

## **Looking to the future...**

In the Parent Program at our Family Weekends, we often ask parents two questions. The first question is what hopes and dreams do they have for their teen or adult child's future. For the most part, all of their answers are all pretty close... they want their child to be safe, happy and healthy. They want them to live as independently as possible, to have friends and community, to have a job/career/purpose... they want them to have a full life!

We almost always get the same answer for the second question which is, "What is your greatest fear when you think of your child's future?" Inevitably parents answer this question with the biggest question of all... "What will happen to my child when I am gone?" As a parent myself, my answers to these questions are the same! It can be truly overwhelming to even think about! But there is HOPE!

There are things that we can do to assure that our children will be safe, happy, and healthy. That they will live independently as possible, have friends and community, have a job, a career, and purpose... a full life! There are things that we can do to give us peace of mind that even when we are no longer here, all will be well and our children will continue to have a full life... and you can find out about it all at a Full Life Ahead Family Weekend. Really. No lie!

The Full Life Ahead Foundation has three Family Weekends each year where you will find the information, connections and support that you need to assure that your child has as full of a life as they possibly can. You will learn the steps you need to take and the plans that need to be made. You also will be connected to the folks that can help you get there. Oh what a relief it is!

These weekends, often called "camp," are designed for individuals with disAbilities ages 13 and older and their families! It is ALL about transitioning to a Full Life! We encourage the entire family to come (mom, dad, brothers and sisters). We have programs for parents, adults, teens and children. Each family gets their own cabin! You are fed VERY well (wear your stretchy pants). There is a dance/Karoke party on Saturday night and fun activities during the day. I could go on and on! The next Family Weekend is February 3-5, 2017. You can actually register for the weekend by clicking the link found in the registration announcement in this e-newsletter. Register now... like me any many other families, you will be SO glad that you did!

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