

# CREATING COMMUNITY

*Establishing connections for a good life*



HCDDS has a team dedicated to advocacy, life course planning, community inclusion and family engagement (ALIFE). They offer training and consultation to people with developmental disabilities, their families, providers and community partners.



The ALIFE team guides people we support as they consider how to live a good life, which can be different for everyone. We help each person overcome obstacles, so he or she can focus on finding new friendships, volunteering, working, getting an education, and enjoying life.

We empower people with disabilities to join their neighborhoods and communities and to live a life that is important and meaningful to them, on their own terms. Our ALIFE team works with you and the people in your life to explore your interests and talents and connect you to community resources. Each aspect of our work starts with a conversation about what you envision for your life.

## YOU AND YOUR COMMUNITIES

Community navigators identify attributes that make you unique, including skills, relationships and a vision for the future. We work with partners, businesses and organizations to build a welcoming community so you can explore or discover your passions and interests.

## FAMILY

A supportive community is critical to a good life for all age groups, from babies to seniors. We promote a partnership where you and your family take control of building a good life, and the DD system provides support and services to complement your goals. HCDDS provides tools to visualize a meaningful life and puts steps in place to help you build a long-range, concrete life plan.

## ADVOCACY

Advocacy includes community issues, but it also means self-determination, which encourages you to have a say in what you want in your life. Our team shares information, training, encouragement and additional tools so you can effectively advocate for yourself or others.

*To learn more about advocacy, life course planning, inclusion or family engagement, contact Eric Metzger, (513) 794-3300 or [eric.metzger@hamiltondds.org](mailto:eric.metzger@hamiltondds.org).*