



*"Our son feels safe, loved, and obviously very connected to the staff – he's downright tickled to be at Benedictine."*

--Katherine M., mother of student Carey

## **Backgrounder**

Located on Maryland's Eastern Shore, Benedictine Programs and Services is a nationally recognized, accredited and cost-effective educational living and learning environment for children and adults with special needs. Established in 1959 by the Sisters of St. Benedict, Benedictine cares for approximately 200 children and adults ages 5 through 60+ with intellectual disabilities, multiple disabilities, and autism.

### **The Benedictine School**

The Benedictine School is a non-public school certified through Maryland State Department of Education for school services and DHR and/or DDA for residential services. We serve students with Autism, Intellectual Disabilities, or Multiple Disabilities. Since 1959, the School has provided comprehensive services for and changed lives for countless individuals and their families through its day and residential programs.

School staff work collaboratively to meet the needs of the Whole Child whose needs could not be met in other settings due to complexity and/or intensity. Complex needs could include cognitive, medical, behavioral, communication, motor, emotional, social, or any combination of these. Staff is comprised of teachers, medical staff, therapists and other professionals, and direct care staff. They receive specialized training to meet needs of the students. Staff design and implement educational plans to support students across settings including school, home, work, and community. Instruction, therapies, and all programming are individualized as needed for each student's success.

The large rural campus is conducive to distraction-free learning in a safe setting with a variety of classroom and therapy spaces as well as recreational and leisure spaces. Immersion into the community is provided tailored to students' abilities and providing support as needed for success. Our goal is always for transition to a student's home school and/or community as soon as they are able. For many students this means a transition into adult services in their home community upon graduation. Preparation for this occurs throughout their educational time at Benedictine and utilizing the supports of educational staff as well as accessing the Benedictine Adult Program.

### **The Benedictine Adult Services Program**

Benedictine Adult Services provides residential and community living supports for adults ages 22 to 60+ who live in their own homes, with family, or in community group homes with peers. Those participating in the Maryland Adult Services Residential Program live in one of 18 state-licensed homes. The group homes, which are located in Ridgely, Denton, Henderson, Easton and Annapolis, are managed by professional staff who encourage responsibility, independence and integration into the wider community. Those living on their own or with family may also receive Personal Support services to develop additional skills and interests and to increase their opportunities in their neighborhoods and communities.

Benedictine also provides employment and employment training services. Supported Employment staff offers job development, customized employment, and job coaching services, building on individuals' strengths and promoting self-determination, to assist people in obtaining community employment which match their interests and abilities. In addition to jobs in the community, Benedictine provides employment training, volunteer experience, and community exploration in a variety of settings in the community and at Benedictine businesses. Every participant is provided opportunities to develop their unique potential, experience fulfillment, and develop a sense of purpose. Benedictine is proud to collaborate with Division of Rehabilitative Services (DORS) and a large number of community employers and organizations to support the growth and learning of people who choose Benedictine as their service provider. In addition to the opportunities provided to the adults who receive supports, Adult Services offers an opportunity for the people who encounter them to come to an appreciation of the gifts and contributions of people with disabilities.

### **The Benedictine Foundation**

Benedictine is an extremely cost-effective organization. In fact, about 90 percent of funds donated go toward direct care of students and adults. With an operating budget of \$20 million, Benedictine raises funds through donations and special events. The Benedictine Foundation secures the financial resources needed to ensure the future of Benedictine's programs, services and other activities.