



DDM CONNECT

JUNE EDITION

What's new at DDM this month?



DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES MINISTRIES, INC.

DDM CONNECT



www.ddmga.org



From the Desk of Our President & CEO

Summer is one of my favorite seasons at DDM. It's a time when our homes are filled with fun experiences, community outings, vacations, and meaningful moments that remind us what quality of life truly looks like. These memories don't happen by chance as they are made possible by an incredible team of people who live out our mission every day!

I am continually grateful for our Direct Support Professionals, Residential Service Coordinators, Program Managers, and administrative staff. Whether providing hands-on support or working behind the scenes, each person demonstrates our Core Values of Service, Excellence, Partnership, Integrity, Compassion, and much more. Together, they ensure that every individual we serve has the opportunity to thrive.

We are also incredibly thankful for the churches and community partners who make our ministry stronger. This month, we celebrate the ongoing support of Smoke Rise Baptist Church and Monroe FBC. Smoke Rise Baptist and DDM have a long history and it continues now as a Smoke Rise Baptist Church has agreed to adopt a DDM Home! Monroe FBC has agreed to be a missions partner to DDM and we are thrilled to join them for praise and worship this July!

As you continue through this month's newsletter, I hope you'll take a moment to learn about our Make it Home initiative in a special message from our Advancement and Programs Team. Also, our 2026 Resident Retreat is coming up and we invite you to join us for fun and fellowship!

Thank you for being part of the DDM family. Your prayers, generosity, and partnership continue to make a lasting difference in the lives of those we serve.

Wishing you a joyful and blessed summer,

Ryan Whitnire, President/CEO

IN THIS EDITION:

RESIDENT
HIGHLIGHTS

STORIES OF
INSPIRATION

MAKE IT HOME
UPDATES

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

2026 RESIDENT
RETREAT
UPDATES

JUNE RECIPE

Vol .18 Newsletter

ALOHA DDM!

DDM PRESENTS

THE 2026 RESIDENT RETREAT

SHARING IN THE ALOHA SPIRIT

**JOIN US
SEPTEMBER 23-26
AT CAMP TWIN LAKES IN RUTLEDGE**



SPONSOR A RESIDENT TODAY



Pedigo Home Party

Hosted by DDM's
Pedigo Home



We love seeing our residents enjoy moments like this! Thank you to all who made this possible, especially Selena Scurry, DSP!!



**ONE OF THE
LARGEST WEEKEND
GATHERINGS THIS
YEAR!**



stories of inspiration

Power of Friendship – Story of Inspiration coming soon!

Some incredible things are happening with several of our residents! From jobs to volunteer opportunities – our residents are demonstrating their desire to be involved in their communities (and succeeding at it!). Stay tuned for some incredible stories in our next edition of DDM Connect!

The Heart of the Bill Neal Home Part 2!

The Bill Neal Home has undergone some incredible updates, thanks to a Smoke Rise Baptist Sunday School class and their generosity. We cannot wait for you to see the upgrades after the celebration on August 2nd with Bill Neal himself!



new milestone moment!



Hi! My name is Jessica!

Jessica is one of our Bill Neal Home residents. She lives there with her two best friends, Casey and Shelton. Recently, Jessica decided it was time to follow one of her passions and volunteer at the local animal shelter. She underwent training and there you have it! Jessica is **THRIVING!**



Learn more about the Bill Neal ladies in a Story of Inspiration coming soon and see how friendship and the right home make all this possible!



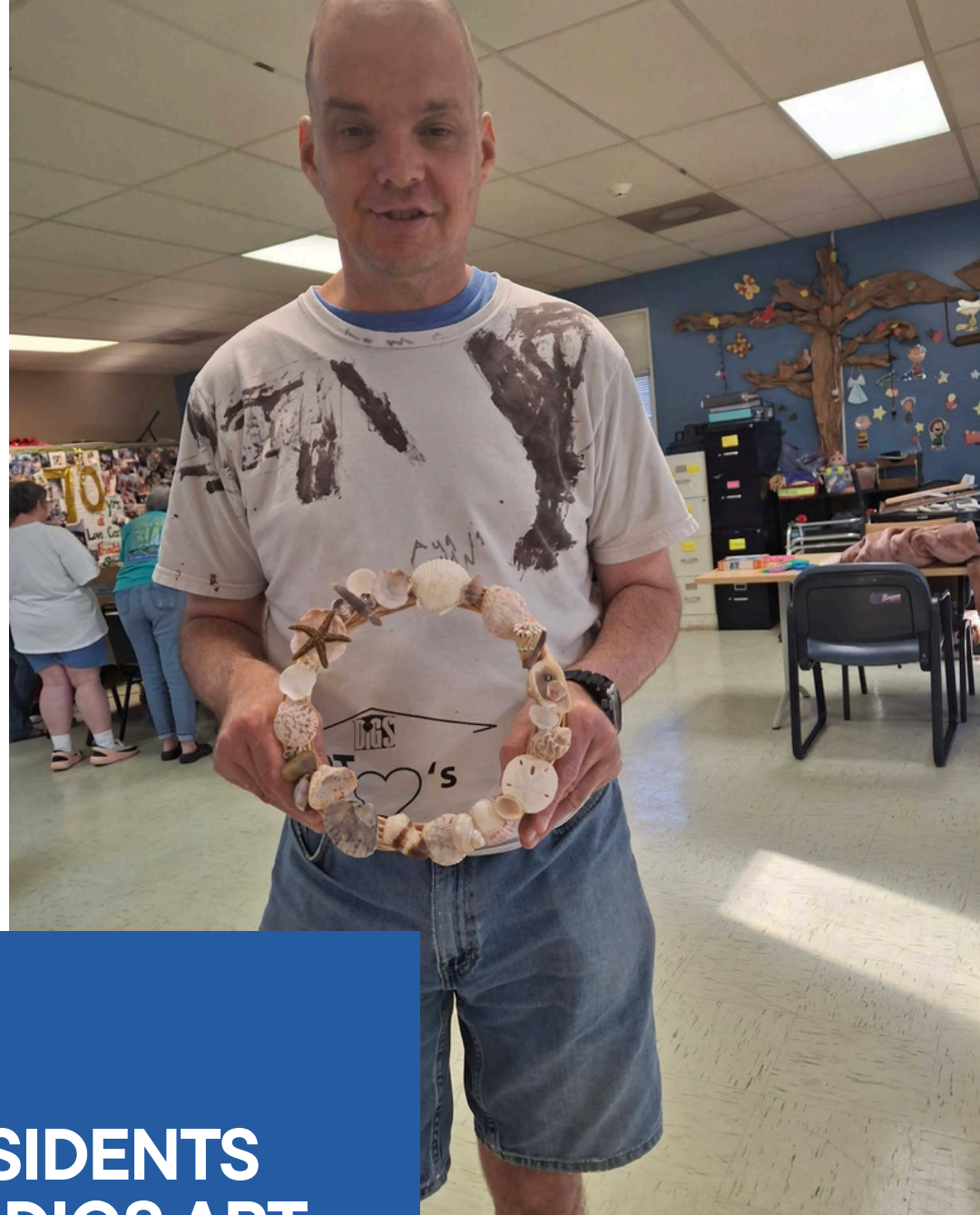
Our friends at Jasper, Mark
and Ryan, hard at work in
their garden!
Check out their new
scarecrow!



Christopher
Holly
Robert
Angie
Lisa



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



DDM RESIDENTS SHINE AT DIGS ART CLUB!



Participating in community activities like DIGS Art Club is something our DDM residents in Rome truly enjoy and value!

From the Advancement & Programs Team

When we launched the Make it Home initiative, we knew exactly what we hoped to accomplish: create spaces where our residents could truly thrive and make those spaces feel unmistakably their own.

Last year, thanks to an incredible community of supporters, we completed a transformational capital campaign that revitalized many of our homes. We repaired aging spaces, improved accessibility, and made important structural upgrades. But as we walked through each home afterward, we recognized something was still missing: the personal touches that transform a house into a home. Through the generosity of a DDM family member (and now board member!), an idea was born out of an example of what personal items mean to our residents.

That's where Make it Home began.

Our Programs and Advancement teams visited every DDM home, sat down with residents, and created wish lists together. Favorite colors, cozy furniture, meaningful décor, outdoor spaces to enjoy, and little details that reflect each person's personality quickly became our roadmap. Since then, we've worked hand in hand, applying for grants, connecting with generous donors, meeting regularly to celebrate progress, and identifying the next opportunities to make an impact.

And when the funding comes in, the best part begins.

Our direct support professionals take residents shopping to choose the items they've been dreaming about. Those shopping trips are about far more than furniture or decorations; they're moments of independence, excitement, pride, and belonging. The joy that follows doesn't stop at the checkout counter; it fills our homes and spreads throughout the DDM family.

Today, we're excited to share that we've raised more than \$50,000 toward our \$150,000 goal. Along the way, we've been blessed by the partnership of Smoke Rise Baptist Church and Monroe First Baptist Church, as well as generous donors and several EMC Foundations who believe every person deserves a place that feels like home!

The joy we witness every day is our why.

You are our how.

To every church, foundation, donor, volunteer, and friend who has joined us on this journey—thank you. Your generosity is creating more than beautiful homes. You're creating places where memories are made, dignity is celebrated, and every resident is reminded that they are deeply loved!

With gratitude,
The Advancement & Programs Team

I'D LIKE TO JOIN THE IMPACT

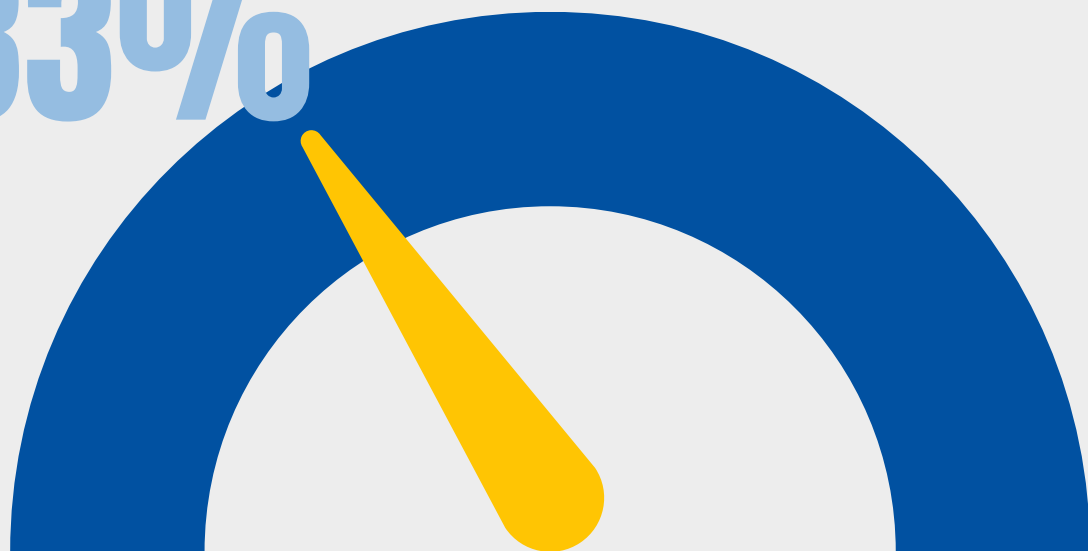


"Because a full life deserves more than basic care."

MAKE IT
Home 

Total Goal: \$150,000

33%



HELP MAKE IT 40% TODAY

EVENT 2026 SCHEDULE

[click
here for
more
info!](#)

2

AUG.

CELEBRATION AT BILL NEAL HOME
FOR MAKE IT HOME PROJECT

23-26

SEPT.

2026 RESIDENT RETREAT AT
CAMP TWIN LAKES

10

OCT

JASPER HOME FALL PARTY

TBD

BILL NEAL HOME HALLOWEEN
CELEBRATION

*Our residents and staff LOVE having guests over
at special events and celebrations. If you're ever
able to attend, we'd love to host you!*

RECIPE OF THE MONTH: PASTA & VEGGIE SAUCE

INGREDIENTS

- KOSHER SALT
- 1 LARGE RUSSET POTATO (ABOUT 12 OUNCES), PEELED AND CUT INTO 1/4-INCH DICE
- 2 MEDIUM CARROTS, PEELED AND CUT INTO 1/4-INCH DICE (ABOUT 3/4 CUP)
- 3 OUNCES STRING BEANS, TRIMMED AND CUT INTO 1/4-INCH DICE (ABOUT 3/4 CUP)
- 1/2 SMALL FENNEL BULB, TRIMMED AND CUT INTO 1/4-INCH DICE (ABOUT 1/2 CUP)
- 1 SMALL RED ONION, CUT INTO 1/4-INCH DICE (ABOUT 3/4 CUP)
- 1 POUND DRIED PENNE
- 2 TO 4 MEDIUM CLOVES GARLIC, MINCED (SEE NOTE)
- 3/4 CUP EXTRA-VIRGIN OLIVE OIL (SEE NOTE)
- 1/4 CUP MINCED PARSLEY
- FRESHLY GROUND BLACK PEPPER
- GRATED PARMIGIANO-REGGIANO, FOR SERVING

INSTRUCTIONS

- CHOP VEGETABLES AND POTATOES
- FINELY CHOP VEGGIES
- MIX ALL INTO POT TO SIMMER
- BOIL WATER FOR PENNE AND ONCE WATER HAS COME TO A BOIL, ADD
- ADD PASTA TO MIX
- TOP WITH PARSLEY

