



FACT SHEET

Critical Need for Adults with Special Needs

- According to the Autism Society of America, 1 in 54 Americans have autism and many more have some form of developmental disability (DD)
- The demand for independent living situations for young, DD adults well exceeds the available supply, and as a result, over 79% live with parents or family guardians
- On average, autism costs an estimated \$60,000 a year through childhood, with the bulk of the costs in special services and lost wages related to increased demands on one or both parents. Costs increase with the occurrence of intellectual disability.
- As parents or guardians age or die, it can be devastating for a middle-aged DD adult to lose the primary caregiver and be forced into an unfamiliar living situation – often poorly suited for this individual. Therefore it is critical to find a suitable living situation for a DD adult at a younger age; one which can sustain him/her for a lifetime as well as provide a safe environment
 - According to the San Mateo County Department of Housing, there are over 7000 adults in San Mateo County alone who will need housing in the coming years as parents age or die
 - The Department of Housing lists only 144 units in San Mateo County that provide independent living facilities for adults with DD meeting only 2% of the expected need
 - Rents in San Mateo County for two bedroom apartments average \$3500 per month
 - According to Golden Gate Regional Center there is an 85% unemployment or underemployment rate amongst adults with DD and adults with DD make 15% of the average per capita income in San Mateo County
 - Big Wave was created with the purpose of providing residences and a meaningful lifestyle for developmentally disabled adults
 - Creates a model which can be replicated – self sustaining community
 - Lower rents are subsidized by commercial tenants as part of the development
 - The development has space for a provider of adult day programs such as One Step Beyond to enrich the lives of the DD adults on a daily basis
 - Life skills
 - Vocational Program
 - Culinary Program
 - Music Program
 - A 10,400 sq ft courtyard and a communal dining area will also be part of the development