

Everyone Matters



EVERGREEN LIFE SERVICES



everyone matters.

evergreen

LIFE SERVICES

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Evergreen Life Services (ELS) is a charitable, non-profit organization that provides a full range of professional services to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). ELS was started in 1959 as a Presbyterian ministry to provide community-based services to local people with disabilities in Northwest Louisiana. Prior to that time, people with severe IDD were usually sent to state institutions. Since its beginning, ELS has expanded into eight states and now serves over 1,200 people with disabilities.



UNDERSTANDING DISABILITIES

Evergreen serves people with many different types of disabilities. In almost all cases, these are severe and irreversible impairment of the brain, often present from birth or arising during childhood. These disabilities may be caused by genetic abnormalities, diseases and infections, or injury. Generally, people with these disabilities

face lifelong challenges and usually need some level of professional support throughout their lifespan. With the right support and training, they can lead productive and fulfilling lives.

EMPHASIZING ABILITIES

As a nationally recognized leader in serving people with IDD Evergreen focuses on the abilities of the people we serve.

From our perspective, the glass is always half full. In almost all cases, people with IDD can greatly improve their level of functioning with the right professional support and training. With decades of experience and modern best practices, ELS works hard to enable every person it serves to reach his or her highest potential for independence, self-care and productivity.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Evergreen operates a wide variety of programs and services, including community homes, day work centers, supportive living and employment services, art centers, and social enterprise projects. ELS residential services are designed to keep people safe and comfortable in a normal community home while learning the basic life skills to become as independent as possible.



Our day programs empower people with disabilities to express their creativity and desire to work, helping them engage productively in a variety of work options with the opportunity to earn a paycheck. Even a small paycheck provides a huge boost to their self-esteem and a sense of dignity.

CHRISTIAN ETHICS

Founded almost 60 years ago as a Presbyterian ministry, ELS is guided in its work by Christian principles, and, most importantly, the words of Jesus:

“Whatever you do for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you do for me.”

ELS sees the people it serves as truly the innocent children of God, who were born into this life on a difficult path and who deserve every amount of help and support we can provide for them. Although ELS maintains a strong connection to many Presbyterian churches, we provide services to people with disabilities of all faiths and beliefs. Evergreen depends on the churches in the communities it serves to be strong partners in this important ministry.

OUR FUNDING

Like other providers of services for people with disabilities, ELS depends on funding from the state and federal government sources to cover basic costs. Proper care can be costly, and it is far beyond the means of most families to cover it privately.

Unlike some other service providers, Evergreen is a non-profit charity and does not pay dividends to shareholders. Evergreen can focus its energy and resources on making life as good as possible for the people we serve. Although Evergreen receives government funding, it is not enough to cover all of the needs of the people we serve. We depend on the generosity of concerned people, like you, to sustain our commitment to the health, safety and comfort of those entrusted to our care.

Evergreen Life Services works hard to enable every person it serves to reach his or her highest potential for independence, self-care and productivity.



THE UNMET NEEDS

The people we serve depend on the generosity of charitable donors to provide many of the benefits of daily life that we all take for granted. For example, when the people we serve need dental work, their available health coverage will pay only for extractions. To provide normal dental care, such as fillings and cleanings that we all take for granted, our clients must depend on privately donated funds. There are many other daily needs that rely on private funds. Evergreen also depends on donated funds to maintain its commitment to excellence. Unlike some programs that simply “warehouse” people with disabilities at the lowest possible cost, Evergreen insists on hiring well-qualified staff to provide life-enriching activities for the people it serves. State funding is continuously shrinking, so private financial support becomes more critical each year.

YOUR ROLE

As a thoughtful person who cares about people with disabilities, you can play an important role in making their daily lives healthier, safer and more comfortable. Your donation, large or small, goes directly to improve services and the quality of life for people with disabilities. Because most of the people served by Evergreen will require life-long care, your continuing commitment with a regular annual or monthly contribution will have a large impact on the well-being of people struggling with these disabilities. Our promise to you is that we will use your donations solely for the benefit of people with disabilities, and we will keep you well-informed about the impact of your donations on a regular basis.

MOVING TOWARD TOMORROW

Evergreen has continuously expanded over the past six decades, now serving eight states, often at the invitation of state authorities who recognize that Evergreen can provide higher-quality services for people with IDD. In some cases, Evergreen has worked with state and local authorities to move people with disabilities out of state institutions and sub-standard private facilities and into comfortable, well-run high-quality community homes.

This process continues with your help. There are still many people with IDD who reside in uncomfortable, inadequate facilities with little privacy or basic human dignity. We trust that you, like us, feel that people with disabilities deserve a normal, enriched life that provides more than just a bed, three meals, and a day spent watching television.

Please join with us in fulfilling Jesus’ exhortation that we properly care for his beloved children with disabilities among us.



Our Mission

SERVE. PROVIDE. CHAMPION. We serve, provide for and champion individuals with disabilities.

Serve:

- Support individuals with disabilities physically, emotionally and spiritually.
- Help them find self-worth and abilities.
- Teach basic life and social skills, job and financial training and more.

Provide:

- Quality care for medical and behavioral needs.
- Opportunities for meaningful employment.
- An independent and abundant life.
- A place they can call home.
- Love, acceptance, value and friendship.

Champion:

- Advocate for the rights of individuals with disabilities.
- Help society understand disabilities and how they can help.
- Support individuals in making their dreams a reality.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact the Director of Donor Relations or Executive Director in your area or call your local division office. | www.evergreenls.org

