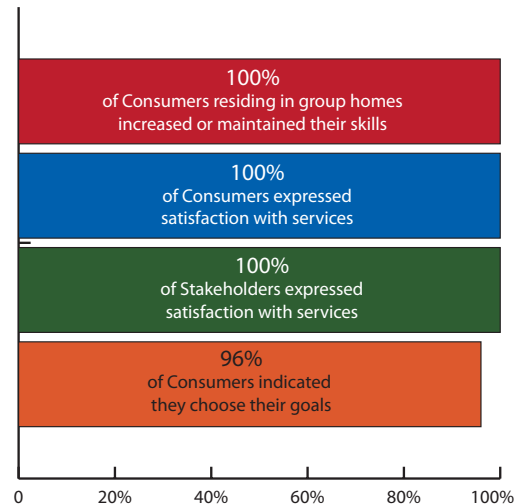


Community Living



Hugh will engage you, “Hi, my name’s Hugh. I’m from Maine. Where are you from?” He is eager to introduce himself to the people he meets on the bus, in his local store, and out in the community. In this way, Hugh has become one of our best Public Relations representatives. This is quite a change from someone who originally struggled when in a position to socialize with others. Hugh has a great sense of humor and lightness of spirit that has captured the heart of Haven staff and has had a similar effect on most people he meets. He has had incredible success while working with Community Haven. He came to CHAC in 1983 after moving out of his mother’s home. He began in CHAC’s Community Living program, living on campus, in a group home setting. In-home support staff helped him to be responsible for himself. He began by learning necessary home activities like cooking, cleaning and grocery shopping. Hugh progressed with more complicated but important concepts like medication protocol and what to do in an emergency. He learned important social lessons and helped to support

his peers. All the while, Hugh maintained a busy schedule with home outings and extracurricular activities. Gradually his need for in-home support lessened. In 1996, he made the decision to move out into the community. Hugh has worked hard to become more independent. He has learned the bus system and is able to navigate entirely on his own. Without assistance, Hugh calls cabs to get him to places that are not on the bus routes. Additionally, Hugh makes his own appointments. Before the monthly dances, he schedules a shave and a haircut at the local barber. Hugh makes it a priority to vote in elections. He does his own banking; writing checks for bills and depositing his paycheck. If he has spare time, he volunteers to help re-shelve items at Big Lots and amazes people with his ability to remember their home addresses. Hugh’s world has opened up, in part, because of services received through Community Haven. Independence truly has become Hugh’s “new favorite thing.”



Personal Outcomes and Person-Centered services have become the “buzz words” for providers working with people with disabilities. As a program, Community Living does not merely talk about personal outcomes and person-centered services, but seeks to put the meaning into action. The program maintains its commitment to:



- ❑ **Seeking to know and understand the uniqueness and core values of each person and their right to live their life as they choose.**
- ❑ **Being flexible, creative and open to dare to ask the question, “Why not?”**
- ❑ **Providing Education, Experience, and Exposure to ensure each person has an opportunity to grow, learn, and increase their self-knowledge.**
- ❑ **Recognizing the importance of becoming the learner, and the person seeking services the teacher.**

