

Together building community.



Sunshine's annual Walk, Run & Roll gives the community a chance to relax, connect and once again appreciate the gifts we each have to offer.



Sunshine Communities for decades has helped people with developmental disabilities live, work and play on their terms. In 2016, it advanced its mission with an audacious, \$3.5 million effort that will make living in a neighborhood a reality for 32 men, women and children.

With public officials and news reporters watching, Sunshine broke ground in May on the first two of five new community homes. It was more than brick-and-mortar that drove the excitement of this \$3.5 million effort. The two homes are being built with the warm welcome of nearby Little Flower Catholic Parish, which for years has reached out to those with disabilities. Even as the walls and roofs of the two homes took shape across the street from the church and adjoining school, friendships took root between parishioners, students and Sunshine residents who will move from Sunshine's large campus into the two homes. They met in song, relaxed together on Sunday afternoons, and shared with each other in Advent services and even a raucous Halloween dance, packed with silly costumes and giggle-inducing dances.

The partnership generated headlines across the region and even in the National Catholic Review under a headline that read, in part, "Special Welcome."

The community help has been stunning as well. As important as the funds and volunteer hours and friendships that drive this project, about 20 percent of the building materials has been donated by individuals and local businesses – a testament to the kindness and generosity of the Northwest Ohio community.

In quieter ways too, Sunshine continued to help people with disabilities live more independent, more meaningful lives - whether in developing job skills, connecting with friends and loved ones, or finding everyday activities that

boost the health of minds, bodies and souls.

Sunshine expanded its vocational efforts in 2016, hiring more artists with disabilities at Sunshine Studios in Uptown Maumee. It opened a vocational center in Fulton County for daily activities, and opened a unique classroom – a home in West Toledo – to help individuals sharpen everyday living and work skills.

For Sunshine's family, there was time to celebrate and fellowship as well. Among its largest gatherings each year is the Black Swamp Benefit in Wauseon, a fundraiser for Sunshine Communities and Mennonite Central Committee. The event gives Sunshine's family - those supported by Sunshine, their staff, friends, family and Sunshine supporters - time to gather again to watch the much-anticipated quilt sale and share in the equally-anticipated fried pies!

Hundreds gathered too for the annual Sunshine Walk, Run & Roll – an opportunity for the entire community to explore the Wabash Cannonball Trail and once again be reminded of the talents and gifts we can offer each other.

This past year has been busy, no doubt. But it has been a fruitful one too as we are reminded of the potential in each of us, the path ahead, and the importance of creating community so we can continue the journey together.



Sunshine will open five new community homes. Constructed at the intersection of faith and human services, the first two homes are under way with the help of Toledo's Little Flower Catholic Parish.