

# Martha's Barn Inc. Family Model

A pilot model is a small-scale operation that helps an organization create a large-scale project, reflective of the organization's unmet needs. Our pilot model is generating an **Inter-Agency Agreement** referenced in VT's White Paper on Autism Spectrum Disorders.

<https://ddsd.vermont.gov/sites/ddsd/files/documents/DDS-ReportOnAutism-Act264Board.pdf>

Studies show that 'family involvement' lessens costs for organizations and produces the most positive outcome of success for the individual with a life-long disability. **Essential for Living** is a communication, behavior, and functional skills assessment, curriculum, and skill tracking instrument for both children and adults with moderate to severe disabilities.

A current **Essential for Living** assessment <https://www.bds.com/essential-for-living>

will be needed prior to acceptance so we may best support your loved one/client.

Applications for membership includes individual (client with a developmental disability) and direct support person (ready to learn). Each 'member duo' will create an **Individual Action Plan (IAP)**. Individual Action Plans are based on your strengths and skills and created in a 'team collaboration' with your Designated Agency's Case Manager upon application.

Members must follow their IAP to the best of their abilities. If a higher level of clinical support is needed, this can be addressed on a case-by-case basis upon intake. Our IAP can be individualized and compliment your Designated Agency's "ISA" **Individualized Support Agreement**.

Each member will have an assigned space to keep their IAP and applicable materials. If an individual 'chooses' to participate in farm chores, there will be user-friendly visual supports around the property. Our 'Seasonal Farm Stand' and 'Entrepreneurships' are promoted but not mandatory. Our primary goals are to establish routines, build upon skills, build peer relationships, and facilitate caregiver trainings under VT licensed professionals. Eligibility is on a case-by-case basis in collaboration with your Designated Agency.

"Whenever there is a human in need, there is an opportunity for kindness and to make a difference." ~ Kevin Heath