



### Portrait of a Host Home Provider

Alicia gets up in the morning to have coffee with her husband. He is a truck driver and must be on the road by 4:30 in the morning. Later, that morning, she will make breakfast for four school-age kids, and Bob, a 27-year-old individual who has lived with the family the past four years.

Alicia worked for years as a nursing home administrator. She has not worked in the traditional sense since Bob came to live with them. A look at the breakfast table this morning reveals a typical large family gathering -- plates and silverware clattering, several conversations occurring all at once, and dishes of food being passed all around the table. Two of the children are finishing up homework from the night before, one is talking about his project at school, and the other is engrossed in her pancakes. Bob is unable to speak but is communicating his excitement about going to work. Alicia and the family have become very familiar with Bob's signing and other non-verbal communications. It has become second nature for them to understand Bob. As the kids head out for the bus, Alicia helps Bob with his jacket and chats with him about the events of the previous day. Later, Bob's ride to work arrives.

Bob came to live with Alicia and her family through an agency called Support Inc. ***Support Inc. specializes in providing long-term care to people with disabilities in the community.*** Support Inc. develops a plan of community participation, and then uses families like Alicia's to implement that plan. Alicia's is a situation that is happening more frequently as social service agencies seek ways in which to improve the lives of people with disabilities ***without the use of institutions.***

Alicia provides the kinds of supports to Bob that he needs to be successful in the community. Obviously, they have developed a close relationship, as she describes him as a part of her family. Their relationship, like any other, is based on trust and from knowing each other very well. It took time and commitment from both Bob and Alicia to make this happen. But again, just as in any other relationship, the rewards of such investments according to Alicia can be and have been immeasurable.

As Alicia has become familiar with the rhythms of Bob's needs, she has also become familiar with his vast potential for learning. Support Inc. helps Alicia and Bob develop ways to achieve learning and growing skills.

***Bob benefits:*** *he is part of the community, is well regarded, is achieving independence, and enjoys a quality of life like everyone else.*

***Alicia benefits:*** *she provides a meaningful service that makes a difference, and she can realize a goal of being home with her children while earning a living. Her life and her family have been enriched through knowing Bob.*

***Society benefits:*** *people are being reclaimed as meaningful and contributory members eliminating the need for stigmatizing and expensive institutions.*

The model described above is called a "Host Home" and is typical of the setting we utilize for individuals with more intense supervision needs. We contract with private individuals and families to provide care and a home-like environment. The "Host Home Provider" completes basic training, assistance with medication and medical needs and individual coaching to foster person-centered care.



***Support, Inc. specializes in assisting adults with developmental disabilities to be more independent and integrated within their community. We provide residential and vocational supports to individuals with disabilities in Denver and Northern Colorado.***

We have been in business for 24 years and our staff is among the most experienced and qualified in the state of Colorado. Should you decide to join us, we will provide general training in the field of developmental disabilities as well as training specific to the person who may be served. Each Host Home Provider is assigned a Program Coordinator who acts as a Mentor to the Host Home Provider. In addition, our nurses and behavioral support staff will be involved in training and available for consultations as necessary.

*Is the Host Home Provider role right for you and your family? We have found that this situation works well for families with one or more wage-earners wanting to stay at home. Backgrounds of people who have been successful Host Home Providers include:*

- School bus driver
- Nursing Home Aides
- Nursing Home Administrator
- Day Care Worker
- Teachers
- Human Services
- Professionals
- Special Education Teacher
- Public Schools Paraprofessional
- Retired Retail
- Former and current small business owners
- Families and/or individuals wanting to make a life-style change

As you can see backgrounds are quite varied, but there are three basic characteristics that we see over and over again that make for a successful Host Home Provider. If you can answer the following questions positively we would have an immediate interest in meeting with you:

1. *Do you want to be of service to another individual? Is caring an important part of your makeup?*
2. *Would you be comfortable having people come into your home (the person with a disability, of course, but also our Program Coordinator, Nurse, and regulatory personnel)?*
3. *Are you flexible? (The coordination of the many aspects of a person's life often does not go as planned).*

If this description of being a Host Home Provider is of interest to you, we encourage you to contact us.

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