

# REACH

## RESIDENTIAL EDUCATION AT CHAPEL HAVEN

Why do so many families choose Chapel Haven to serve their son or daughter?

### EXPERIENCE

REACH (Residential Education at Chapel Haven) is the flagship program of Chapel Haven, using a life skills model pioneered in 1972 by determined parents who wanted an independent and productive future for their children. Chapel Haven's experienced and caring staff have guided hundreds of graduates toward independent lives through a blend of life skills acquisition, social communicative competency, employment, education and social recreation. Our clients learn both intensively, in an apartment style residential setting, and on an individualized basis for those living on their own in the greater New Haven community.

At Chapel Haven, all roads lead to independence.

### LIFELONG SUPPORTS

Most students who graduate from our REACH Program remain in New Haven after graduation. That's not surprising. After two years in New Haven, many have made strong social, vocational, and educational connections and see the city as a



permanent home. Our **Bridge** and **Supported Living Programs** currently serve more than 150 Community Members, who regularly return to campus for socializing, Continuing Adult Education Classes, and Employment and Supported Living Programs. Our **Community Life Program** offers structured community-focused day activities for those with limited work options.

### ACCREDITATIONS

- Nationally accredited through CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities)
- Approved by the State Departments of Education (CT, NJ) as a special education school
- Licensed through the CT State Department of Developmental Services

### OUR MISSION

Chapel Haven is committed to providing a lifelong program of individualized support services for adults with developmental and social disabilities, enabling them to live independent and productive lives.



### CONTACT INFORMATION

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# REACH



## RESIDENTIAL EDUCATION AT CHAPEL HAVEN

A UNIQUE INTEGRATION OF SOCIAL COMMUNICATION AND INDEPENDENT LIVING



## The Fundamentals of REACH

### LIFE SKILLS

It is our proven belief that the only way to teach independence is in a setting that imitates life. Our 30 young men and women, 18 years of age and older, live in fully furnished and equipped apartments on campus, with 24/7 staffing. Through intensive one-to-one attention and life skills instruction, students learn the skills they will need to transition out into the community. Experienced special education teachers and life skills instructors work hand in hand to blend lessons from the classroom into apartment instruction. Researching recipes on the Internet, price comparisons for laundry soap and orange juice—we coach our students to be savvy and smart consumers.

We teach:

- Household maintenance skills such as cooking, cleaning, laundry, menu planning, and shopping
- Mobility
- Managing finances: banking and budgeting
- Self-care, including health, medication administration, hygiene, and safety
- Learning to live with roommates

### EDUCATION

Chapel Haven's year-round Education Program encompasses 10 blended subject areas: Language Arts, Math and Science, Social Studies, Life Skills, Vocational Skills, Wellness, and Personal Enrichment, as well as an array of Continuing Adult Education classes.

Classes on banking and budgeting, clothing management, cleaning, reading directions, and utilizing public transportation as well as decision making, problem solving and negotiating are taught by the special education teachers and supplemented by the Residential Life Skills Instructor.



### EMPLOYMENT

Gainful employment is an important part of an independent lifestyle; therefore employment is woven into REACH and Community programs, offering progressively more challenging opportunities as the individual progresses.

More than 85% of community members are working at 30 agencies and companies in the area, in either supported or competitive employment settings. Our location in a small city with extensive public transit makes an excellent location for job seekers.

Chapel Haven's assessment tool, Expectations for Employment, uses 100 variables to measure each individual's 'soft' and 'hard' skills that will help determine next steps in



seeking employment. The employment process is outlined for each student at the start of the REACH program. The desire to work and live independently infuses the curriculum. Chapel Haven is proud to be the first Project Search employment site in Connecticut.

### SOCIAL COMMUNICATIVE COMPETENCY

Living in an apartment with roommates, managing an academic schedule and transitioning into productive and meaningful work all require that students compromise, solve problems, and advocate for their own needs and desires. These intangible social skills, essential to successful independence, are an important component of the REACH Program. Development of perspective-taking theory of mind skills is the cornerstone of the social communication curriculum.

With the help of staff, students learn how to develop and interpret nonverbal language, facial expressions, gestures and physical proximity in a variety of contexts and settings. Instruction is also provided in receptive language skills, developing the individual's ability to respond to information that is presented both visually and auditorally. In addition, successful mastery of this part of the curriculum asks the student to demonstrate increased expressive language skills in a variety of contexts. The curriculum teaches the student to engage in conversational interactions across a variety of settings.



### RECREATION

A structured recreation program occurs on evenings and weekends, offering approximately 35 activities a month. The Recreation program teaches our clients to:

- manage free time; master social etiquette; manage money and adhere to a schedule
- make and nurture lifelong friendships

Activities range from a night out at the movies to theatre, athletics, chaperoned trips to Boston and New York City, as well as venues around the state including Gillette Castle and Sleeping Giant State Park.

Students also enjoy:

- special interests & Travel Clubs
- Special Olympics (track and field, swimming, bowling, basketball, soccer)
- the largest Best Buddies chapter in the State

