

20 E Street

Promoting Independence Through Home Ownership

For People with Developmental Disabilities

www.20Estreet.com



20 E Street
South Portland

A group of parents and siblings of developmentally disabled adults is working with Specialized Housing, Inc. to create a supportive and nurturing home for their family members in South Portland, Maine. The units at 20 E Street will provide disabled adults with an opportunity for home ownership. This will be the first project of its kind in Maine.

Three families have formed an LLC and have purchased and begun renovation of a 6000 square foot building. It will contain bedrooms for 9 residents and extensive common space as well as apartments for two live-in support staff. The families chose the South Portland area because we believe it is a place our family members can call home and become a part of the community. Local amenities include supermarkets, banks, parks, a library, walking paths and access to public transportation.

When the home opens in early 2010, Specialized Housing, Inc. will provide staff and supervision as well as maintain the property. Since 1983, Specialized Housing, Inc. has created similar housing opportunities for adults with disabilities in condominiums and apartments in the greater Boston area and other locations in New England, and it is the first program in the U.S. to enable adults with special needs to own their own homes while receiving professional support. While group homes and rental units can feel transitory and are often subject to the whims of landlords or public policy, property ownership contributes to individual growth, self esteem, responsible citizenship, and community involvement.

20 E Street will provide an opportunity for our family members to form connections and to create a community for support and validation. In addition, community living serves as an antidote to the loneliness and isolation that people with disabilities often experience.

We hope you will join us in this dream. We invite you to visit our websites and contact us for more information. Thank you very much for your time.

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Specialized Housing, Inc. www.specializedhousing.org

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Specialized Housing, Inc.

Guiding Principles of E Street Families and Specialized Housing, Inc.

- **CONTRIBUTION** — to enable individuals with disabilities to find ways to contribute to society, through work, community activities, volunteer activities, helping others
- **CONNECTION** — to help and support individuals in making positive connections with others that are meaningful, mutually supportive, and life-enriching
- **CELEBRATION** — to participate in recognizing the accomplishments of the people we support, to celebrate traditional events, develop new traditions to celebrate, and to make fun a part of their lives
- **COMMUNITY** — to facilitate full participation in a community of peers and full participation in the larger community of the neighborhood, city, state, country, and the world

* *Please pass this letter on to families or those who support people with developmental disabilities and help us spread the word about this new housing model in Maine. **