



## Current Service Environment Narrative: *Compassion Retreat Center (CRC)*

The Compassion Retreat Center has a rich history and commitment to serving persons with developmental disabilities in our region (within 75 miles of our location) by providing camps, retreats, community gatherings, and volunteer opportunities.

The underlying promise in everything we do is to create a “yes you can” culture and environment. This community is used to being told “no you can’t.” We seek to change the narrative of opportunity. Clients can expect a safe, fun-filled, and personally cared-for experience at CRC.

However, during the pandemic, we had to pause nearly all services, camps, and retreats. Through post-pandemic research, we have discovered there is *less* support available now than there was prior to the pandemic. Furthermore, there does not appear to be any significant new responses to addressing this growing gap within the broader community. Three other service providers that were operating in our region prior to the pandemic have closed permanently. The only other service provider in our region is providing two weeks of programming annually for persons with developmental disabilities.

Our research has identified 17 organizations as potential new partners to fill and help support our programs year-round. This research concluded that the number one expressed need in the short term is to have a place for day outings and events.

For the longer term, this community needs a dedicated camp, retreat, and community center. To respond to short-term needs, Compassion Retreat Center is repurposing a current youth camp area. This is a mission-critical component to fulfill CRC’s strategic intent with a specific focus on those who are under-supported, marginalized, and overlooked.

*“Our 28-year-old son is developmentally disabled. He wants to come to everything CRC provides. We are so grateful to CRC for creating opportunities that help him, and in turn, bless our family.” -*  
Parent