



Discovering a world of independence,
a life of possibilities

PURPOSE

The Mission Project enables capable adults with developmental disabilities to live independently and safely in community with individualized support.

GOALS

Mission Project participants live full lives in a supportive community. They have numerous opportunities for growth and development, including:

- Finding and maintaining meaningful employment
- Socializing with peers
- Learning new skills in a variety of classes, including acting and iPad and computer use
- Participating in recreational and cultural activities
- Getting and staying fit and developing healthy, safe lifestyles
- Developing leadership skills and giving back to their community
- Honing social skills and resolving interpersonal challenges

WHO'S INVOLVED

Parents, guardians, families and friends of adults with developmental disabilities, as well as dedicated professionals and volunteers, have joined forces to realize the goals of the project.

WHY MISSION, KAN.?

The Mission Project, Inc. is based in Mission, Kan., because it's a well-run community that has jobs, services, entertainment and a community center within walking distance of apartment complexes.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- The first participant moved into her apartment in Mission in 2004. As of spring 2016, the project has 18 participants. In 2012, we were excited to expand by welcoming Mission Project 2, which has 11 participants.
- In 2014, the project hired its first fulltime staff member, Executive Director Sarah Mai.
- Families can hire an employment specialist from a licensed agency, who develops jobs and provides job training and ongoing counseling for participants.
- Families have access to independent living services, for which they can contract with licensed providers for independent living skills training and support for their participants.
- MPower Health, funded by grant money, gives participants access to personal fitness training and healthier eating information.
- Volunteers answer a 24-hour Help Line to provide support and respond to emergencies.
- Frequent social activities promote friendship and build community.
- Drivers provide transportation to and from work, using vans acquired by the Mission Project.
- Participants take a yearly out-of-town trip, for which they plan and save through the Mission Project Travel Club.

FUNDING

The Mission Project, Inc., a 501 (c) 3 not-for-profit corporation, has two major fundraisers a year — Kentucky Derby Day and a golf tournament. Proceeds from these and future events will go toward transportation and programming costs. The project also receives grant money and donations.

GOVERNANCE

The Mission Project, Inc. is led by a board of directors, who work with an executive committee and a steering committee comprising parents and guardians of participants. Board officers: Ed Soltz, President; Kay Webb, Secretary; John Pittman; Treasurer; Betty Randall, co-secretary.