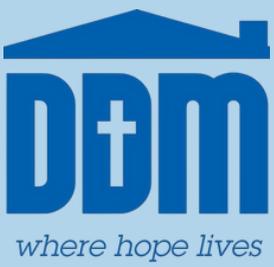


CONTINUING OUR IMPACT INTO

2020



DDM CONNECT



www.ddmga.org



From the Desk of Our President & CEO

Welcome to 2026! As we step into a new year together, I'm filled with gratitude and excitement for what's ahead. At DDM, every new year brings fresh opportunities to celebrate the people who are at the heart of our mission, our residents, and to recommit ourselves to serving them with excellence, dignity, and love.

This year, you'll see us continue to highlight the everyday moments that matter most: resident milestones, friendships, personal growth, and the small victories that make a big difference. These stories reflect our Core Values in action and remind us why this work is so meaningful!

We're also excited to share more about LEAP, an initiative designed to strengthen and elevate the way we support those entrusted to our care. LEAP represents growth, innovation, and our ongoing commitment to providing person-centered services that help residents thrive.

2026 also gives us the opportunity to celebrate the people who make DDM what it is. We are honored to recognize a very special employee celebrating 15 years of faithful service; a true testament to dedication, compassion, and calling.

As we move forward, we do so with purpose and hope, walking together as an organization grounded in our Christian values, trusting God's guidance, and keeping our eyes fixed on the future He has for DDM. Thank you for being part of this journey with us! The best is yet to come.

With thanks,

Ryan Whituire, President/CEO

IN THIS EDITION:

CORE VALUES AT THE FRONT

RESIDENT HIGHLIGHTS

LEAP INITIATIVES

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHTS

2026 GOALS

JANUARY'S RECIPE

CORE VALUES

At Developmental Disabilities Ministries, we believe in giving our best at all times. A couple of years ago, we updated our Core Values and work every day to ensure we are committed to each of these values, from how we engage and care for our residents, to how we file every page of paperwork, and even how we engage with YOU!

GRATITUDE

**DIGNITY &
RESPECT**

INTEGRITY

RESPONSIBILITY

PARTNERSHIP

**EXCELLENCE &
INNOVATION**

SERVICE

COMPASSION

SAFETY

We are incredibly proud of how much we emphasize our Core Values as a team and as a Christian organization, believe in the integrity of that promise. Not just to our residents and colleagues, but our friends of DDM.

We invite you follow our 2026 journey and learn more about how our leadership, staff, and residents live our these Core Values on a day to day basis!

RESIDENT HIGHLIGHTS

Nail Care Day

Check out Stacie, enjoying some self care by getting her nails done! And that smile, wow!

It's important that our residents have opportunities to enjoy fun activities that enable their personal dignity (a DDM Core Value!)



Cozy at Jasper

Along with his Jasper roommates, Ryan enjoyed a cozy weekend in during Georgia's winter blast!

We are so blessed that our HomeREVIVE10 Capital Campaign allowed for new windows so that our Jasper residents could enjoy warmth. These updates were so needed!



RESIDENT HIGHLIGHTS

2026 Vision!

Holly was hard at work early this month putting together her 2026 vision board! Great work, Holly! She has been so great about setting goals and achieving them.

At DDM, our RSCs and Program Staff work with our residents at ensuring ISP goals are set and met!



Crafting Day!

Also at our Jasper Home, Mark is getting really crafty! Fun fact... he LOVES golf (and his family)!

Making sure that our residents are able to express themselves creatively while developing their sense of self is a major thing at DDM. This is one example of how we do this!



DDM IS EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE A NEW SET OF INITIATIVES UNDER LEAP (LIFE ENRICHMENT & ACTIVITIES PROGRAM)

check our new logo!



LIFE ENRICHMENT & ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

“Because a full life deserves more than basic care.”

1

Person-Centered Services

LEAP activities are guided by resident interests, abilities, and goals. Experiences are selected to promote dignity, choice, and meaningful participation, ensuring each resident engages in ways that are personally relevant and fulfilling.

2

Enrichment at Home

Because residents spend much of their time at home, LEAP brings enrichment into daily living. This includes celebrating life milestones, providing personal items, and offering in-home activities that foster comfort, joy, and connection..

3

Community Engagement

LEAP supports residents in participating in community life through organized outings and local activities. These experiences build social connection, confidence, and a sense of belonging beyond the home.

4

Ongoing Support & Impact

LEAP is integrated into DDM's broader service model, ensuring activities are consistent, supervised, and aligned with each resident's support plan. This continuity allows enrichment to meaningfully enhance quality of life.

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT LEAP

RESIDENT RETREAT

Every summer, our residents head over to Camp Twin Lakes for 3 days of fun in the sun, connection, activities, and much more!

Many of our residents cannot afford the fees, and DDM leaves no resident behind, which is why philanthropic funding for our Resident Retreat through LEAP is crucial!

MAKE IT HOME

Make It Home is a new LEAP initiative that enhances DDM residences so individuals can live in spaces that are safe, comfortable, and reflective of who they are. Through donor support, this program goes beyond basic maintenance to create dignified, welcoming homes where residents can truly thrive.

BIRTHDAY CARDS

This is a simple, meaningful way for friends of DDM to help residents feel celebrated and seen. By sending a digital or handwritten card, participants share joy and encouragement while reminding residents they are valued and remembered by a caring community!

Support for LEAP can also be given in a general way, allowing DDM to direct funds where enrichment is most needed. These gifts support a wide range of activities such as the resident retreat, in-home celebrations, community outings, and personal enrichment items. Flexible support ensures every resident can experience meaningful moments that enhance daily life and overall wellbeing.

Asking Alice

celebrating 15 years at DDM

*a brief interview with Alice Tiner,
our Director of Quality Assurance!*

How did you first learn about DDM and what was your first role?

I worked for the State of Georgia at a day program & worked with DDM's Appalachee home. My first job here was as QA Risk Manager under the Frances Stokes. She was amazing and nurtured me and it was an incredible way to be introduced to DDM.



Favorite memory at DDM?

Definitely at Camp when we would put on shows. We had a big show for the residents and we did a popcorn show with popcorn hats. we danced and had the best time! We had staff doing flips. another year we all dressed up as different famous people to entertain our residents and they LOVED it!

What is the BEST part of your job?

Our residents, fellow staff, and just knowing God is working within DDM. It's so incredible being a part of this! I have been a part of so much at DDM and seen so many residents have the best experiences here, so to make that all happen is such a blessing.

Something you want everyone to know about DDM?

That the work we do is real and the ways our residents respond is beautiful. I've seen some amazing things happen at the perfect time here and I really do believe it's because we have the right people praying and doing all of the right things. This is an amazing organization and the world should know.

Tell us a fun Alice-fact to close out!

I love chickens and have a variety of chickens. From speckled to checkered to even an Ameraucana! These chickens produce all types of colors of eggs, which I absolutely love! I get brown eggs, blue, green, and more! I love taking care of them all and even have names for them. They are so amazing!

Thank you, Alice, for your years of service and telling us more about yourself and your love for DDM and our residents!

THANK YOU,
HOMEAIDGA +
SOUTHSTATE BANK
VOLUNTEERS!



Thank you to this mighty group of
volunteers for taking time out of their
Friday to paint DDM's Old Lantern
Home and clear out our garage! We
are so blessed to know you!

LOVE, DDM

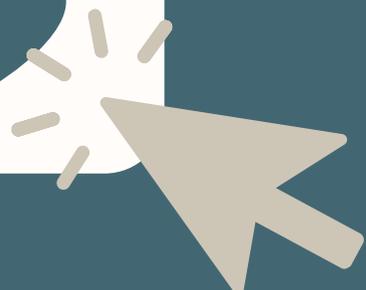


Developmental
Disabilities
Ministries



SUPPORT
DDM
TODAY

DONATE



Your generosity creates safe homes, meaningful days, and brighter futures.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH: *Chili Soup*

INGREDIENTS

- 1 POUND GROUND BEEF
- 1 ONION, CHOPPED
- 1 (15 OUNCE) CAN TOMATO SAUCE
- 1 (15 OUNCE) CAN KIDNEY BEANS
- 1 (14.5 OUNCE) CAN STEWED TOMATOES
- 1 ½ CUPS WATER, OR AS NEEDED (OPTIONAL)
- 1 TEASPOON CHILI POWDER, OR MORE TO TASTE
- 1 PINCH GARLIC POWDER
- SALT AND PEPPER TO TASTE

INSTRUCTIONS

1. PLACE GROUND BEEF AND ONION IN A LARGE SAUCEPAN OVER MEDIUM HEAT
2. COOK AND STIR UNTIL MEAT IS BROWNED AND ONION IS TENDER, ABOUT 5 TO 7 MINUTES.
3. STIR IN TOMATO SAUCE, KIDNEY BEANS, AND STEWED TOMATOES WITH JUICE. IF YOU PREFER A THINNER CONSISTENCY, YOU CAN ADD WATER. SEASON WITH CHILI POWDER, GARLIC POWDER, SALT, AND BLACK PEPPER. BRING TO A BOIL.
4. REDUCE HEAT TO LOW, COVER AND LET SIMMER FOR 15 MINUTES.

