

# Forever Family



What begins as a sad story of loneliness, and low self-esteem, ends in the best way possible. In sharing his journey into the CCH program, Anthony recalls years spent at residential schools in the south. “They were mean there. People called me names.” Later in life, Anthony shared that he had the opportunity to live in his own apartment. He says of this time, “I was lonely and lived alone. I didn’t think very much of myself before I met John. But then one day at Chapel Haven a new guy came in and we became the best of friends.” John shares that he was volunteering at Chapel Haven and would reward the guys he worked with for all their accomplishments. He recalls that Anthony always wanted to do an outing where he got to spend time with John and his family. So even after he was no longer able to volunteer, Anthony remained a big part of his life, seeing him often. When it became apparent that living alone was not in Anthony’s best interest, John says he made the decision that would forever change his life. “I told Anthony’s parents that he could move in with me, and it was the best decision I have ever made.” Anthony shares “ I really appreciate John. He made me feel good about myself. We laugh with each other, we cry with each other. Living with John has changed my life.” Longtime friend and provider John, feels the same way. “ I can’t imagine my life without Anthony. He is my family.”

## Contacts

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The Department of Developmental Services



**BUILDING BRIDGES  
CONNECTING  
FAMILIES**

***Community  
Companion  
Homes***

## Building Bridges

“There are so many wonderful things about opening your home to a special needs individual. Not only do you enrich their lives by welcoming them into your family, but they enrich your life too – in ways you cannot imagine”. – MP Licensee

When the time comes for a child or adult with intellectual disabilities to leave their family home, the opportunity to live in a DDS licensed Community Companion Home (CCH) can be a great choice. A Community Companion Home is a family setting that allows someone to grow and develop in a natural home environment, with normal, every-day functions and community experiences.

CCH licensees provide the individual placed in their care support for lifelong planning and the opportunity to join with others to create and promote meaningful relationships and to fully participate as valued members of their communities, as well as maintaining contact with people important in their lives. The CCH Licensee also assists the individual to identify goals and take daily steps towards accomplishing them.

To ensure that people live in a safe environment, licensed CCHs must meet standards set by the Department of Developmental Services.

These include but are not limited to:

- Annual Individual Planning (IP)
- Quarterly individual reviews of the IP
- Monthly support visits by an assigned professional
- Statutory requirements for licensed Community Companion Homes and DDS Policy and Procedures
- Yearly Fire Safety Inspection
- Annual state and local police background checks (for those over 18 that live in the home)
- Initial and on-going training
- Annual licensing inspections by the DDS Quality Management Service Division

“Don’t be intimidated. The CCH support system is terrific. They will help you through anything and the rewards are tremendous”. – KA Licensee

## Connecting Families

A CCH licensee offers a safe and nurturing home by giving guidance and support to individuals who reside with the licensee. The licensee plays an active role in the individual’s team and the development of an Individual Plan (IP). The support plan for every individual is based on the team’s knowledge of the individual’s:

- Personal challenges
- Strengths
- Skills
- Preferences
- Desired outcomes

“I don’t feel like a ‘provider’. These guys aren’t work. They’re my family. I do for them just like I would do for the rest of my family.” – PP Licensee

The plan provides guidelines and specific strategies that address the person’s needs in the social, behavioral, medical and skill areas and is designed to lead to a positive lifestyle. Living in a home environment presents daily opportunities to acquire and use new skills. The licensee supports the individual’s participation in family and community activities. They assist the individual to learn about and use community resources and services, as well as participate in activities that are valued and appropriate for the person’s age, gender and culture.



### “Reasons why I love my CCH”

- I feel safe
- I feel part of a family
- I feel supported
- I feel respected
- I feel welcomed in the home
- I get guidance and support
- My decisions are respected

– PB CCH Individual

## Changing Lives

“I love giving a home to someone who needs one. He brings me joy. He is a great family member. He is very sweet and polite, and always so appreciative of everything you do for him.” – MP Licensee

Before opening your home to an individual, the Department of Developmental Services offers a variety of initial and on-going trainings to meet licensing regulations and to provide additional safeguards for the individuals residing in Community Companion Homes. Initial training includes an overview of the Department’s Mission Statement which provides philosophical guidelines that direct the care we provide. Licensees are trained to meet the needs of the individual. To name a few, some of the trainings include CPR, First Aid, and Abuse & Neglect Prevention & Reporting,

## Additional Information

If you would like more information on the CCH Program, visit our website at [www.ct.gov/ddc](http://www.ct.gov/ddc) then follow the featured link for Community Companion Homes

If interested in having a packet of information about the CCH Program and licensing requirements sent to you in order to pursue opening your home, please contact

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