

Bethesda Place Inc.

Living, Working, Playing and Praying Together

1571 220 Ave Hays, KS 67601

785-625-6220

bethesdaplaceinc@gmail.com

Backgrounder

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Amanda Tippy

Advocate

785-259-8475

bethesdaplaceinc@gmail.com

Bethesda Place: A Christian Home for Men with Developmental Disabilities

Bethesda Place, located just west of Hays, KS is currently the home of 6 talented men who have spent years living, working, playing, and praying together. The residents and staff of Bethesda Place lead a meaningful life together as they grow trees for local landscaping development, garden to nourish themselves and others, and create an inspirational living community in which "two is better than one." Together they overcome each of their challenges.

Bethesda Place was founded in 1976 by Tom and Shelley Stafford, two graduates of FHSU, when they as an Industrial Arts and a Special Education teacher took their first resident into their private home to avoid his institutionalization. Through the ongoing support of their family and friends they were able to expand year after year. As Tom says, "It is not as if we said, 'we hereby dedicate the next 30 years of our life to this mission,' rather it was a matter of day after day saying, 'ok let's try this, let's try this'... until eventually one day we looked around and said, 'I guess this is what we are doing with our lives'."

Throughout this lifetime of working together, the men of Bethesda, the Stafford family, and staff have created a 35 acre haven of beauty on the plains of Western Kansas and a community of humility and authenticity in a world of striving.

As the current residents of Bethesda Place age, it is their hope that they can be an encouragement and a resource to future generations of people with disabilities and their advocates. As their support system, the current directors and staff of Bethesda come alongside the men to meet this goal and help them utilize their gifts to bless their community.

Bethesda Place welcomes interaction with the community through public tree sales, participation in the Hays Downtown Market, annual garden events, tours, the hosting of an Airbnb on their property, and local craft sales.

For more information please visit the website of bethesda.place

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