

The Guild

AT RAPHAEL VILLAGE

Supporting differently-abled people in becoming
fully engaged in life and community.





Raphael Village provides holistic learning programs and social opportunities for differently-abled people to be lovingly supported in mind, body, and spirit throughout their lives. As the only Affiliate Member of the Camphill Association of North America located in the Southeastern United States, Raphael Village brings New Orleans and its surrounding areas into a long tradition of providing community to differently-abled individuals of all ages and backgrounds.



WHO WE ARE

THE GUILD OFFERS POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION FOR YOUNG ADULTS (18 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER) WHO MAY HAVE AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER, DOWN SYNDROME, OR OTHER INTELLECTUAL DIFFERENCES.

Our day program focuses on the continued development of life skills for greater independence both at home and in the community, vocational training/internships, artist guild training, and continued academics.

As many parents and guardians know, there are few programs specifically designed for adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities. The lack of accessibility and availability of services for differently-abled adults over 21 leaves them and their families in a desperate situation, which is commonly referred to as “falling off a cliff.” The reality of this crisis is what makes The Guild such a necessary program for our members.

OUR MISSION

The Guild’s mission is to meet our members with reverence and compassion for who they are, and to support their unique unfolding by providing community, individual paths to employment, and vocational and artist guild training.

In the Camphill movement, we further unfold our mission in terms of the “Three Essentials.”

The Three Essentials:



AN ACTIVE RECOGNITION OF THE WHOLENESS AND DIGNITY OF EVERY HUMAN BEING.



A COMMITMENT TO SELF-DEVELOPMENT IN THE SERVICE OF OTHERS.



THE STRIVING TO CREATE INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES.



CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Developed in collaboration with the individual and their family, each Guild member receives an Individualized Service Plan (ISP) to set personal goals and tailor The Guild's curriculum to the individual's ability level and interests.

LIFE SKILLS FOR GREATER INDEPENDENCE

Embedded in our program is the continued development and strengthening of daily life skills that are necessary for greater independence at home and in the community. Examples may include:



SELF-CARE AND
WELLNESS PRACTICES



SOCIAL SKILLS AND
BODILY AWARENESS



EMOTIONAL
MANAGEMENT AND
BALANCE



HEALTHY MEAL
PREPARATION



TIME AND FINANCIAL
MANAGEMENT



PERSONAL
GOAL SETTING



CONTINUED ACADEMICS

Many Guild members benefit from ongoing support in reading, writing, and mathematics in order to stay up to date on these skills which are necessary in both everyday life and employment settings. Members work in small group settings of similar ability level to allow for individualized instruction.

PRE-VOCATIONAL TRAINING & INTERNSHIPS

Through the Job Exploration Program and use of the Unique Learning System, Guild members have the opportunity to strengthen their professional skills, explore various fields of work to discover their interests, and may even participate in unpaid internships with various local organizations.

ARTIST GUILD TRAINING

Through our Artist Guild Training Program, members develop various skills that can translate to professional work in a variety of artistic or creative fields. Members can take on new levels of responsibility and expertise over time, making the journey from Apprentice, to Journeyman, to Master Craftsperson.



Fiber Studio

The Fiber Studio, our weavery, offers a wide range of hand-working opportunities, such as weaving, sewing, and felting. Members create one-of-a-kind handmade items such as scarves, shopping bags, table runners, and dishcloths on both table and floor looms. As each Guild member's skills progress, they add complexity to their work. The purpose of the work in the Fiber Studio is to make something that is both beautiful and functional.

Ceramics

Weekly small group ceramics classes are offered in partnership with YAYA (Young Aspirations Young Artists). Working with clay requires a lot of will power to transform hard earth into something that is both beautiful and practical.

Multi-Media

Members can participate in weekly arts instruction that includes creative writing, drama, studio art, cooking, and baking. Projects include public murals, plays, a monthly newsletter, and seasonal culinary delights.



"I love working on the computer because I like to help people. On the computer, I can write newsletter articles, research plants growing in the garden, and help people edit their writing. I'm also studying for my GED at The Guild. I really like doing that."

Lionel, Guild member

COMMUNITY

The Guild supports our members in crafting a meaningful life that incorporates personal interests, friendship building, and connection to the community at large.

FRIENDSHIP

Members of The Guild are able to forge lifelong friendships with one another through daily work and social activities. Our members socialize and engage with one another in meaningful ways everyday, cultivating friendships and social skills that sustain their growth as individuals.



INTERSHIPS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Guild members are engaged in community through vocational training internships and the exploration of community resources such as the public library system, public transportation, museums, local shops, restaurants, and parks. Guild members also have the opportunity to participate in ongoing civic engagement activities such as roundtable discussions and advocacy meetings.

The Guild is proud to partner with various local businesses and organizations that allow our members to find pathways to professional and personal success, including:



FIRST GRACE
UNITED METHODIST



LITTLE MISS
MUFFIN



MIDWAY PIZZA



LASPCA

FESTIVAL LIFE

One of our guiding principles is that we see each human being as a three-fold individual: the physical body, soul (inner life), and spirit (our eternal being). The Guild celebrates festivals throughout each year to nourish the soul and provide members with the opportunity for self-reflection. Our festival life connects us to the earth, the changing seasons, and to the impulse of service and healing that good may become.

"The Guild is our son Andrew's happy place. He loves to be there—rain or shine—among friends and teachers he trusts and considers family. He can truly be himself at The Guild and pursue his interests and discover new ones!"

Susan and Thomas, Guild parents



ON THE HORIZON

SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT

The Guild is poised to become a Supported Employment vendor of the Louisiana Rehabilitative Services (LRS). This additional service will be available to both Guild members and individuals from the greater community. Our approach to Supported Employment includes: identifying the person's skills, interests, and conditions for success; on-site job coaching and accommodations; consultation with businesses to enhance the experience of employers, our clients, and their fellow co-workers; and providing ongoing support for continued success. The Guild will partner with local businesses that are excited about the unique talents and perspectives that individuals who are differently-abled bring to the workplace. For more information on this program, please email us at supportedemployment@raphaelvillage.org.

"Our daughter, Leah, has blossomed since joining Raphael Village in 2013. Our family is excited to be one of the founding members of The Hearth. Everyone deserves to live a meaningful and rich life in a community where everyone's input is valued and where their needs and dreams are not only met, but celebrated!"

John and Caroline, Guild parents

THE HEARTH

The Hearth will be a residential community where individuals with disabilities live alongside and share their lives with homemakers and co-workers, in a nurturing home-like setting focused on mutual understanding and personal growth.



Unlike traditional group home settings where rotating staff filter in and out of the homes, Hearth homes will be run as a small family-style home with live-in homemakers, support staff, and approximately three to four differently-abled individuals. Homemakers will provide a stable, healing environment for The Hearth's residents to flourish throughout adulthood.

"I love being with all of my friends. I love when I can help people with whatever they need."

Jessica, Guild Member



**CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION
OR TO SCHEDULE A TOUR**

The Guild at Raphael Village

530 Jackson Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70130

enrollment@raphaelvillage.org | raphaelvillage.org/the-guild

TEL 504-524-5955 | FAX 504-482-0059

Raphael Village does not discriminate against any race, age, color, creed, sexual orientation, national or ethnic origin, or disability.