

## LIFESHARING

### Mission Statement

To provide resources for individuals with mental retardation so that they can develop life skills and establish social relationships within the community.

Lifesharing secures a healthy, therapeutic environment which encourages each individual to grow mentally, physically, socially and spiritually.

Mercy's Lifesharing program is guided by the values of the Mercy Mental Retardation Services Residential Program.

These values are:

- JUSTICE
- COURAGE
- INTEGRITY
- COMMUNITY
- COMPASSION
- STEWARDSHIP
- COMMITMENT
- REVERENCE FOR EACH PERSON



# MERCY MENTAL RETARDATION SERVICES



## LIFESHARING

Pittsburgh Mercy  
Mercy Mental Retardation Services

Lifesharing

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MENTAL RETARDATION SERVICES

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PITTSBURGH  
MERCY  
A HERITAGE OF HOPE

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AND CATHOLIC HEALTH EAST, SPONSORED BY THE SISTERS OF MERCY

  
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MENTAL RETARDATION  
SERVICES

## SHARE YOUR HOME, SHARE YOUR HEART,

**L**IFESHARING IS AN ALTERNATIVE LIVING CHOICE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH MENTAL RETARDATION.

Once an individual has expressed a desire to live with a companion, a couple or a family in a private home or apartment, the integration process begins.

### BENEFITS TO THE PROVIDER

To become a provider, you must be willing to open your home and your heart.

The person will become part of your family as well as part of the community in which you live.

- **Companionship**
- **Opportunity to help another person**
- **Non-taxable stipend (earnings)**
- **Room and board payments to subsidize your household costs**

### BENEFITS TO THE INDIVIDUAL

- **Becoming a contributing member of a family**
- **Receiving additional individualized attention**
- **Developing trusting and caring relationships**



**At Mercy Mental Retardation Services, we strive to match up individuals and families based on mutual interests and lifestyles.**

### WHY CHOOSE MERCY MENTAL RETARDATION SERVICES AND MERCY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH?

Mercy Mental Retardation Services has a long history of providing services to individuals in Allegheny County with mental retardation, mental illness and addiction. In addition to our experience, our staff is strongly committed to improving the lives of people with disabilities.

**We offer in-depth training for the provider, both prior to the placement, as well as after the placement.**

### A SHORT PROGRAM HISTORY

In Pennsylvania, Lifesharing officially began around 1982 when one family opened their home to a person with a disability.

Over the years, the program has spread to almost every county in the commonwealth.

Today, more than 1,200 people with mental retardation now live with families and companions.

At Mercy Mental Retardation Services, we continually strive to upgrade and expand our Lifesharing program to better serve our community.

**For more information, contact:  
Mercy Mental Retardation Services  
Lifesharing Coordinator  
412.344.6415**