

DDM

CONNECT



www.ddmga.org



The Heart of Our Mission

Dear Friends of DDM,

As we step into February, a month often associated with love, we are reminded of the deep and unwavering love that drives our mission at DDM. The heart of our work is the compassion, dedication, and generosity of our staff, volunteers, and supporters—each of you who make it possible for us to provide safe, loving homes and meaningful opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities.

This love is so profound that it extends beyond our daily work and into the community. We are thrilled to share that this spring, DDM will host two special social events to bring people together in support of our mission. These gatherings will not only raise awareness but also foster deeper connections within our DDM family. Keep reading this edition of DDM Connect to learn more!

Additionally, as we welcome the change of seasons, we invite you to take part in our Spring Cleaning Initiative at our DDM homes starting next month. This is a wonderful way to give back, ensuring our residents continue to live in safe and comfortable spaces. More details can be found inside this newsletter.

Thank you for being a part of the heart of DDM. Your kindness and commitment continue to make a lasting difference in the lives of those we serve.

Ryan Whitmire, President/CEO

**"LET ALL THAT YOU DO BE
DONE IN LOVE."
— 1 CORINTHIANS 16:14**

In this Edition:

**Showing Love at
DDM**

**Resident
Highlights**

**Spring Events at
DDM**

Spring Cleaning

**Organization
Highlights**

**February's
Recipe**

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY! *Love, DDM*



Showing Love at DDM

Our very own Pedigo Home ladies enjoyed a delicious Valentines meal together this year.

Love through friendship is cherished here at DDM! Thank you, Pedigo ladies, for showing us how to love our friends!



Ways to Show Love

Some tips from our very own residents!

Give hugs **OFTEN**.

Sharing is **CARING**.

It's okay to play music that your friends like more because it's **NICE**.

We should always be nice to people and **SAY HELLO**.



RESIDENT AND STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

A Night to Shine: DDM Residents *Celebrate an Unforgettable Evening*

On February 9th, DDM residents had the opportunity to experience a night filled with joy, dancing, and celebration at Night to Shine, a prom event dedicated to individuals with disabilities. Sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation, Night to Shine is hosted at churches worldwide, offering a red-carpet experience, limo rides, and a magical evening where every guest is crowned king or queen.

Mark and Fred, who live in a group home through the Developmental Disabilities Administration in Jasper, have attended Night to Shine at multiple locations, including Woodstock. This year, they were thrilled to return to Woodstock alongside Marsha and Amanda, two special DDM staff members.

With smiles, laughter, and a community of support, this year's Night to Shine in Woodstock was another heartwarming reminder of the power of inclusion and celebration.



Night to
SHINE 2025

RESIDENT AND STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Beyond Care: *The Heartfelt Dedication of DDM Staff*

At DDM, our staff members are more than caregivers—they are compassionate advocates who go beyond the call of duty to ensure our residents are not only cared for but truly seen and heard.

Take Jazzmine Quarles, for example. She doesn't just assist residents with their daily routines; she takes the time to sit with them, listen to their stories, and talk about their goals. She wants to know what's happening in their lives, what they hope to accomplish, and how DDM can better support them. Her conversations aren't just about today's needs—they're about building trust, fostering dignity, and ensuring each resident knows they matter.

Our team's dedication goes even further when challenges arise. Recently, a resident experienced a distressing nightmare that left him disoriented well into the morning, making it difficult to follow his usual routine. The staff quickly noticed something wasn't right—not just in his confusion, but in the small changes to his hygiene over the next few days. Instead of dismissing it as a passing issue, they took action. They alerted the Residential Services Coordinator (RSC) and carefully traced the changes back to a recent medication adjustment. Concerned for the resident's well-being, they reached out to his doctor, who recommended pausing the medication until further evaluation. Once adjusted, the resident's condition improved significantly, restoring his sense of comfort and normalcy.

This is the heart of DDM—staff who don't just meet expectations, but exceed them. Their attentiveness, kindness, and dedication ensure that every resident receives not just care, but compassion, dignity, and unwavering support.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS AT DDM

CASEY
VIRGINIA
DEENESHA
CLIFFORD
SHAREIKA

ZIARIA
TERRI
BARBARA
LEKISHA
DIAMONIQUE



ORGANIZATION HIGHLIGHTS

Pints for a Purpose: *Building Community for DDM*

Join us for Pints for a Purpose in Decatur and Jefferson! These events are a great way to connect with the community, raise awareness for DDM, and enjoy a fun evening in support of our mission. We're excited to bring people together, share our work, and build lasting support for our very own residents of today, tomorrow, and all years!

A huge thank you to our planning team and to Three Taverns Brewery and Revival Hall Taproom for graciously hosting these events!

Tickets are on sale now! Keep reading the newsletter for flyers and ticket links—we can't wait to see you there!



DDM is Hiring!

Read & Reach Out!

Are you someone who loves to connect with people? Are you detail oriented with a caring heart? Do you love making plans with friends and staying organized?

If you are 21 and older with a GA driver's license and possess the qualities stated here, you may be interested in becoming a Direct Support Provider with DDM and our residents.

You could be the best friend one of our residents is waiting to be blessed with!

Check out our open positions by visiting us online!



● **Spring Into Action with DDM!**

2025 is a Year of Revival at DDM, and we invite you to be part of it! Help refresh a resident home with spring cleaning, join us and help organize a Fellowship Night to connect with residents through worship or game nights, or find other ways to serve through volunteering and support.

Let's make this a year of faith, service, and community—reach out today to get involved!

VISIT US ONLINE & VIEW A CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS!



IDEAL ROOMMATES

WANTED

The Purpose

At DDM, finding the right roommates means more than filling a vacancy—it's about creating a true sense of home. We aim to match individuals who will thrive together in a supportive and inclusive environment, fostering friendships, mutual respect, and personal growth. By carefully pairing residents, we ensure that each home reflects our mission of enhancing lives and building community.

For example, some of our current residents enjoy sharing hobbies like gardening, game nights, or cooking meals together. Others bond over their love of music, attending church events, or cheering for their favorite sports teams. These shared activities create lasting connections that make each house a vibrant and joyful space.

We're reaching out to our DDM friends because you may know someone who's the perfect match for one of our homes! Whether it's a family member, friend, or church connection, your network could help us find someone who's looking for a safe, caring space to call home. Together, we can continue creating places where everyone belongs.

**7 current
vacancies
in our
resident
homes!**



**CLICK HERE TO
VIEW OUR IDEAL
ROOMMATE
WANTED
POSTERS**

RESIDENT



HOME

SPRING

2025

CLEANING

Join us this spring to make a difference in the lives of our residents by helping refresh and beautify their homes! Your time and effort will create a welcoming space that fosters joy, comfort, and a sense of belonging for our residents.

**ENGAGE
WITH OUR
RESIDENTS
TOO!**

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Organizing and decluttering resident spaces.
- Painting or touching up walls and furniture.
- Yard work such as mowing, weeding, planting flowers, or mulching.
- Window washing and dusting hard-to-reach areas.



Developmental
Disabilities
Ministries

REGISTER TO SIGN UP HERE!

TOGETHER, WITH THREE TAVERNS,
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES MINISTRIES
PRESENTS:

PINTS FOR A PURPOSE

*"Pouring Connections, Empowering
Lives with Purpose."*

Saturday, April 19; 3:00–5:00 p.m.
Three Taverns Craft Brewery
121 New St, Decatur, GA

Pints for a Purpose is a community-building event hosted by Developmental Disabilities Ministries (DDM), inviting friends to come together and build meaningful connections. Set in the warm, welcoming atmosphere of Three Taverns, the event offers an evening of fellowship, storytelling, and socializing over drinks. It's a chance to celebrate friendship while learning about DDM's mission to provide safe, loving homes for adults with developmental disabilities and the life-changing impact of their programs.



TOGETHER, WITH REVIVAL HALL
TAPROOM, DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES MINISTRIES PRESENTS:

PINTS FOR A PURPOSE

*"Pouring Connections, Empowering
Lives with Purpose."*

DATE: Saturday, May 31; 7:00 p.m.
Revival Hall Taproom
16 S.Public Square, Jefferson, GA

Pints for a Purpose is a community-building event hosted by Developmental Disabilities Ministries (DDM), inviting friends to come together and build meaningful connections. Set in the warm, welcoming atmosphere of The Taproom, the event offers an evening of fellowship, storytelling, and socializing over drinks. It's a chance to celebrate friendship while learning about DDM's mission to provide safe, loving homes for adults with developmental disabilities and the life-changing impact of their programs.



REGISTER HERE



PINTS FOR A PURPOSE 2025

At Developmental Disabilities Ministries (DDM), our mission is to empower individuals with developmental disabilities to achieve their highest level of social, physical, emotional, and spiritual maturity. For over 40 years, we've been dedicated to creating supportive, inclusive environments where our residents can thrive.

Pints for a Purpose in Decatur and Jefferson is more than just an event; it's a celebration of community and compassion. This initiative offers a unique opportunity for neighbors, supporters, and newcomers to connect with our mission, meet our dedicated team, and witness firsthand the transformative work we do.

BY COMING TOGETHER,
WE CAN INSPIRE
ACTION AND FOSTER A
NETWORK OF SUPPORT
THAT UPLIFTS
EVERYONE INVOLVED.
YOUR PARTICIPATION
CAN TAKE MANY
FORMS:

1

Sponsorships: Partner with us to make this event impactful and showcase your commitment to our mission.

2

Raffle Donations: Contribute items or experiences to our raffle, adding excitement and aiding our fundraising efforts.

3

Volunteering: Lend your time and talents to help organize and run the event smoothly the day of.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR
GRACIOUS EVENT HOSTS, THREE
TAVERNS CRAFT BREWERY AND
REVIVAL HALL TAPROOM!

**CLICK
HERE
TO GET INVOLVED**

Recipe of the Month: *Chocolate Oatmeal Cookies*

What You'll Need:

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 3 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ½ cup margarine
- ½ cup brown sugar
- ½ cup white sugar
- 1 large egg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 ¼ cups rolled oats
- ½ cup semisweet chocolate chips

How to Make Them:

1. Gather all ingredients. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Grease cookie sheets.
2. Stir flour, cocoa, baking powder, baking soda, salt, and cinnamon together in a large bowl; set aside.
3. Beat margarine, brown sugar, and white sugar together in a large bowl with an electric mixer until light and fluffy. Beat in egg and vanilla. Stir in flour mixture using a wooden spoon. Mix in oats and chocolate chips.
4. Drop spoonfuls of dough 2 inches apart onto the prepared cookie sheets.
5. Bake in the preheated oven until edges are golden, about 8 to 10 minutes. Cool on the baking sheet briefly before removing to a wire rack to cool completely.



**DID YOU KNOW
THAT OUR OLD DDM
NEWSLETTER
FEATURED A
RECIPE IN EVERY
EDITION? IN 2025,
WE PLAN TO DO
THE SAME.
LET'S KEEP
TRADITION!**

delicious!

