



3391 Merriam
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Dear Friends,

"It was the right – the very best – move for my son. Seeing the very relaxed action photos framed on the walls, of his home remind me that he is an adult now... that he has his job, his home, his work, and his LIFE to live. Thanks to MOKA and their philosophy of freedom, my husband and I and our other children are gratefully living our own lives as well!"

*Shar, a Mother
Montague, MI.*

"A home more like my own for my child" is the reason a group of concerned parents gathered around a kitchen table in 1978. Their passion became the foundation for the dynamic nonprofit we know today as MOKA. Named for the original counties the families called home they came from Muskegon, Ottawa, Kent and Allegan counties. Last year we served more than 800 individuals from all over West Michigan.



Seeing the individual in everyone and the talents they have to share is our way of life. We prefer to work with individuals one on one. We've been successful with individuals who need basic support or have complex or chronic conditions, challenging behaviors and with individuals others believed could not learn.



For our employees putting individuals first is our way of work and a way of life. We recruit skilled and inspired employees who support our treatment approach, are team players and team builders, who adopted gentle teaching and are now learning to be trauma informed.

We support individuals wherever they call home; whether it's together with their family, independently in their own apartment, or at one of our 35 specialized residential homes with 24 hour support. Their homes and ours look exactly like your average home because they are, offering the supports to make independence possible. Our Employment Division staff helps individuals find a job and earn a living. Through skill building, social coaching, training or job development we strengthen skills needed for career success.

By putting individuals first we believe in empowerment that results in life changing experiences. Through our customized training and treatment methods, we support individuals to develop job skills important to success in today's diverse workforce. Many times individuals we support have the necessary job skills, but lack social acumen and agility. Therefore, as an example, you could fund part or all of a \$500 scholarship to assist a 16-25 year old individual with autism or Asperger's Syndrome attend our Social Coaching program helping them become more socially astute and a dependable employee or valued community volunteer.

Your gift will not only support our empowerment efforts, but provide support for needed items not covered by other sources. The reality is some individuals we support aren't currently working and require simple essentials before they're ready to get a job. Our treatment approach will support them but we need your financial help to turn abilities into goals and help them navigate daily life with dignity. In these situations, designating your gift for agency priorities will purchase a dental visit, winter coat, new shoes, or a new pillow for our individuals of very low income.

Please make a personally significant gift today in the enclosed envelope with your check payable to the MOKA Foundation or online at www.moka.org. Select the Give tab. You'll be joining individuals to share the same places, make choices, develop skills, and build relationships that enhance the reputation of all of us. We wish you holidays warm with memories to fill your mind, warm your heart and lead you through the New Year.

Warm regards,



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