

CELEBRATING ANOTHER YEAR... of building better lives!



EVERGREEN

Presbyterian Ministries, Inc.

*Helping People with
Disabilities Build Better Lives*

SINCE 1959

THE CATES' FAMILY STORY

If there is one thing that Garland Cates understands, that is the importance of an organization such as Evergreen. He knows first-hand the benefits and quality of care that Evergreen clients receive. Garland has been an Evergreen Board Member for many years. Garland and his wife Bobbie's story begins in 1968, when Bobbie was attending a Mother of Twins Club meeting, where they were told the police were keeping children without families in the city jail until they could be moved. The Cates' told the city that if they needed emergency care for children, to call them. The next morning, they received a call that said there was a tiny baby found only in a diaper, in an unlined plastic baby seat, in the misty rain, abandoned at a local truck stop. The city brought the baby to the Cates' household; they immediately took her to the doctor to have her examined. The doctor stated that other than a broken nose and a hernia at six-pounds and two ounces, the baby was in good health. However, the doctor told them that the baby did have a mental disability. The Cates' named the baby Darla and kept her for several weeks, when as a family they decided to see if they could adopt her rather than see her in foster care. The Cates' family already consisted of four children ranging from age 11 to 16, and they would absolutely have loved the new addition to their family.

After several weeks of caring for Darla, the city called and said that they were picking Darla up the next morning, because a city judge stated that the Cates' could not adopt her. The Cates' family was very saddened by the news. To get her mind off the situation, Bobbie went to play Bridge that night at some friend's house. At the Bridge game, she explained the situation of caring for Darla all this time and now; they were told they could not adopt Darla. A visitor was at the Bridge game that Bobbie had never seen before, after hearing the story the visitor said, "I am going home, I live next door to the judge and he will be hearing from me tonight." The next day the judge stated that he had never heard of the case before and put a halt to Darla being picked up. Soon afterward, the Cates' finished the paperwork and legally adopted Darla into their family.

When Darla was three years old, she began to have seizures, and her behavior became unmanageable. By the time she was six it was almost impossible to control her. Her seizures continually increased in number and type. When she was seven, she had a grand mall seizure. The family had to call an ambulance, where Darla was sent to the Children's Hospital in Dallas, Texas. While she was there, she was given the dual diagnosis of autism and brain damage. Darla was in the hospital for 18 months before they were able to get the seizures under control. Years past and her behavior coupled with her seizures continued to become out of control. The Cates' family took her to several doctors, but nothing seemed to help. By this time, all of the Cates' children were grown and Darla was a teenager. The Cates' were needing assistance with maintaining the level of care required for Darla's condition and behaviors. They wanted to provide the care that she needed, but soon realized that they needed help. The family searched all over Texas, visiting homes for over a year trying to find a placement for her; but because of her diagnosis, they would not take her.

After years of searching for a place that could care for Darla the family received a call from a friend that told them about a place called, Evergreen. The family immediately called Evergreen and setup a meeting. After going through the paperwork and getting the state requirements fulfilled, the Cates' family brought Darla to Evergreen at age 17, on September 12, 1985. The Cates' family say that Evergreen was the biggest miracle of all. Evergreen has taught Darla to control her behaviors, get control of her seizures, and learn basic life skills to help her live more independently. Darla goes home at least four times a year for a visit; she is now a big help with the Cates' great grandchildren. Darla lives in a group home with five other women. She will tell you that she has two homes, one in Denton and one at Evergreen. "We know that she feels much love by all the staff and she loves them," Garland says. Garland goes on to say, "We couldn't be more pleased with the care she receives. We thank God every day for all the miracles in Darla's life and for all the friends that have helped her along the way."

As a parent and a board member of Evergreen, I want to thank people like you who give to the mission of Evergreen. It is important that we have an organization like Evergreen to help people live the fullest life possible. I would encourage you to open your heart to Evergreen and help sustain this important mission!



The Cates Family

Evergreen serves and supports more than 1,000 people in
Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Tennessee and Texas.

Darlene Barlow

Darlene Barlow has been a member of the Evergreen community for six years. If you were to meet Darlene, you would fall in love with her personality and passion for life. Darlene gladly calls Evergreen home, but that did not come easily for her.

Darlene grew up with her family and had always lived with a family member. Later in life, her mother passed away and her father was not able to take care of her due to the commitment of his job. So, a family-friend and neighbor took Darlene in and provided for her, just as her parents always had. After years of care, the family-friend fell ill and they had to find a place that could provide quality care for Darlene. Evergreen was the place they chose to take care of Darlene. This was a huge adjustment for Darlene to undertake. For 40 years she had always lived at home and been with family members. Now, she was in a community home with people she had never met before.

When Darlene first came to Evergreen, she was shy and reserved; but that did not last long. Soon afterward she made friends with her housemates and they became like family. An example of the nature of an Evergreen community home can be heard in the words of Darlene herself. A while back, Darlene was crying in the living room of her community home and a staff member asked her what was wrong. Darlene explained that she overheard a conversation somewhere and they stated that "they are just clients." Darlene said passionately, "we are not just clients, we are family!" That statement is very true! Evergreen is a family that helps each other grow, learn, and build better lives. Darlene has found a place to call home that provides quality care and a loving atmosphere.



Wayne Lunsford

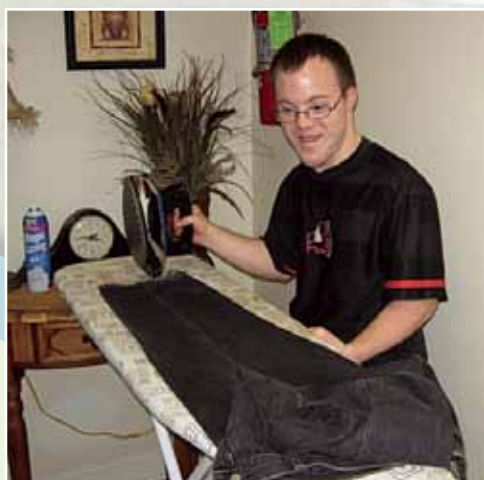
Meet Wayne Lunsford. Wayne is a client of Evergreen who has lived in a community home since 1999. Wayne is a very personable and outgoing person and loves to visit with the customers at Evergreen's store, Possibilities, in Minden, LA. The customers in the store always ask for Wayne by name, because they enjoy his energy and caring character. Wayne lives a happy life among his friends in his community home, but behind that outgoing personality lays some hardships. Wayne's mother passed away and he really has no other connection to family members. While many of us travel home for the holidays, Wayne remains at the community home for Thanksgiving and Christmas because he does not have the financial means to travel home. However, Wayne finds the best in every situation and has made Evergreen his family. He finds satisfaction in being able to make a difference in the community as well as being a recipient of generosity from caring people like you that help make his life a reality.



Elm Haven Community Home

In 1980, Evergreen began transitioning clients from an institutionalized setting into group home living situations. In this atmosphere, the clients are able to live an abundant life that most of us experience every day. Not all of our residents live in community homes, as some live independently and only need minimal services. In a community home, the individuals experience life as a family. They share responsibilities of cleaning, cooking, and planning group activities.

Elm Haven Community Home is an example of this type of home. Elm Haven has eight residents; four men and four women. A day in the life of the home is probably as average as they come, with the residents going to work at the Evergreen Day Habilitation Center or going to work at their job in the community at hospitals, bowling alleys, and restaurants. The dedicated staff that works at the community home work hard to make the group a family. Both the clients and staff become one family and help each other live daily lives. The group loves to attend church, travel, and watch movies and eat popcorn together. The individuals in the home also love to do yard work and have barbeques with the staff. They hope to one day have a trampoline to play with in the back yard. They learn to support each other and have fun in everything that they do. The age range of the Elm Haven household is 20 to 62. The two older residents chose to live in this community home because, "they go places and have more fun." They are definitely an active group and are making a difference in the lives of each other and the community in which they live.



EVERGREEN PROGRAMS

CASE MANAGEMENT

Evergreen case managers facilitate and coordinate client services that are provided by a range of community providers.

COMMUNITY HOMES

We operate community homes that create a warm, family-like atmosphere. In each home, six to eight people with disabilities live together with Evergreen staff members who help them enjoy life and become integrated into their communities.

DAY HABILITATION

Our innovative day services give people with all types of disabilities the opportunity to learn a job skill, socialize, exercise, and receive health and wellness services.

ELDER SERVICES

Evergreen provides a range of services that help older people and people who have become disabled later in life remain active, safe, and independent at home.

PERSONAL ASSISTANCE

Our personal assistance services help Evergreen clients who live at home be more independent.

RESPIRE CARE

To alleviate the physical and emotional strain of family members, Evergreen staff members can come into the home for a set number of hours or days – even overnight.

SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT

Our supported employment programs help clients find and prepare for employment.

SUPPORTED LIVING

Evergreen's comprehensive supported-living programs help people with disabilities live at home whenever possible. Staffing and scheduling are flexible based on individual needs.

Every face deserves a reason to smile... YOUR DONATIONS PROVIDE...



Recreational activities and abundant life!



Funds to help pay for dental work to make beautiful smiles.



Furniture for our clients!



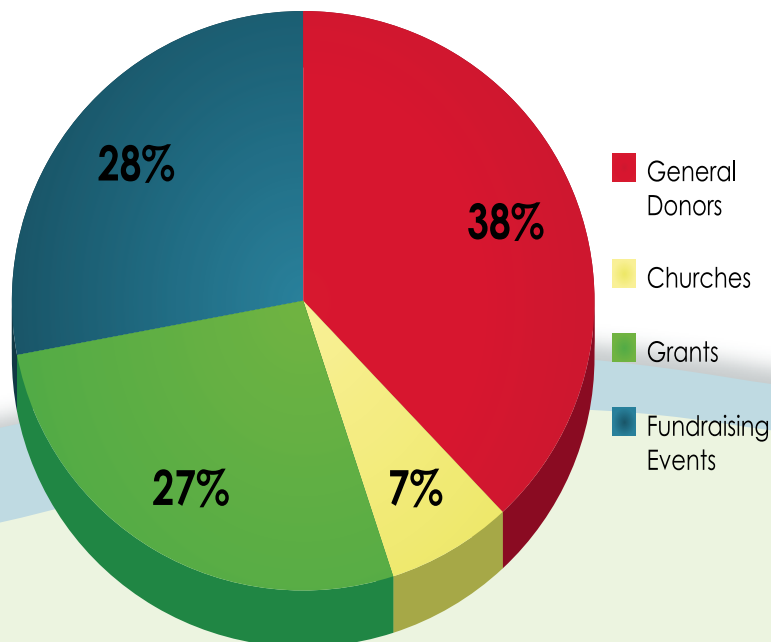
Vocational training to gain more independence.

FACTS ABOUT EVERGREEN:

- Established in 1959
- A non-profit agency that assists people with disabilities build better lives
- Serves over 1,000 individuals in a six-state area LA, TX, OK, AR, TN, & KY
- Eighty-three community homes
- Vocational programs that emphasize supported and integrated employment

YOUR DONATIONS MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY PROVIDING FUNDING FOR:

- Medical and dental care not covered by other sources
- Transportation for daily routines and special needs
- Furniture and other home appliances
- Communication devices for those who are non-verbal
- Manual lifts, specialized shoes and braces
- Motorized wheelchairs, and other adaptive equipment to enrich daily living skills
- And various recreational activities



RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Total: \$629,067

***Based on Fiscal Year 2009-2010*

General Donors:	\$237,593.45
Churches:	\$46,683.00
Grants:	\$171,510.00
Fundraising Events:	\$173,281.00

HEALTH & WELLNESS



Many people think of fitness and wellness as just physical activity and eating correctly, but Evergreen Program Supervisor, Sharyan Utley has a different view. The definition of wellness includes not only physical health, but also a person's health mentally, spiritually, and socially.

Sharyan heads Evergreen's relatively new fitness program. The program is made possible by grants that support endeavors like fitness and wellness. According to Utley, "The clients do the fitness program at least four times a week; two days of strength and flexibility training, and two days of cardio workouts." The program includes the use of dumbbells and resistance bands for strength and flexibility training and dance aerobics for cardio workouts. The program was started to help client's in the Northwest Division with their overall health. There are many health issues faced by people every day and the individuals participating in this program are no different. They struggle with issues such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, and obesity.



Staff members at the Northwest Division have seen changes in the individual's attitude and overall health since the implementation of the program. "You can definitely see the individuals have more flexibility than before. They are learning the techniques to the exercises very well, and those who are doing the program and also exercising at home see weight loss as well," Utley said. "I hope to eventually see the program grow and expand to other divisions and eventually add a walking track to our facility, to make it easier for the clients to walk safely," said Utley.

As with any program, more volunteers are needed to assist the individuals in becoming healthier. Utley oversees this program along with her normal responsibilities as a Program Supervisor. She stated, "Volunteers are always needed to work in the program. It would be an excellent opportunity for an internship or someone wanting to help grow a fitness program." If you are interested in volunteering or financially supporting the program, contact Corey Shadd, Development Specialist at 318-949-5537.

Fundraising Events

One of the many ways Evergreen raises funds is through special events. One of our most popular events occurs in the Shreveport/Bossier, Louisiana area, the annual Celebrity Waiter Dinner. It has become a well-known event and is continually growing. The next Celebrity Waiter Dinner is already scheduled for April 28, 2011 at East Ridge Country Club.

Evergreen is currently expanding its horizons when it comes to special events and is having a benefit concert in Nashville, TN with country star Jake Owen in March of 2011. If you have an idea for an event, we would love to hear from you! Contact us and let us know what type of event you would like to see in our area.



EVERGREEN
Presbyterian Ministries, Inc.

If you would like to donate to Evergreen and receive more information about our life-changing services, please fill out this card and mail it back to the address below.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

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318-949-5537
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