

# DDM CONNECT

MARCH EDITION



# DDM CONNECT



www.ddmga.org



## From the Desk of Our President & CEO

As we move through March, we are excited about the continued growth and development happening across DDM. Each day, we are honored to serve our residents by providing 24/7 care through a team of deeply dedicated staff. This work is grounded in our Core Values, with our Christian ministry at the center, guiding how we serve, support, and walk alongside each individual in our care.

At DDM, we believe in always centering our residents, which is why we encourage you to spend time with the Stories of Inspiration featured in this edition. These stories are a powerful reminder of why we do what we do and the impact that compassionate, person-centered care can have.

We are also closing out the month with our Q1 Board Meeting, welcoming a refreshed Board of Trustees, including a few new members we are excited to introduce. Be sure to check out our full 2026 Board list later in this newsletter to see the leaders helping guide DDM forward.

Additionally, we are continuing to highlight our LEAP Initiatives, especially Make It Home. Thanks to the generosity of our community, we have raised just over \$23,000 toward our \$150,000 goal. We invite all friends and family of DDM to take part in our upcoming April Challenge, also announced in this edition, as we build momentum together!

We are deeply grateful for the support we receive. Every dollar raised goes directly toward meeting our residents' wants and needs, ensuring dignity, comfort, and truly person-centered care from top to bottom!.

Thank you for being part of the DDM community.

*Ryan Whitnire*, President/CEO

## IN THIS EDITION:

RESIDENT  
HIGHLIGHTS

MARCH STORY  
OF INSPIRATION

2026 BOARD OF  
TRUSTEES

ASK OUR CEO

POWER OF 50  
CHALLENGE

MARCH RECIPE



March 2026

# Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

*Celebrate with DDM's residents this month!*



Developmental  
Disabilities  
Ministries



# stories of inspiration

## **More Than a Radio**

*For almost twenty years, Randy has been part of the DDM family. Today he lives at High Hope Home with his three roommates, and if there's one thing you should know about Randy, it's this: he LOVES music...*

## **When Community Comes In – SNEAK PEEK!**

*What do you get when you combine a willing spirit, 3 DDM residents full of life, and a project to tackle? Stay tuned to read this Story of Inspiration!*



[click for Randy's story here](#)

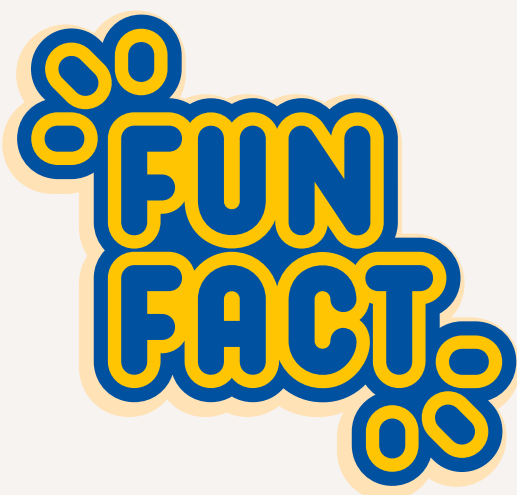
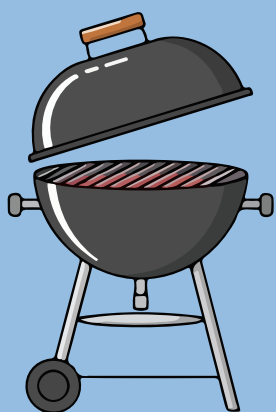
# RESIDENT HIGHLIGHTS

## Jasper's Grill Master

With the weather warming up, you know what time it is! It's grillin' time!

Mark, our longtime Jasper Home resident loves working that grill with his patriotic apron. What's incredible is that he also loves being able to feed his roommates.

Invite us next time! Good work, Mark!



DDM's Jasper Home men are incredibly involved with the community in and around Jasper! They are members of the Lion's Club as well. They also have some cool items on their Make It Home wishlist. Go check it out!



# RESIDENT HIGHLIGHTS

## One “Step” Closer!

Maurice, one of our Paul Home residents, was working on getting his steps in with RSC Sherricka. Getting his steps in is part of his ISP Goals this year and he is one step closer to turning that goal into an accomplishment.

Go Maurice!



## FUN FACT

Individual Support Plan (ISP) goals are person-centered, actionable targets designed to help individuals with disabilities or special needs achieve greater independence, community integration, and skill development.



# RESIDENT HIGHLIGHTS

## Working Hard, Not Hardly Working

Some of our residents have recently begun attending the Little Light of Mine Ministry Sunday School class at Briarlake Church, where they're joining in on monthly mission projects. It's been a joy to see them build connections and engage with the community through Sunday School and other events.



As part of this, Briarlake Church is preparing for its community Easter Egg Hunt on April 4. The ministry helps lead this annual effort, working toward a goal of 15,000 candy-filled eggs, over 1,000 have already been completed, with our residents proud to be part of it!



# IDEAL ROOMMATES

at DDM (click each box for contact!)

## APPALACHEE HOME - STATHAM, GA



2 vacancies

Males

Must enjoy relaxing  
& pizza

## DAY HOME - FORSYTH, GA

2 vacancies

Females

Must enjoy outings  
& crafts



# IDEAL ROOMMATES

at DDM (click each box for contact!)

## PEDIGO HOME - AUGUSTA, GA



1 vacancy

Females

Must enjoy peace  
& crafts

## CORBIT WALKER HOME - MANCHESTER, GA

1 vacancy

Females

Must enjoy relaxing  
& outings



[CLICK HERE](#)

to see all details!



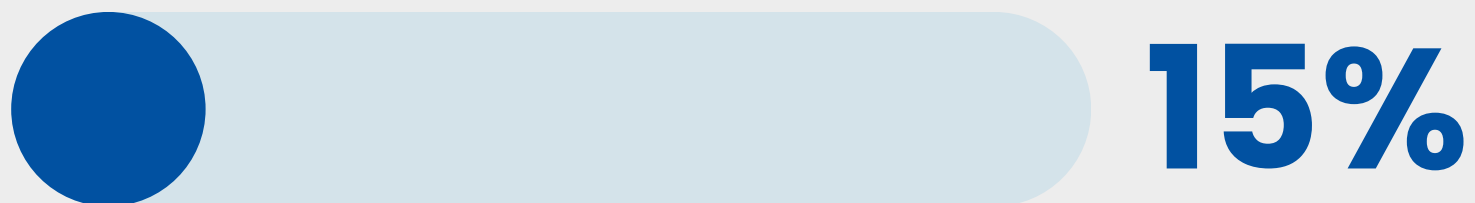
# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

To Ryan and Gary!



*"Because a full life deserves more than basic care."*

# Goal: \$150,000



*Help us raise our next 15%  
and donate today!*

**DONATE**



**Thank you to our community partners,  
Coweta-Fayette EMC and GreyStone EMC  
for funding a portion of our Make It Home  
Initiative through Operation Round Up!**



## Basketball Season!

CHECK OUT SOME OF OUR RESIDENTS AND BOARD MEMBER, DREW TAYLOR, ENJOYING THE LAST GAME OF CHALLENGER BASKETBALL! SPORTS AND ACTIVITIES LIKE THIS ARE EXACTLY WHAT WE LOVE AT DDM!

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The joy of  
*sharing hobbies*

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CHRIS AND MARK, TWO OF  
OUR JASPER RESIDENTS,  
RECENTLY TOOK ON A LITTLE  
PROJECT TOGETHER!

CHRIS HAS A NEW HOBBY  
AND IS NOW TEACHING  
MARK! WE LOVE SEEING  
RESIDENT FRIENDSHIPS LIKE  
THIS!



# DDM 2026 Board of Trustees



## Leadership

Dr. Rev. Tony Lankford, Board Chair  
Amy Rouse, Board Vice Chair

Ryan Whitmire, DDM President/CEO  
Theresa Jones, Treasurer

## Voting Members

Dr. Rev. Tony Lankford  
Amy Rouse  
Kathleen McDuffie  
Drew Taylor  
Terry McMichael  
Fredrick Braswell  
Jillian Palmiotto  
Ginger Williford  
Robert Sparks  
Dr. Rev. Craig Williamson  
Zach Kles  
Chad Davis  
Jason Reagan

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*Our board is comprised of individuals who are committed to DDM as a Christian ministry. It is self-perpetuating and uses a rotation system of five-year terms, with new members rotating on each year. The full Board meets four times a year with other committee meetings added as necessary.*



## ASK OUR CEO: DDM's LEAP INITIATIVES



**Q:** A lot of things are going on at DDM this year so far! *Why Make It Home?*

**A:** So, our LEAP Program (Life Enrichment and Activities Program) has always been around, but we decided recently to add specific initiatives to it and with significant capital improvements made to our homes and resident wishes to turn their houses into more of "their own space," we couldn't ignore the call!

**Q:** What is Make It Home, in case people are new?

**A:** Make It Home is all about turning DDM houses into places where our residents, current and future, can truly feel at home and thrive. Because our residents spend so much of their lives there, these spaces should reflect comfort, dignity, and who they are! From simple room refreshes to sensory spaces and shared living upgrades, every improvement helps create an environment that feels safe, personal, and welcoming.

**Q:** We see the resident wishlists online and advertised in other DDM communications – how did those come about?

**A:** Those all came directly from our residents! Our staff did a great job of asking everyone what it is they feel their home needs. We were very intentional with making these lists.

**Q:** How is *Make It Home* being funded at this time?

**A:** Because of the nature of how our residents receive their personal funds, most do not have the ability to afford to make these upgrades themselves. So, DDM is relying on philanthropic investment and the goodwill of our donors! We've had some blessings come in through charitable giving and grant funding. We're gaining traction with local EMC grants through Operation Round Up, which is incredible!

**Q:** What is the total needed to be raised for this Initiative?

**A:** Our goal is to raise \$150,000.

**Q:** If our community can donate items, is that possible?

**A:** Yes! So long as the items are durable and of excellent quality – reason being is we are viewing this initiative as an investment too – this will serve our current residents and future residents!

# EVENT 2026 SCHEDULE

[click  
here for  
more  
info!](#)

**18**  
APRIL

G-DAY AT UGA!  
COME CELEBRATE THE DAWGS WITH  
DDM!

**9**  
MAY

ENCHANTED FOREST PROM AT  
HIGH HOPE HOME

**TBD**

SPRING FLING! (STAY TUNED)

**23-26**  
SEPT.

2026 RESIDENT RETREAT AT  
CAMP TWIN LAKES

**10**  
OCT

JASPER HOME FALL PARTY

**TBD**

BILL NEAL HOME HALLOWEEN  
CELEBRATION

# RECIPE OF THE MONTH: CHOCOLATE COBBLER

## INGREDIENTS

- 1 CUP FLOUR
  - 2 TEASPOON BAKING POWDER
  - 1/2 TEASPOON SALT
  - 2/3 CUP SUGAR
  - 1 1/2 TABLESPOONS COCOA POWDER
  - 2 TABLESPOONS BUTTER MELTED
  - 1/2 CUP MILK
  - 1 TEASPOON VANILLA
  - 1/2 CUP CHOPPED WALNUTS OPTIONAL
- ### TOPPING
- 1/4 CUP SUGAR
  - 1/2 CUP BROWN SUGAR
  - 1/4 TEASPOON SALT
  - 2 TABLESPOONS COCOA POWDER
- 
- 1 CUP WATER BOILING

## INSTRUCTIONS

PREHEAT OVEN TO 350 DEGREES F. IN A MEDIUM SIZED MIXING BOWL, COMBINE THE FLOUR, BAKING POWDER, SALT, SUGAR AND COCOA. THEN STIR IN THE MELTED BUTTER, MILK AND VANILLA. STIR IN THE WALNUTS, IF DESIRED.

1 CUP FLOUR, 2 TEASPOON BAKING POWDER, 1/2 TEASPOON SALT, 2/3 CUP SUGAR, 1 1/2 TABLESPOONS COCOA POWDER, 2 TABLESPOONS BUTTER, 1/2 CUP MILK, 1 TEASPOON VANILLA, 1/2 CUP CHOPPED WALNUTS

SPREAD THE MIXTURE INTO A GREASED 1.5 QT CASSEROLE DISH (OR SQUARE PAN). SET ASIDE.

IN ANOTHER BOWL, COMBINE THE DRY TOPPING INGREDIENTS (SUGAR, BROWN SUGAR, SALT AND COCOA). SPRINKLE ON TOP OF THE BATTER; DO NOT STIR.

1/4 CUP SUGAR, 1/2 CUP BROWN SUGAR, 1/4 TEASPOON SALT, 2 TABLESPOONS COCOA POWDER

POUR THE BOILING WATER ON TOP; DO NOT STIR.

1 CUP WATER

BAKE FOR 30 MINUTES, OR UNTIL THE TOP OF THE CAKE IS ALMOST SET. THE CAKE WILL RISE TO THE TOP AND A PUDDING WILL FORM ON THE BOTTOM.

SERVE WARM WITH ICE CREAM.

