



A New Year, A Renewed Commitment to Our Mission

Happy New Year! As we step into 2025, Developmental Disabilities Ministries (DDM) celebrates another year of empowering individuals with developmental disabilities. This year, we remain steadfast in our mission to provide a Christ-centered environment for our residents and to foster inclusive, supportive communities.

Our mission is to provide exceptional care and support, fostering inclusive communities where every individual is valued and empowered.

Our vision is to create a world where individuals with developmental disabilities are fully embraced and celebrated, living lives of purpose and fulfillment.

Our core values guide us in this mission:

- **Compassion:** We treat each individual with love, kindness, and respect.
- **Integrity:** We uphold the highest standards of honesty and ethical behavior.
- **Community:** We foster inclusive environments that encourage collaboration and mutual support.
- **Excellence:** We strive for the highest quality in all our services and endeavors.
- **Faith:** We are grounded in Christian principles, guiding our actions and decisions.

We look forward to sharing stories, updates, and opportunities with you through our DDM Connect Newsletter. Together, we can make 2025 a year of growth and impact!

Ryan Whitmire, President/CEO

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ORGANIZATION HIGHLIGHTS



Holiday Cheer at DDM: A Season to Celebrate!

The holiday season is always a special time at Developmental Disabilities Ministries, filled with joy, gratitude, and togetherness. This past December, we celebrated in style with our annual Holiday Banquet at Smoke Rise Baptist Church. Residents, their families, and friends of DDM gathered for an evening of festive fun and community spirit.

A highlight of the night was honoring Susan and Joel Gilbert, long-time supporters of DDM, whose dedication and generosity have left an undeniable mark on our ministry. Their unwavering commitment has helped us create loving, supportive homes for so many, and it was a privilege to recognize them during this season of giving.

Across our resident homes, the holiday magic came to life with decorated trees, twinkling lights, and festive cheer. Residents enjoyed hanging out with Santa Claus, singing along to carols, and indulging in delicious Christmas treats. The laughter and smiles were a testament to the joy this season brings to our community.

DDM New Years Resolutions

Here are great New Years resolutions from your friends at DDM to add to your list!

- Champion Inclusion** by supporting opportunities and advocate for people with developmental disabilities in your community.
- Focus on Gratitude** by reflecting daily on something you're thankful for to cultivate positivity.
- Take Action** by joining DDM's mission by volunteering, becoming a donor, or spreading the word about our work!

As we reflect on the holiday season, we are reminded of the power of community and the love that connects us all. Thank you to everyone who made this season so special at DDM. Your kindness and support light up our homes and hearts all year long.

Here's to a joyful and blessed year ahead!

2025

FUNDRAISING NEWS

Together, We Will Renew and Restore in 2025!

We are thrilled to share some exciting news with our DDM family! At the end of 2024, thanks to your incredible support, we successfully secured a \$25,000 match grant from Smoke Rise Baptist Church for the HomeREVIVE10 Capital Campaign.

This milestone is a huge step forward, bringing us closer to our \$275,000 goal to create safe, welcoming, and comfortable homes for individuals with developmental disabilities. Your generosity and commitment have made this possible, and we couldn't be more grateful.

Every donation and act of support has shown the power of community and faith in action. Together, we're making a tangible difference in the lives of those we serve.

Let's keep the momentum going in 2025 and continue transforming lives, one home at a time!

**\$25,000
match goal
met!**



**THANK YOU TO OUR
FRIENDS AT SMOKE RISE
BAPTIST CHURCH!
WE ARE BLESSED
TO HAVE
YOUR FRIENDSHIP!**

**Renewing
Spaces,
Restoring
Lives**



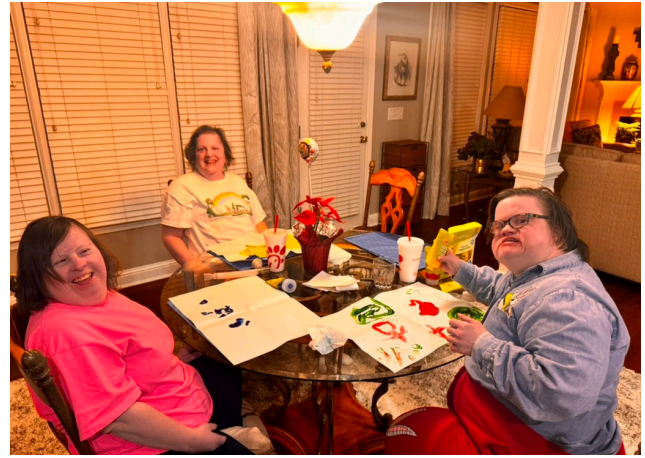
**CLICK THE ICON TO THE LEFT AND LEARN
MORE ABOUT OUR
HOMEREVIVE10 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

RESIDENT AND STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Masterpieces in Motion: Wooten House Residents Getting in Touch with their Inner Artist

The ladies at Wooten House recently embraced their creativity with a fun finger-painting session, turning blank canvases into colorful masterpieces!

At DDM, we love helping our residents explore activities they enjoy and celebrate their unique talents. Great job, Wooten House artists—your creativity brightens our community!



2024 Recap: DDM Resident Wins Hope Haven Individual of the Year

We are thrilled to share that Victor, one of our residents at Appalachian Home, was honored as the Hope Haven Individual of the Year at the close of 2024! This prestigious award recognizes his inspiring journey, personal growth, and unwavering positivity that uplifts everyone around him.

Victor's dedication to achieving his goals and his kindhearted spirit exemplify the very best of what our DDM family represents. Please join us in congratulating Victor on this well-deserved recognition! His story is a true testament to the impact of hope, community, and faith.

Way to go, Victor—we're so proud of you!



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS AT DDM

D.C.
DEBORAH
PARKER
RICHARD
CORY
VARION
JAMES

BRENDA
DAQUIECE
WILLIAM
ANYSSA
ASTRIA
GWENDOLYN
MARSHA
SISTO

BRADEN
LATOYNA
RALPH
KANANI
STEPHANIE
ARAMINTA
MEGAN



ORGANIZATION HIGHLIGHTS

Answering the Call: Ways to Serve with DDM in 2025

As we step into 2025, Developmental Disabilities Ministries (DDM) invites you to join us in empowering individuals with developmental disabilities through Christian love and service. Whether you volunteer your time by volunteering in our resident homes, participate in special events, or becoming an Anchor Family to offer a loving, faith-filled environment, your involvement can make a transformative impact. You can also join our dedicated team, where your compassion becomes a living expression of Christ's care for others.

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ." – Galatians 6:2



A DDM Digital Makeover

Check it out!

We're excited to announce the launch of our newly redesigned website! Our fresh look reflects our mission and makes it easier than ever for you to stay connected with Developmental Disabilities Ministries (DDM). These much-needed renovations.

But we're not stopping here—our goal is to make the website even more interactive for our friends and visitors, with resources, stories, and opportunities to engage with our mission.

[Check out our updated website here!](#)



● Spring Into Action with DDM!

As the season of renewal blossoms, we're thrilled to share exciting ways to connect with DDM this spring! From meaningful church engagement opportunities to hands-on volunteer experiences, there's something for everyone to help make a difference!

Plus, we're mixing in some fun with two brewery socials, perfect for fostering friendships and celebrating our vibrant community. Let's make this spring a season of growth, connection, and joy together! Stay tuned for more details.

**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.



Recipe of the Month: Chicken and Dumplings

Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 2 lbs. bone-in skinless chicken breast or thighs, see notes
- Salt/Pepper, to taste
- 5 tablespoons butter
- 1 small yellow onion, diced
- 1 cup carrots, diced
- 2 sticks celery, diced
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1/3 cup flour
- 4 ½ cups chicken broth
- 1 chicken bouillon cube, optional
- 1 ½ cups half and half
- ¾ cup frozen peas

Seasonings

- 1 teaspoon onion powder
- ½ teaspoon **EACH:** dried basil, parsley, thyme, rosemary, mustard powder
- ¼ teaspoon ground sage
- 1/8 teaspoon pepper

Dumplings

- 2 cups cake flour, or regular flour, see notes
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon garlic powder
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- ¾ cup cold sour cream
- ¼ cup cold milk
- 4 tablespoons butter, melted

Instructions

Sear the chicken:

- **Note:** (Searing the chicken is optional, raw or cooked chicken can be added right to the broth in later steps. Searing first adds a lot of flavor to the soup pot which makes the broth more flavorful. It also adds color and texture to some of the chicken.)
- **Season each side of the chicken with salt and pepper.** Heat olive oil in a 4 ½-quart soup pot over medium-high heat.
- **Add the chicken** and cook for 3 minutes per side, until a little bit of a brown color has developed. The middle will still be uncooked. Let the chicken rest for 10 minutes, then dice into bite-sized pieces. (Discard the bones.)

Make the Soup

- **Combine the seasonings** and set aside.
- **Melt the butter** in the same pot over medium heat and use a silicone spatula to “clean” the bottom of the pot. **Add the diced onions, carrots, and celery** and cook for 5 minutes. **Add the minced garlic, Worcestershire sauce, and seasonings.** Cook for 1 more minute.
- **Add the flour** and toss to coat. Cook for 2 minutes, stirring continuously.
- **Add the chicken broth** in small splashes, stirring continuously. Scrape up any remnants from the bottom of the pot as you do so. **Add the half and half** in the same manner. **Add the chicken bouillon**, if using.
- **Add frozen peas.** Bring to a gentle boil and let it simmer, uncovered, while you make the dumplings.

Make the Dumplings

- **Combine the flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt, garlic powder, and sugar** in a medium bowl.
- **Add the milk, sour cream, and melted butter.** Use a folding motion to combine and form a dough, but don't overmix or they will be dense.
- **Add the chicken** back to the soup along with any juices from the plate. Stir to combine and reduce heat to low. **(If using leftover chicken, add it now.)**
- Use a small cookie scoop and carefully place the dumplings over the soup in an even layer. Spoon a little liquid over each one.
- Cover tightly and increase heat slightly to bring it to a *gentle* simmer. Set a timer for **15 minutes**, don't lift the lid during this time, the dumplings need to steam.
- Open the lid and insert a toothpick into the middle of a dumpling to check for doneness. If it comes out clean, it's ready. If not, cover and simmer for a few more minutes.
- Once the middle is set, garnish with parsley and serve!



**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!