



Shared Living

a Pathlight program

COMMUNITY

FAMILY

INCLUSION

Shared Living enriches the lives of people with developmental disabilities and those fortunate to love and care for them, as well as the communities in which these families thrive.



Heather and Keith

Why Us?

Pioneered by Pathlight in 1974, Shared Living matches individuals with developmental disabilities with individuals and families so they might live and grow in a home-based situation and experience the everyday activities of family and community life.

For decades, Pathlight has developed a talented and coordinated team of social workers, support staff, and consulting specialists who monitor, provide assistance, and ensure our families receive the support they need. We address a wide range of disability, medical, and personal care issues, and handle a variety of complex cases. We take great pride in our reputation as one of the leaders in Massachusetts in Shared Living.

Is Caregiving for You?

Successful care providers understand the individual's viewpoint, are highly motivated to

make a difference in their life, and have the flexibility to adapt as the living situation evolves.

Common attributes of care providers consist of an ability to set boundaries; provide structure; be open, honest, and stable; function easily as part of a team; be involved in their community; and be flexible as everyone's needs and abilities change with personal growth.

Before you begin, you receive six weeks of training to help you to understand the history of developmental and other disabilities, your role in establishing a successful relationship, and the importance of community integration and working as a team.

In addition to an annual stipend, Pathlight is there for you with ongoing education, respite care, high-level case management, support from our clinical staff and consultants, and 24-hour back-up in the event of an emergency.

Match Making

We work hard to match the caregiver's qualities with the needs and personality of the individual they care for.

We make matches based on attributes like energy level, personality, tolerance, values, and the wishes of the individual, as well as the guardian, care provider, and/or biological family.

We know that care providers truly want to make a difference. Our job is to ensure that a successful match is made.

Caregiver Eligibility

In order to explore caregiving, you:

- must be at least 21 years of age
- must own or rent a home
- must be able to provide personal care
- may be married or single

Caregiver Benefits

- Stipend
- Ongoing training & education
- Responsive case management
- Satisfaction of making the difference in someone's life
- Chance to enrich your world

Who We Serve

The people we are privileged to serve are of all ages and abilities. They may have extensive physical disabilities, intellectual disabilities, require medical involvement, or they may need minimal or no assistance.



Just as the individuals we serve learn, develop skills, and enjoy personal growth within lasting, meaningful relationships, so do their care providers.

Referrals

If interested in a Shared Living option, contact your state agency in western Massachusetts.

How To Learn More

Call 413-731-4548 or email info@pathlightgroup.org.



"I spend some time with my girls. We are sisters!" ~Marie

"We are an active family and having Marie with us has made everything we do more fun. She's added happiness to our family. I wish I knew about Shared Living sooner." ~Amy

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About Pathlight

Shared Living is a Pathlight program

Pathlight is a 501(c)3 non-profit Massachusetts corporation with offices in Pittsfield, Springfield, Greenfield, and Northampton. It was founded in 1952 by five mothers of children with developmental disabilities.

The majority of Pathlight's revenue comes through state agencies, including the Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services and the Massachusetts Department of Medical Assistance. Pathlight also raises money from a broad network of generous donors. We gratefully accept support from individuals, businesses, and foundations.