith-based atmosphere, providing care where Christ’s love would be displayed and provided to our residents. That desire has not changed—nor will it change. However, the dream of families joining together as a “family initiative” and working with the York/Adams MH-MR Program to open a house for their children is presently in jeopardy in the state of Pennsylvania. Jessica and Friends Community will continue to provide residential services in the future. However, under the present circumstances, new homes may only open when we successfully win bids that are based on criteria and individuals presented to all York/Adams County providers by the MH-MR Program Administrator. Our homes (present and future) will continue to be operated within a faith-based environment, where Jesus Christ is honored and His love is upheld as the model of care for our residents.

### **Respite, Home and Community Services**

Jessica and Friends Community began providing respite services and in-home supports and services during 2004. This service has grown substantially and our respite care is being requested beyond the borders of York County. We see this as an area of growth and an open door to provide Christ-like care to a growing number of families – many who never previously knew of Jessica and Friends Community, our program, or our ministry. This pillar of service grows stronger and further expands our reach in the community on a monthly basis. We currently serve 25 families.

### **Pathway Community and Vocational Services**

Jessica and Friends Community has begun to lay the framework for a faith-based vocational training center that will be known as Pathway Community and Vocational Services. Our dream is to provide families with an alternative to today’s choice of sheltered workshops, realizing that many families desire for their family member to have work and volunteer opportunities in the community. We envision this pillar of service to provide these opportunities for tens and someday hundreds of individuals with developmental disabilities.

### **Parent Support Group**

The Jessica and Friends Community Parent Support Group was founded with the dream of banding a group of parents together to pray, encourage, and support one another – realizing and understanding the rigors of providing daily care for a family member with developmental disability. Presently, our goal is to see this group of parents energized to provide a higher level of support and encouragement to one another.

# Jessica and Friends Community

## Time-Line of God's Faithfulness

October 1998	Establish Advisory Committee of 12 and birth of Jessica & Friends Community
October 1998	Mail informational letter to 400 friends
November 1998	Establish Parent Support Group
February 1999	First meeting with York/Adams MH-MR, informing them of our plans
1999	Incorporate; write and file by-laws; apply for and receive 501 (c)(3)
December 1999	Publish and mail first quarterly newsletter
January 2000	Mail newsletter to 100 local churches
January 2000	Select three residents for the first home
January 2000	Begin search for property or home
January 2000	Elect 10 Board members
February 2000	Meet with Board of Friendship Community in Lancaster
June 2000	Submit funding proposal for staffing to York/Adams MH-MR
July 2000	Purchase "Sarah Kathryn's House" at 137 W. Crestlyn Drive
February 2001	Renovate basement of Sarah Kathryn's House for live-in staff
August 2001	Hire Darlene Kuhn as part-time Administrator
June 2002	Occupy Sarah Kathryn's House
February 2003	Purchase second home at 207 Dew Drop Road
July 2003	Hire Ted Witman as first Executive Director
March 2004	Start Respite Care
September 2005	Fall Festival at John Rudy Park
June 2006	Open Dew Drop Home
July 2006	Hire Mike Whiteman as second Executive Director
September 2006	Fall Festival at John Rudy Park

# **Jessica and Friends Community**

## **Opening of Sarah Kathryn's Home**

June 24, 2002 was a momentous day for Jessica and Friends Community. Almost four years of planning and praying for our first home to open became a reality as the first resident, Jessica Teague, walked through the door to Sarah Kathryn's Home to make it her permanent residence. Two days later, Betsy Bailets joined Jessica, and by the end of the week Ellen Hartman joined her friends. A well trained, loving staff greeted each young lady and even prepared their favorite meals upon the first day of their arrival. Endless hours of preparation from painting rooms, to furnishing and decorating the home, to staff training and meeting state regulations were all part of the hustle and bustle leading up to moving day. The young ladies love their new home and are adjusting to their new life together. God's presence is evident as spiritual truths, as well as daily living skills are being taught.

Spring was a busy time as the 3 young ladies prepared to move into Sarah Kathryn's House. On May 30, fifty-five friends and family members surrounded Jessica, Betsy and Ellen with their love and gifts to help the girls set up housekeeping with a Housewarming Shower.

Then on Sunday afternoon, June 9, an Open House was held. The overwhelming support of 175 friends and family, and a prayer of dedication for the ladies and staff made it an unforgettable time of realizing again God's faithfulness in establishing a faith-based home for the young ladies in the community.

# **Jessica and Friends Community**

## **Opening of Dew Drop Home**

On June 29, 2006 Jessica and Friends Community expanded as Matthew Grove took up residence at 207 Dew Drop Road in York. Joined by David Lawver and Mark Reineberg the next evening, the house on Dew Drop became a “home.” This significant occasion did not begin with Matthew, David and Mark; rather it began with a desire to provide services and supports to individuals with developmental disabilities within a faith-based environment and a recent challenge from the York County Mental Health/Mental Retardation Program to help provide desperately needed homes for 22 special people.

Jessica and Friends Community Board of Directors accepted that challenge and voted unanimously to use the house on Dew Drop Road to help meet this need. Purchased in 2003, the house was originally intended for three young ladies whose dream was to have a home of their own. However, funding changes and other circumstances delayed that purpose and the house was occupied otherwise. On May 24, 2006, Jessica and Friends Community was given a new opportunity to set up a home for three men, with the stipulation that the home had to be furnished, staffed, and opened by June 30. With little more than a month to prepare, many board and staff members volunteered their time, energy and expertise to get the house ready for inspection. Larger windows, furniture and appliances were needed along with cleaning, washing linens and arranging rooms before the house was ready for its new residents. With so much to do in such a short amount of time, it was evident that God was working His plan through many helping hands.

It was a thrilling time and a faith-expanding experience for all when Matthew walked through the doors of 207 Dew Drop Road. Although the home did not open the way it was envisioned, Matthew, Mark and David have already touched the lives of many people at Jessica and Friends Community in a big way. Their residency in Dew Drop home is an authentic testament that God works in His own time and way for the good of those who love him and that all individuals, including those with disabilities, can be used by God for His glory.

# **Jessica and Friends Community**

## **Funding**

Individuals may contribute to Jessica and Friends Community monthly to support the expansion of the ministry or identify special projects they are interested in underwriting.

Jessica and Friends Community Endowment Fund of York Foundation was established by the generosity of Mrs. Louise Brandt on March 29, 2002. This endowment, known as the Heritage Fund, provides the opportunity for charitable, non-profit organizations to build permanent resources to help insure future financial stability. It also assures the continuation of Jessica and Friends Community to provide residential services, training in daily living skills and social services to adults with developmental disabilities desiring a faith-based environment. If you desire to contribute to the Endowment Fund, please clearly mark your gift.

Your company may match your contribution to Jessica and Friends Community. Check with your company's human resource office to find out how to double the money you give to Jessica and Friends Community.

Jessica and Friends Community is not a United Way agency, but is eligible to receive contributions through the United Way Donor Choice program.

As required by the PA Solicitation of Funds for Charitable Purposes Act, a copy of the official registration and financial information for Jessica and Friends Community may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Since October 1998, hundreds of contributors have embraced our mission and given hundreds of thousands of dollars, making it possible for Jessica and Friends Community to serve adults who have developmental disabilities and their families.

Financial audits conducted annually by Seligman, Friedman, and Company, P.C. of York are available upon request.

# **Jessica and Friends Community**