



## **Backgrounder**

Located on Maryland's Eastern Shore, Benedictine Programs and Services is a nationally recognized and accredited not-for-profit organization that provides residential, vocational training, employment and community living services to more than 200 children and adults ages 5 to 60+ with intellectual and developmental disabilities and autism.

Benedictine was founded in 1887 by the Sisters of the Order of St. Benedict when they purchased 500 acres of farmland in the town of Ridgely in Caroline County, Maryland. Since 1959, the School has provided comprehensive services for and changed the lives of countless individuals and their families through its day and residential programs. Today, nearly 60 years later, Benedictine is a multifunctional educational center that includes a vocational training center in Easton and 19 group homes throughout Maryland's Upper Shore and Annapolis. With over 425 full and part-time staff, Benedictine is one of the largest employers on the Shore.

## **The Benedictine School**

The Benedictine School, a non-public school certified through the Maryland State Department of Education, provides full-time residential and educational programs for youth ages 5 to 21 at our Ridgely campus. We receive funding from various state agencies including the Maryland State Department of Education, Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration, the Maryland Division of Rehabilitation Services and the Maryland Autism Waiver Program. Funding also includes private tuition and fees, out of state fees and fundraising proceeds.

School staff, including special education teachers, psychologists, social workers, behavioral counselors, and administrative support personnel, work collaboratively to meet the needs of the whole child. Currently, 65 young people from most Maryland counties as well as Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Virginia benefit from this living and learning environment through functional academics; vocational training; speech and language, occupational and physical therapy; behavior management planning; assistive technology; 24-hour nursing and medication management; computer training; art, music and adaptive physical education.

## **The Benedictine Adult Services Program**

Benedictine Adult Services addresses the needs of adults with multiple intellectual and developmental disabilities. Our programs provide residential support for up to 68 adults ages 21 or older, in 18 group homes located in Ridgely, Henderson, Denton, Easton and Annapolis. Employment and community services for adults are provided to an additional 101 individuals through our Ridgely location and Community Services and Training Center in Easton, Md. Supported Employment staff offer job development, customized employment and job coaching services that build on an individual's strengths and promote self-determination, to assist them in obtaining community employment that matches their interests and abilities. Benedictine is proud to collaborate with Division of Rehabilitative Services (DORS) and many community employers and organizations including UMMD Shore Health, Fairfield Inn and Suites, Tri-Gas & Oil, Walmart, Acme and McDonald's. These businesses provide a vital resource by supporting the growth and learning experiences of people who choose Benedictine as their service provider. In addition to the opportunities available to Benedictine adults who receive support, Adult Services helps the community members who interact with them reach a better understanding of and appreciation for the contributions that people with disabilities can make.



### **The Benedictine Foundation**

Benedictine is an extremely cost-effective organization. In fact, approximately 90% of charitable contributions received support the direct care of students and adults. With an operating budget of over \$26 million, Benedictine raises funds through donation solicitations and special events, to secure the financial resources needed to ensure the future of Benedictine's programs, services and other activities that impact those we serve.

Building on the core values of compassionate caring, dignity of work and hospitality established by the Sisters of St. Benedict, Benedictine is, in many ways, a leader in the transformation of care for individuals with multiple disabilities. The work remains focused on creating a meaningful life for all by helping those served here achieve their greatest potential.

### **Focus on the Future**

The challenges we'll face in the not-too-distant future include:

- Transformation of our adult and autism waiver programs to meet the requirements of the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services Community Rule.
- Compliance with new regulations under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.
- Future compliance with the Ken Capone Equal Employment Act.
- Workforce recruitment/development issues and lack of transportation on the Shore.
- Repurposing existing facilities and addressing capital infrastructure needs to meet these new requirements.
- Redirecting and adding transportation needs.
- Unprecedented change for Benedictine occurring in a fiscally tight environment.