



“Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson



a new year, but the best remains the same!

As we usher in 2017 there is much to be excited about and certainly many new changes will take place that effect Casa in the new year. Even with changes, the new year will bring two of the most important things for the success of Casa residents in 2017- routine and predictability. In looking back at 2016 we thought you'd like to hear some of things that we hope stay the same in this coming year.

Did you know that the average time a Casa resident has been at their current job is over seven years? Having a meaningful place to work is so important for adults with disabilities and through dedication, hard work and the support of our staff many have been able to keep their jobs for quite some time. Congratulations to the many hard working residents who show the local community that adults with special needs have much to offer the workplace. Even with this exciting accomplishment, Casa is always looking for new opportunities for your residents. If you are willing to discuss the possible employment or volunteer of one of our residents at your workplace, please contact our Vocational Coordinator Gina Hughes at ghughes@casadeamma.org.

Did you know that our average staff has been here over six years, and our management staff average over eight years! That's pretty good for an organization only twelve years old. Having a core staff group that is consistent and attentive to the residents is a key to providing a feeling of stability and security for them. While we do experience our share of turnover we work to offer the best benefit packages and competitive wages that are well over the average for our field. If you or anyone you know would be interested in joining the Casa team, please contact our HR Director Terry Vorell at tvorell@casadeamma.org

Casa has had the benefit of resident retention, as seen by our waiting list that is over thirty people and having only one move out in over five years. This stable environment allows for residents to grow in relationships and creates a stable environment for emotional and life skill growth. While Casa has no plans to run other programs it is our hope that we can be an inspiration for more people to start similar programs in their local area and offer the much needed housing and support for the thousands of adults with disabilities who have very few viable options. To this end we are excited to announce that the Independent Apartment Community (IAC) Group is almost ready to launch our new IAC website. This website will offer education, resources, networking and support for those who want to learn more about or even create an IAC in their local area. We will announce the website once it is completed in the coming weeks!

From all of us at Casa de Amma we hope you have a great 2017- a year filled with new and exciting opportunities along with the important routines we all cherish!



NEW!

new video's

Our website has been updated to include four new videos! View clips of how residents were supported through tough times such as the loss of a parent and cancer — and a great lip-sync video created by our staff and residents. Visit casadeamma.org and click on the **Casa's Videos** link to see what's new. We promise you will laugh and maybe even shed a tear at the heartfelt stories.



rain, rain came to stay — but it didn't ruin this special day!

Casa's Annual Reindeer Dash, a vigorous 30-minute event consisting of a run/walk with obstacle and strength stations along a half-mile course, had been on everyone's calendar for months. As the day got under way, storm clouds formed and it began to sprinkle and some wondered if we would have to rename the event the Rain-deer Dash! The participants discussed rescheduling, but everyone who had trained decided they were ready to go.

Each person did an amazing job, many coming in under the clock which they never thought was possible.

Congratulations to everyone who persevered, you ended 2016 on a very high note!

