



What We Hear About Lifesharing

"It is so rewarding to see how you can open the world for someone. Dustin has just matured and blossomed so much. He has really become part of our family, and it has been so much more rewarding than I ever anticipated. I highly recommend Lifesharing for anyone who has a place in their heart for a special needs individual. It is a win-win."

Stephanie Fabian, provider family member

"I tell people all of the time that this really is like family. They bring a lot to my life and I bring a lot to theirs."

Susan Osborne, provider family member

"For people who have been in placement their whole lives, getting to be part of a family gives you more than you ever expected. Being in family living, I learned a lot of things I never knew I could do. It's good to be part of a family."

Kim, Lifesharing participant

"I just love having a family, I really do!"

Julian, Lifesharing participant

What Are the Provider's Responsibilities?

In most cases, the individual will be out in the community during the day, either at school, working at a job, or in a day program. Most providers who work outside the home find that their schedules mesh very well.

As a provider, your other responsibilities include:

- Attending medical appointments
- Working on goals to help the individual become more independent.
- Providing a quality home life that is mutually beneficial for your family and the individual.
- Ensuring that your home meets basic safety standards established by the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare.

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Lifesharing Through Family Living

Sharing your home and life with an individual with intellectual disabilities



 **Barber National Institute**
Making dreams come true.

Lifesharing Through Family Living enables an individual with intellectual disabilities to join a provider family or a companion in their private home as a member of that family.

Lifesharing is more than providing the basics such as food and shelter. It is about sharing life experiences in a mutually beneficial and enduring relationship.



Who can become a provider?

Providers include:

- Single Adults or Couples
- Two-Parent Families with Children
- “Empty-Nest” Couples

No special experience is required. What’s most important is the provider’s ability to enjoy being with people and being open to sharing their life.

What Will The Individual Be Like?

The new member of your family will be a child or an adult with an intellectual disability. While individuals with disabilities may learn more slowly than others, they have the same dreams of independence, friendship and fulfillment. They can also give back love and be a contributing member to family and community. Many of the individuals are currently residing in a group home and have expressed a desire to live as part of a family.

How Can I Get Started?

The potential providers and the individual are carefully interviewed, then matched to ensure they have compatible interests and personalities. The Lifesharing Specialist will then arrange supervised visits to introduce the individual to your home and family. You will slowly progress, developing a relationship, until all parties feel comfortable with the move into your home.

Will I Have Help?

Yes! A Lifesharing Specialist is always available 24/7 to give support, answer questions you may have, and assist in coordination of:

- Behavioral Support
- Speech/Communication Assistance
- Other supports for the individual

How Are Providers Paid?

Lifesharing Providers are Independent Contractors of Adult Foster Care and receive a federally-exempt stipend which covers the care and services as well as the individual’s room and board. The individual’s income and benefits cover their own medical expenses and personal purchases. Additional support services are available based on the individual’s needs.



What if I Need a Temporary Break?

Lifesharing Providers are able to utilize Substitute Care when a temporary break in caregiving is needed.

How Can I Get More Information?

For more information, please call:

Erie Region: (814) 874-5623 or (814) 874-5609

Philadelphia: (215) 871-0731