



Door2Dreams, Inc.

Talking Points



Background:

It started with one parent who had a dream that her intellectually disabled daughter would one day live and thrive independently in the community where she grew up, Stevens Point. That parent, Karen Medo, began asking the questions that lead her down the path along with eleven others to create a non-profit organization called Door2Dreams, Inc. Door2Dreams is partnering with the Community Foundation to assist adults with permanent intellectual or developmental disabilities (IDD) work, play and live independently of their own choice within central Wisconsin. We are seeking opportunities to create inclusive housing, community support and community resources to expand our mission.

Talking Points:

1. Housing for adults with IDD is a nationwide problem.
 - As many as 75% of IDD adults live with a parent or other caregiver.
 - 1 out of 6 IDD adults are living with a caregiver 60 years of age or older. As those caregivers age many worry their adult children risk being institutionalized or becoming homeless.
 - In addition, every year adults with IDD graduate from schools and transition programs. What happens next for these young adults? A life of isolation?
2. What is the housing situation in our community?
 - According to the Stevens Point Housing Survey conducted in July 2017, there are only two properties with long waiting lists targeted for special needs housing totaling 16 bedrooms. This only covers an estimated 4% of the adult IDD population. What happens to the other 96%?
 - The same survey also recommended more of this type of housing is needed.
3. In a survey from the Arc and CQL last year, 62% of adults with IDD dream of living in their own home or apartment.

Goals:

- Be the contact liaison between individuals, community members and investors who want to create inclusive housing and community-based living models.
- Advocate for expanding and adequately funding community infrastructure to include community based housing options.
- Provide education on housing ownership, options and funding models.
- Advocate for local government and organizations to assess the on-going needs in our community.
- Seek funding options for initial start-up expenses and future mission centered initiatives.
- Create an intake process to help new community members and transitioning adults live within their community of choice.

Rachel Atkinson-Leach, *President*
Cell: (715) 252-7473

Karen Medo, *Vice-President*
Cell: (715) 570-8849