

## ■ Adult Services



# The Walker Center at Bancroft

The Walker Center at Bancroft has been working with adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities since 1945, providing comprehensive residential and socialization supports. Using a person-centered, team approach, our staff of trained supervisors and aides assists those we serve in learning community living and self-help skills.

The Walker Center offers a community living program, a respite and in-home supports, as well as an innovative parenting program for individuals with developmental disabilities who have children.

## A Sense of Community

*Community* has many meanings at Walker. The Center offers homes to adults of different ages, abilities, ethnicities, and religions. Those served in our Community Living Arrangements (CLAs) program share homes based on social compatibility, abilities, and needs. They live in clean and comfortable environments, secure among friends and staff who are trained to provide support. Those in our Walker Parenting Program live in their own apartments with their children and participate in training, support groups, and counseling in order to provide nurturing environments and experiences for their children. The primary goal of both programs is to help individuals function successfully in the larger community.

## Activities

The Walker Center provides training in independent living and self-help skills using a person-centered, team-approach to promote desired outcomes. The Center assists individuals in job readiness skills and helps them maintain employment. A variety of recreational activities are planned to meet the needs of both passive and active participants. These include cooking, music, special projects, exercise, and arts and crafts. Summer vacations are also arranged.

## Our History- A Family Story

Now serving adults, The Walker Center was founded in 1945 by Mabel Stuart Walker as a day and residential school for children with developmental disabilities. Miss Walker devoted herself to the education of children, and as they grew, the school's programs grew with them.

When Miss Walker died in 1966, her students' families knew they had little chance of finding a place that would provide more than custodial care. Several parents pooled their resources to buy the school (then located in the Overbrook Farms section of Philadelphia) from Miss Walker's estate and formed a nonprofit corporation.

The services that Walker offers have expanded over the years to meet the changing needs of those with developmental disabilities. In 2003, The Walker Center closed its large facility in

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## Program Description

Community-based residential and socialization supports are provided to help each individual maximize his/her potential for community involvement and fulfillment.

## Mission Statement

Bancroft's mission is to ensure that every person is given opportunities for lifelong learning and fulfillment.

We do this by altering perceptions, and by supporting those with intellectual and developmental challenges and acquired brain injuries in achieving their life goals as valued and respected members of our world.

## Leadership

**Sharon Williams-Taylor**  
*Senior Operations Director*

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**To learn more** about The Walker Center Program, or to apply for admission, please call The Walker Center at:

**(610) 747-0290; or  
Toll-free: (800) 774-5516**

**The Walker Center at Bancroft**  
304 Old Lancaster Rd.  
Merion Station, PA 19066-1526  
or visit [www.bancroft.org](http://www.bancroft.org)

# ■ The Walker Center

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Overbrook Farms. By then everyone had moved into houses or apartments in the community. The following year, the organization began the Walker Parenting Program to provide supports and in-home services to parents with developmental disabilities and their children.

The Walker Center at Bancroft became a program of Bancroft in the fall of 2009, after the two organizations with similar missions merged.

## In-Home Supports

In-home services are also available to assist individuals in acquiring, retaining and improving self-help, socialization and adaptive skills necessary to reside successfully in their own community-based settings.

## Respite Care

The Center also offers Respite Care when space is available. Respite Care provides:

- A 24-hour program, Monday through Sunday
- Professional, qualified direct-care support personnel
- Social interaction

- Daily activities, including therapy as requested
- Community trips and special event celebrations
- Funding can be private, through Medicaid, or fee for service. An additional fee may be required to participate in certain activities. Rates are based on the needs of the individual. Please contact us for further information.

## Licensing

The Walker Center is licensed by the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare. The Walker Center is also affiliated with:

- Philadelphia Coordinated Health Care
- Philadelphia Corporation for the Aging
- The Philadelphia Alliance
- Mainline Chamber of Commerce
- La Salle Non-Profit Center
- Mid-Atlantic Coalition for Supporting Parents with Cognitive Challenges and their Families
- Philadelphia Office of Mental Health/Mental Retardation
- Delaware County Office of Mental Health/Mental Retardation
- People Acting to Help
- Montgomery County Office of Mental Health/Mental Retardation