



## A new haven to open at University of Arizona

**Organization to bring 35 years of experience to program serving persons with autism spectrum disorders and mild developmental disabilities**

No one said that starting new programs from scratch would be easy, but after a successful launch in July 2006 of its Asperger's Syndrome Adult Transition Program—the only residential program in the country created exclusively to serve adults with this disorder—Chapel Haven decided to offer its unique programming model in other areas of the country to other underserved populations.

Chapel Haven's traditional program, founded in 1972 in New Haven, Connecticut, uses a teaching model for its residential life skills, employment services, recreation, and education programs. Its two-year residential program offers an intensive curriculum that teaches young adults with cognitive disabilities the keys to independence. After successful conclusion of the two-year program, the men and women of Chapel Haven transition into the community where they live independently, with just enough support from Chapel Haven in all areas to be independent for the rest of their lives.

With two successful programs to its credit, each with its own unique curriculum serving very different populations, the time was right to go forward. Because of its national reputation for services to individuals with disabilities, the University of Arizona in Tucson was a logical starting point for its new program, Chapel Haven West. The new program will serve persons with autism spectrum disorders and persons with mild developmental disabilities. Scheduled to open in July 2008, this program also will have a unique, specially designed curriculum. The Chapel Haven West curriculum will feature Social Communicative Competence as its core component. With a speech and

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### News From CARF

#### Need more bedtime reading?

Promising Practices is a quick read, so if you're interested in some more extended educational opportunities and tools, you may enjoy the CARF Connection. CARF Connection provides timely tips, resources, and updates about business practices. Learn about improving services and stay informed with the latest CARF news -- all from the convenience of your desktop or laptop computer. Past issues feature articles about risk management, cultural competency, building a performance improvement system, technology and much more. Read the CARF Connection online at [www.carf.org/connection](http://www.carf.org/connection)

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language pathologist on staff, the students will be taught the appropriate interpretation and use of nonverbal language in a variety of settings. This part of the curriculum will also encourage the student to demonstrate increased expressive language skills. The social communication component will be blended into all aspects of the student's life in the program—employment, life skills, recreation, and education—facilitating a successful transition to independent living at the conclusion of the two-year program. Chapel Haven West will also provide lifetime support for its graduates and others who wish to access its services in the Greater Tucson community.

The partnership with the University of Arizona will allow students to sit in on classes and use all facilities on the campus, including the fitness center and the computer lab that are part of the Disability Resource Center. Some of the Chapel Haven functional academic classes will be held on campus, and graduate students from the Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences Department will intern in the program. Campus life will be a day-to-day part of the program, complete with athletic events, student social groups, and get-togethers in the student lounge.

Whether it's Chapel Haven West in Tucson, the traditional program for adults with cognitive disabilities in New Haven, or the Asperger's Syndrome Adult Transition Program, also in New Haven, Chapel Haven takes its mission very seriously: to provide a lifelong program of individualized support services for adults with social and cognitive disabilities, enabling them to live independent and productive lives.

For more information about Chapel Haven, call Judy Lefkowitz at 203.397.1714, ext. 113, or e-mail [jlefkowitz@chapelhaven.org](mailto:jlefkowitz@chapelhaven.org).

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### **Putting Out the Good Word: Some Information about the Promising Practices Series**

We are offering a series of short articles on a variety of promising practices that CARF surveyors have observed during surveys from 2004 to the present. There is no particular order that we will follow in presenting this series of short reports. The purpose is not to rate one organization over another, but to encourage U.S. and Canadian community providers to dialogue with one another and to encourage creative solutions to individual service designs and organizational business practices and thereby achieve effective and positive results in each organization's community.

Although there are indeed a number of ways to approach conformance to a standard, what makes organizations given an exemplary rating stand out is their professional and strategic response to an observed service or business need, always designed with input from their stakeholders and based on those individuals' quality expectations.

We hope you enjoy the series. We encourage you to contact the identified representative in the article to get more information about their services.

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