

## OUR STATE-OF-THE-ART CAMPUS

Founded in 1972 on Chapel Street in Westville, CT, Chapel Haven Schleifer Center is a pioneer in helping adults with cognitive and social disabilities live independent and self-determined lives. Our program is truly lifelong. Most individuals who graduate from our REACH program remain in New Haven after graduation. Our Supported Living Program currently helps more than 120 Community Members maintain their independent lives, regularly returning to our campus for socializing, continuing adult education classes, employment and supported living services.

In 2017, Chapel Haven Schleifer Center embarked on a \$45 million campus expansion with the goal of providing optimum, lifelong care for our growing community, including:

- A new, four-story REACH residential and classroom campus (opened July 2018), with state-of-the-art classrooms, technology and spacious apartments designed by international experts in the field.
- A new Welcome Center that provides a warm welcome to CHSC visitors
- The Schleifer Adult Independent Living (SAIL) facility, a four-story residential, community and apartment campus designed for residents to age in place.
- A spacious courtyard with native plantings, seating and fountain – inviting socialization for our vibrant community.

## EXPECTED OUTCOMES FOR REACH GRADUATES:

By the time you graduate from the REACH program, we expect that you will...

- live with independence and the appropriate supports and adaptive technologies
- effectively access basic community resources
- have a thriving adult social network
- gain and keep meaningful employment
- manage a budget
- pursue a healthy lifestyle that includes fitness, a sensible diet and an awareness of medical needs
- demonstrate safety in the community



## OUR MISSION

Chapel Haven Schleifer Center provides lifelong individualized services for people with developmental and social disabilities, empowering them to live independent and self-determined lives.

## ADMISSIONS

The admissions process is designed to give the applicant and family a comprehensive view of Chapel Haven's programs.

### THE ADMISSIONS PROCESS INCLUDES AN ONLINE APPLICATION AND A REVIEW OF:

Recent psychological/ neuropsychological testing  
Functional adaptive evaluations

IEPs and vocational assessments  
Interview, campus visit and tour  
Sample experience

### OUR CLIENTS ARE:

18+ years, with mild developmental and intellectual disabilities

High school graduates or still enrolled in transition programming on an IEP

Emotionally and behaviorally stable

Motivated to eventually transition into independent, productive lives, make friends, acquire social competency and adaptive skills and work toward individual goals

## ACCREDITATIONS



**NATIONALLY ACCREDITED THROUGH CARF**  
(Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities)

**APPROVED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION**  
(CT & MA) as a special education school

**LICENSED THROUGH THE CT STATE**  
**DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES**

## PRESTIGIOUS PARTNERSHIPS

Yale



## CONTACT INFORMATION

Chapel Haven Admissions Office  
1040 Whalley Avenue, New Haven, CT 06515  
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E-mail: [admission@chapelhaven.org](mailto:admission@chapelhaven.org)



**CHapel HAVEN**  
**SCHLEIFER CENTER**  
GROW THRIVE BELONG

# Residential Education At Chapel Haven

## R.E.A.C.H



Empowering adults with varying abilities to live independent and self-determined lives since 1972.

[www.chapelhaven.org](http://www.chapelhaven.org)

## 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 young adults, 18 years of age and older, live in fully furnished and equipped apartments on campus, with 24/7 staffing. Through small group and 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. From researching recipes on the internet, to 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 & Community Safety
- Managing finances: banking and budgeting
- Self-care, including health, medication administration, hygiene, and safety
- Learning to live with roommates
- Vocational Readiness

### 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 instructors.

## EMPLOYMENT

Gainful employment is an important part of an independent lifestyle; therefore, employment is woven into REACH and Community Programs, offering more challenging opportunities as the individual progresses. REACH students have pre-vocational classes such as Introduction to Employment and then take part in a series of rotating internships to learn about the soft skills of employment.

Following that, our students may work with the CareerAbility department to pursue their career goals. CareerAbility is Chapel Haven's career development and employment services division working with current students and graduates.

CareerAbility works with REACH to map out a career plan for each student, based on their skills, interests, needs, and experience. Each plan is person-centered and individualized. Services offered may include volunteer opportunities, work-based learning, career training, and/or employment services. These services are recommended with the goal to prepare students for finding and obtaining meaningful employment when the time is right for them.



“It struck me immediately upon coming to Chapel Haven that it had the classroom structure I was looking for because you never stop learning! For David, the program had the constant development and the recreational opportunities I wanted. The kindness and understanding of the staff is priceless.”

**HARRIET SCHLEIFER - PARENT, CHAPPAQUA, NY**

Learn more about our amazing success stories at:  
[chapelhaven.org/testimonials](http://chapelhaven.org/testimonials)

To request literature:  
[admission@chapelhaven.org](mailto:admission@chapelhaven.org)

Find us on  
Facebook & Instagram



## RECREATION

A structured recreation program occurs on evenings and weekends, offering approximately 30 activities a month. All residential students in the REACH program also enjoy a free membership to the **JCC of Greater New Haven**, which offers world-class fitness and cultural amenities.

### 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, as well as venues around the state including Gillette Castle and Sleeping Giant State Park.

### STUDENTS ALSO ENJOY:

- Special interests clubs
- Overnight Trips to Crested Butte, Disney, and more
- Special Olympics (track and field, softball, swimming, bowling, basketball, soccer)
- The largest Best Buddies chapter in CT



## SOCIAL COMMUNICATIVE COMPETENCY

Living in an apartment with roommates, managing a 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 and 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.

## HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Our Wellness Program is led by a Wellness Coordinator and staffed by experienced and enthusiastic trainers to help students adopt best practices in their diets, education, fitness and nutrition supports. The Wellness Program encourages students to exercise regularly through core classes and leisure pursuits such as working out at the JCC of Greater New Haven or taking part in coordinated 5Ks; to plan and cook healthier meals and to rethink how to order healthier meals when out on recreation trips and social occasions. The goal is to help each student adopt healthy practices that can be used for a lifetime.

“Our family searched in several states for a place for our son, but without success. Before we knew it, he was an older adult still living with us at home. And he wasn't making much progress. Then we found Chapel Haven's REACH program – and he loved it. Our family is grateful to the entire CHSC staff for their depth of expertise, genuine humanity, and professionalism.”

**JOHN WORKMAN, WITH SON MARCUS, RIDGEWOOD, NJ**