

DDM

CONNECT



www.ddmga.org



Dear DDM Family,

As summer unfolds across Georgia, it has been a joy to watch our residents embrace the season with energy and enthusiasm. Whether they are spending time outdoors, engaging in their jobs and activities, or preparing for special moments ahead, the spirit of joy is unmistakable in our homes and programs. One exciting thing on the horizon is our annual Resident Retreat in September at Camp Twin Lakes. The countdown has officially begun! Our Resident Council has even met to discuss retreat plans, and we're thrilled to share that they have chosen a theme, so stay tuned!

Meanwhile, we are celebrating a major milestone in our HomeREVIVE10 Capital Campaign. Thanks to generous friends like you, we have successfully met our \$50,000 matching gift challenge. This means that vital upgrades, like new floors, safer ramps, and fresh paint, are already making a real impact in the lives of those we serve. The campaign is in full swing, and with each project completed, we are reminded that every donation builds not just a better home, but a stronger sense of dignity and belonging.

Being part of the DDM community is a blessing we do not take for granted. We live our mission daily through our core values: serving with compassion, pursuing excellence, and honoring the unique gifts each person brings. Whether you are a family member, supporter, volunteer, or staff member, your commitment to DDM helps make this a place where people thrive.

Thank you for walking alongside us this summer and beyond. We hope this newsletter gives you a glimpse into all the good things happening in the DDM family. Your continued support means the world!

Ryan Whitmire, President/CEO

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ORGANIZATION & RESIDENT HIGHLIGHTS

Resident Council Leads with Heart

At DDM, our residents are at the center of everything we do, and our Resident Council is a powerful example of that! Made up of elected leaders including a President, Vice President, and Chaplain, the Council meets several times a year to make meaningful decisions that shape life across our homes and programs.

Each meeting begins with prayer, grounding the group in faith and unity. From choosing the theme for our annual Resident Retreat to sharing ideas for activities and improvements, the Council ensures resident voices are heard and valued.

We are excited to continue the year with our residents leading the way. Their energy and insight remind us every day that when decisions start with those we serve, the results are always full of joy and purpose!



Our Day Home ladies had a fun-filled outing recently! They all got fresh haircuts and then enjoyed a delicious lunch together at Whataburger! A simple day of self-care and smiles made extra special by good food and great company.



JUNE BIRTHDAYS AT DDM

TOM
HOLLY
ROBERT
TERESA

ANGIE
JOHN
LISA
JOSEPH



DDM CORE VALUES IN ACTION

Living Our Values: Spotlight on Amanda

At DDM, our mission comes to life through team members who live out our core values each day. This month, we are proud to recognize Amanda Blocker, one of our dedicated Residential Support Coordinators (RSCs), as the recipient of the Core Values Award. Her heart for service and unwavering commitment to our residents embody the best of DDM.

Amanda has been with DDM for nine years, beginning as a Direct Support Professional, then growing into a Lead role, and now serving as an RSC. Her passion for this work is personal—she has two uncles with special needs who have inspired her deeply. “I strive every day to treat those I serve with the same respect, care, and dignity that I want for my own family members,” Amanda shares.

Her leadership is grounded in empathy and excellence. Whether supporting staff or celebrating a resident’s milestone, Amanda brings joy, intentionality, and a deep sense of purpose. She leads with calm, encourages growth, and always centers the needs of others!

Please join us in celebrating Amanda Blocker for living out DDM’s mission with heart and excellence! We are grateful for her service and example!



OUR CORE VALUES



rooted in Christ

Ministering to Adults with Developmental Disabilities in Your Church

and how partnering with DDM can help your community!



What Next?

We'd love to partner with you! Reach out to set up a meeting with Ryan Whitmire, our CEO/President. We're excited to connect and explore how we can serve together in meaningful, Christ-centered ways. Let's start the conversation!

[Email Ryan Whitmire](#)

Why Minister?

Partnering with DDM means joining hands in shared faith and purpose. As a Christian organization, we believe ministry is a two-way street: our residents are eager to serve through volunteer opportunities, and your church community can do the same. Whether it's connecting members to our Host Home Anchor Families Program, joining us for events, or simply walking alongside our mission, there are many ways to serve together. Let's build meaningful relationships that reflect Christ's love in action.

The Perfect Partnership

At DDM, our mission is rooted in Christ and guided by core values that honor dignity, compassion, and community. Partnering with churches creates a beautiful opportunity to live out the Gospel by walking alongside adults with developmental disabilities, an often overlooked but deeply valuable part of the Body of Christ.

Together, we can meet both spiritual and practical needs, creating spaces of belonging, service, and purpose. Whether it's through volunteering, supporting our homes, or helping to identify Anchor Families, your church has the chance to make a lasting impact. This partnership isn't just a good fit—it's Kingdom work.





fundraising
NEWS!

RAISE THE ROOF

AND THANKS
TO YOU, WE
MADE OUR
\$50,000
MATCH!

**GIVE
TODAY**

HOMEREVIVE10 GOAL: \$275,000
RAISED: 85% to stretch goal
SPENT: \$135,000 (as of May)

LEFT TO RAISE: \$39,000

UPCOMING PROJECTS

APPLYING A FRESH
COAT OF PAINT
ACROSS OUR
HOMEREVIVE10 HOMES

REPAIRING A
BANISTER IN
ANOTHER HOME,
ENSURING SAFETY

AND MUCH MORE!
STAY TUNED FOR
PHOTOS & VIDEOS!



ASK OUR CEO: What Should Everyone Know About DDM?

Q: DDM has been around since 1981 and there's such a rich history there. Can you tell us a little about that?

A: *A little over forty years ago, families of adult children with developmental disabilities realized that while their children were aging and had changing needs, so did they. It was becoming to be a challenge to provide their adult children with care, but they wanted to ensure their children were taken care of in a positive, Christian environment, so thus began DDM! Dr. William Neal, one of the parents, became our first CEO.*

Q: That's incredible! So, many people may not know this, but the need is great for serving adults with developmental disabilities— why is that?

A: *The need is greater because after age 22, many individuals with developmental disabilities fall off what's known as "the service gap," when school-based services end and support options drastically decline. Meanwhile, their needs don't go away, and their parents or caregivers are often aging and facing their own challenges. Families are left wondering, who will care for my loved one when I no longer can? At DDM, we step into that gap to offer stability, community, and a meaningful life for adults with developmental disabilities.*

Q: Can you tell us some key ways DDM fills that service gap?

A: *At DDM, we fill the gap by providing lifelong, Christ-centered care through residential services, family and navigational support, and Host Home services tailored for adults with developmental disabilities. We also partner with families through support services and the Anchor Families Host Home program, offering personalized care in loving, family-like environments. By walking alongside individuals and their families, we ensure that no one is left behind when formal systems fall short.*

Q: What's something you want everyone to know about DDM and the residents you serve?

A: *Our residents are the embodiment of joy. Our motto is "hope lives here," and while we firmly act on that by providing hope to our residents and families, they truly do provide the joy. We also have an extremely dedicated staff, board, involved families, and donors!*

Q: What sets DDM apart from other organizations?

A: *What sets DDM apart is how deeply we invest in our residents—not just through care, but by creating meaningful opportunities to thrive. From our Resident Retreat to personalized home renovations and our empowering Resident Council, we give voice and choice to those we serve. Guided by our Core Values, we build more than houses—we build belonging, purpose, and lasting relationships rooted in faith and love. That's what makes DDM truly feel like home.*

Q: How can DDM Connect readers and friends of DDM be a part of this ministry?

A: *There are so many ways! Join us at our Resident Retreat this summer! Sign up to volunteer at one of our 18 resident homes across GA, or connect us with your church's ministries. DDM and its residents are always looking for ways to get involved with different ministries!*



Read Online

YOUR GUIDE TO DDM'S ANCHOR FAMILIES PROGRAM

Be the Anchor with DDM

A Host Home Program



Support

Belonging

Connection

Open Your Home. Change a Life.

DDM's Anchor Families Host Home Provider Program connects compassionate individuals and families with adults with developmental disabilities in need of a safe, supportive, and loving home. Think foster care, but for adults! This is a chance to build lasting relationships and provide meaningful stability!

REGISTER FOR AN INFORMATION SESSION



Anchor Families can be individuals, couples, or families from all walks of life. What matters most is your willingness to provide a safe, supportive, and loving environment for an adult with developmental disabilities.

DDM provides training, support, and a stipend.

You won't do this alone. Anchor Families receive comprehensive training, ongoing guidance, and financial support to help cover the cost of care.

Save the Date

for our 2025 Resident Summer Retreat!

September
17-19th
@ CAMP
TWIN LAKES



*...and you're
invited!*

Stay tuned!



Sponsor a Resident this Year!

Our annual Resident Retreat is one of the most joyful and meaningful times of the year. While our residents work hard to budget and save for the \$250 cost, it can still be a challenge. At DDM, we believe everyone deserves the chance to attend, so we never let finances be a barrier. If you feel led, would you consider sponsoring a resident this year? Your support makes memories, friendships, and spiritual growth possible.

CLICK HERE



**catching
sponsorships**



RECIPE OF THE MONTH: *Pasta Primavera*

INGREDIENTS

- 10 ounces penne pasta
- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, plus more for drizzling
- 4 garlic cloves, sliced
- 1 yellow squash, sliced into thin half-moons
- 1 zucchini, sliced into thin half-moons
- 1 bunch asparagus, chopped into 1-inch pieces
- 1 cup cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1 cup thinly sliced red onion
- 1 teaspoon sea salt
- ½ cup frozen peas, thawed
- ¾ cup grated pecorino cheese
- 3 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- Red pepper flakes
- 1 cup fresh basil leaves, plus more for garnish

INSTRUCTIONS

Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Prepare the pasta according to the package instructions, cooking until al dente. Drain and toss with a drizzle of olive oil to prevent sticking.

Heat the oil in a large, deep skillet over medium heat. Add the garlic, squash, zucchini, asparagus, tomatoes, onion, salt, and several grinds of pepper and sauté for 3 to 4 minutes, or until the vegetables are tender.

Add the pasta, peas, cheese, lemon juice, and a pinch of red pepper flakes and toss to combine. Stir in the basil and tarragon, if using.

Season to taste, garnish with more basil, and serve.

