

February 12, 2008

Dear Friends of the Special Needs Community,

As some of you are aware, a unique and very exciting future awaits us. Imagine a high quality, faith-based living facility designed especially for adults with special needs. Imagine---

Many of us have dreamed about this possibility and a group of us are now committed to making this dream come true. Can it happen in Lubbock? Absolutely!!!! The process has already begun.

On January 26th, a group of approximately 30 people met to learn about facilities for adults with special needs in other locations and to begin to plan for a similar facility in Lubbock. A steering committee was formed to start the work for forming a non-profit organization. That committee is meeting weekly to "get the ball rolling".

If you share our vision and are interested in participating, there are two upcoming meetings you should know about.

March 1, 2008, 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Family Church, 34th and Boston, Lubbock (This meeting will take place during the Friends of God Church service. Friends of God Church is for individuals with special needs. Your teen or adult may enjoy the service while we meet.) This meeting will be aimed at family members and friends. We will have an update on the progress of the steering committee and getting volunteers to make final contacts with community and business leaders that should be invited to the training on March 8th.

Community Voices – Next Step Training

March 8, 2008, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Science Spectrum, 2579 S. Loop 289, Lubbock This training session will be targeted toward getting this housing project off the ground. Family members, advocates, educators, community and business leaders will all benefit from this training. This project will be a community effort. Enriching the lives of adults with special needs not only benefits these adults but also enriches the entire community.

I will give an overview of what has led us to this point and we will view a video on the Brookwood Community. This is a housing facility near Houston that is probably most like the direction we hope to move. If you would like to view their website prior to the meeting please visit, www.brookwoodcommunity.org. Brad Thompson, with the HALI project will be leading the training session. Some of you have been to Community Voices trainings previously. This is a follow up to the original training. Please come, even if you have attended previous sessions.

Many people are beginning to share our vision and this "journey" is so exciting to me. A small group of parents can not make this happen, but if we all do our part and contribute in areas related to our strengths, we will make this dream a reality.

If you have any questions, please email me at dsalley@esc17.net or leave a message at 894-7762.

Sincerely,
Debra Salley