



Sunshine
CREATING COMMUNITY



Since 1950 Sunshine Communities has supported people with developmental disabilities, creating opportunities for lasting relationships and meaningful experiences.

Sunshine expansion means brighter community for all

Sunshine Communities added new homes, new job opportunities, and new day programming options for people with developmental disabilities in 2017, thanks in large part to community support and partnerships.

It's part of Sunshine's mission of **creating community** at the Maumee-based nonprofit that began in 1950. That year Georgette and Roy Engler, parents of five children with disabilities, opened a children's home to support other families, eventually solidifying its future by partnering with Mennonite Health Services. Today Sunshine supports more than 400 men, women and children in Ohio, providing housing, job training and employment, day activities, and medical and therapeutic services.

In April, the first two of five fully-accessible homes opened under a \$3.5 million capital campaign, providing new homes for eight residents with disabilities. In September, community and faith leaders joined Sunshine to dedicate the third and fourth fully-accessible homes that will open early in 2018 for 16 more residents. And a fifth home is now under construction in Walbridge, the first Sunshine home in Wood County.

Of course, these efforts are about much more than brick-and-mortar. Likewise, life is about much more than simply living. By supporting people with disabilities as they live more independently in smaller neighborhoods, Sunshine builds opportunities to root and cultivate relationships which in turn, builds a more robust and interconnected community for everyone.



Residents explored their new, fully-accessible homes. The homes offer opportunities for community-based experiences as well as friendships in surrounding neighborhoods.

To that end, Sunshine expanded other opportunities as well in 2017. It opened a Life Coaching Center, a unique classroom where individuals learn skills for more independent living, including preparing meals and arranging for transportation. Partnerships with local churches made possible more day activities, and relationships with businesses created more jobs for workers with disabilities.

This growth means people with disabilities are better able to live, work and play on their terms and in connected neighborhoods, and it continues Sunshine's work begun in 1950 - building a brighter community for all.