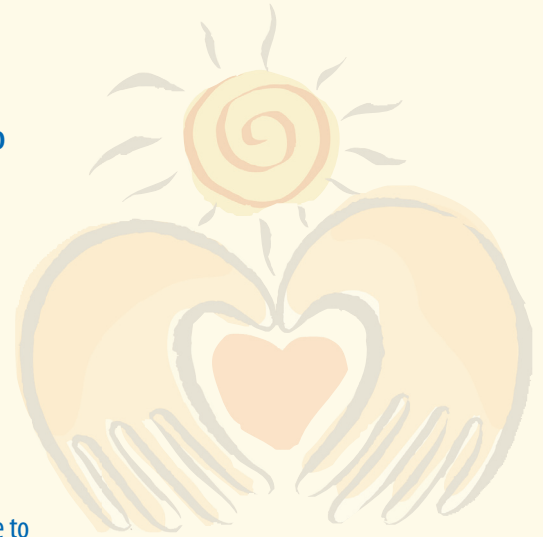


## A Place to Call Home, Family Included.

Now there's a new housing option for people with disabilities and the frail elderly.



**What happens when disabilities threaten our independence and require us to rely on others for help with the ordinary routines of life?** One answer, as America moves from institutional to community-based care, is supportive placement housing. Supportive placement housing, the newest model funded by VHDA, is a unique housing and service combination that grew out of specialized foster care waiver programs.

"VHDA designs very broad, flexible programs so we can easily encompass new ways of thinking about housing," said Senior Community Housing Officer Bill Fuller. "Supportive, or sponsored, placement grew out of VHDA asking, 'Why can't we use waivers to...?'"

Waivers, designed to allow service to follow the person as they leave the institution and move to the community, fund many of the services for people in state institutions. Those same waivers have been used to help people leave group homes and move into homes where they become members of the family. Licensed programs, such as Supportive Services of Virginia (SSV), support the families; VHDA's flexible mortgage loans help homeowners provide the housing.

"Supportive placement housing is just one of many alternative living placements that are emerging for people who traditionally have spent their adult lives in state institutions. VHDA is playing an important role by making these alternatives affordable and accessible," said Fuller. "The housing models for people with disabilities are becoming more diverse than ever, and VHDA is fully engaged in the Olmstead implementation efforts now being addressed by over 25 agencies under four Secretariats."

In July 2007, VHDA financed its first supportive placement home. The family received a \$295,000 loan to purchase a new home and add universally designed features. In addition, the family receives a monthly waiver stipend to provide services for John and Peter (not their real names) that include:

- Room and board
- 24 hour supervision and training
- Transportation to and from medical appointments
- Training and assistance with daily living skills

John and Peter moved in with the family after leaving a group home operated by SSV. For John and Peter, who hadn't done well living in a group home (where individual attention can be scarce), supportive placement housing was the answer.

*Funding this type of specialized housing is one way VHDA increases affordable housing opportunities for people with disabilities and the frail elderly. This program provides funding for housing that falls outside the typical home loan parameters.*

To learn about VHDA's Supportive Placement Housing program, contact Bill Fuller, PhD at 804-343-5754 or [bill.fuller@vhda.com](mailto:bill.fuller@vhda.com).