

## **D e d i c a t i o n**

*The National Home of Your Own Alliance is dedicated to the memory of Jeanne Johnson. Jeanne moved into her own home in 1985 after 23 years of forced institutional living. She married her childhood sweetheart in June of 1993. Tragically, Jeanne died in September 1993, but not before realizing her own version of the American Dream. We will miss her guidance in carrying out our mission of assuring that all people have the opportunity to control their own lives and pursue their dreams. Jeanne's tenacious spirit and positive energy will be with us always, providing the cornerstone for this unprecedented work.*

*The Home of Your Own Project developed by the Institute*

*on Disability and funded by the*

*New Hampshire Housing*

*Finance Authority is an*

*award winning program*

*of NCSHA (National*

*Council of State*

*Housing Agencies) and*

*the type of program we*

*would like to encourage.*

*John T. McEnvoy,*

*Executive Director, NCSHA*

1-800-220-8770

## **Origin of the Alliance**

Person-owned/controlled housing and personalized support have become part of this nation's agenda as grassroots efforts have challenged the standard way of providing services for people with developmental and other disabilities. Throughout the nation, individuals, advocates, and innovative service providers have made significant moves from institutions and group homes to housing and support that permit all people, including those with the most intensive support needs, to live in homes of their own choosing. This trend is part of a broader shift from traditional, agency-controlled services toward a focus on support resources that encourage personal control and full community inclusion.

On September 1, 1993, the Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD) entered into a cooperative agreement with the Institute on Disability at the University of New Hampshire to create a national information and technical assistance center on home ownership/control and personalized support. This agreement was a natural progression from the Home of Your Own demonstration projects funded by ADD to promote development of creative strategies for achieving home ownership. The National Home of Your Own Alliance is a partnership with the federal government and nationally recognized advocates and leaders whose goal is to create housing and support opportunities that individuals choose and control.

The Alliance is working in twenty-three states to develop local demonstrations of home ownership. Since 1993, the Alliance has negotiated agreements that have built coalitions of housing and disability organizations led by individuals with disabilities, their families, friends, and advocates. In addition to state technical assistance, the Alliance has developed a national information clearinghouse in collaboration with the Center for Universal Design at North Carolina State University, United Cerebral Palsy Associations in Washington, D.C., Co-op Initiatives in Connecticut, the Institute on Disabilities at Temple University in Pennsylvania, and the Human Services Research Institute in Massachusetts.

The lessons learned from Home of Your Own initiatives around the country raise new possibilities for the creation of person-owned/controlled housing and support. These possibilities can only become nationwide realities if local, state, and national groups focus attention on the physical, economic, social, and institutional barriers that exist.

dependence on programs that limit personal choices are two major barriers that deny basic opportunities and civil rights. The limited capacity to create innovative housing and support options and the limited involvement of people in these efforts are also barriers to person-owned/controlled housing and support.

Our goal is to create an infrastructure of exemplary practices and public and private sector partnerships which will link the home mortgage and social service industries to better serve people with disabilities.

For more information contact: The National Home of Your Own Alliance at 1-800-220-8770.

on broad systems change and local efforts to create opportunities for individuals. The Alliance is addressing the need for local, state, and national systems change through three primary activities: intensive technical assistance in selected states, leadership of people with disabilities in all aspects of the Alliance, and information and referral on person-owned/controlled housing and support.

Specifically, the Alliance is working to:

- Provide technical assistance and training in selected states in order to achieve systems change at the state and local level;
- Include individuals and families in technical assistance and systems change efforts;
- Analyze national and state policies that impact the availability of housing and support;
- Implement strategies to overcome identified policy barriers;
- Maintain a national Information and Referral system that responds to requests for assistance in dealing with barriers that prevent people from controlling their housing and supports; and
- Disseminate information about effective strategies for creating person-controlled housing and support.

### State Technical Assistance

Technical assistance, the cornerstone of Alliance activities, has been carefully designed to accomplish several critical outcomes: a) opportunities for home ownership and personalized support throughout the country; b) statewide systems change efforts based on individual state needs and aimed at alleviating barriers to home ownership; c) cost-effective collaborations between public and private sectors and reallocation of existing resources; and d) rethinking home and support opportunities to reflect the beliefs upon which the Alliance is founded.

*The Governors urge  
the federal  
government  
to strengthen  
efforts to  
increase home  
ownership.  
One approach  
is to strengthen  
the public/private  
partnership.*

National Governor's Association

Technical assistance is provided as part of statewide systems change initiatives in 23 states.

State coalitions:

- Convene a representative state steering committee;
- Develop a strategic plan for a statewide initiative on home ownership and control that will include a pilot project through which people will be assisted to purchase homes;
- Receive a technical assistance package from Alliance staff tailored to address each state's needs, opportunities and barriers;
- Support implementation of the plan through training, consultation, and technical assistance on creative finance, legislative advocacy, planning for personalized support, leadership development and coalition-building provided by the Alliance; and
- Evaluate the success of the plan for creating home ownership opportunities and increased control of housing and support.

In addition to work at the state level, Alliance efforts are directed toward change at the federal level concerning policies and resources which affect the availability of housing and support. This work involves three primary efforts: a) critical analysis of federal programs and policies (e.g., Medicaid waiver program, HUD programs) that affect the resources available for home ownership and personalized support; b) policy forums on legislative advocacy and legislative developments; and c) grassroots community organizing and leadership development for people with disabilities.

*Home ownership provides a sense of control and belonging unachievable in the living arrangements typically available to people with developmental disabilities. As home owners, people with disabilities take charge of their homes and lives while contributing to the general economy as borrowers, taxpayers, citizens, and consumers of goods and services.*

*Extending the American Dream*

## Leadership Development

The Alliance National Advisory Board, comprised of people with disabilities who serve on steering committees in technical assistance states, builds leadership capacity and ensures that the Alliance remains driven by its key constituency. Advisory Board members, in partnership with a state contact person usually associated with a state agency, serve as liaisons to the Alliance staff. Our goal is for people with disabilities who serve on state steering committees to be prepared and supported to make major decisions and to help forge partnerships with key players such as representatives of the social service and housing finance industry. The Alliance also promotes opportunities for employment by recruiting qualified project staff, subcontractors, and consultants who have disabilities, and encouraging such hiring within subcontracts and other aspects of our work.

*requirement at closing are the largest barriers to homeownership for many families. The costs can be reduced and the process simplified by streamlining the way mortgages are created and serviced.*

Fannie Mae, Showing America  
the Way Home

## Information and Referral

The Alliance serves as a national Information and Referral clearinghouse on person-controlled housing, based on the experiences of the participating states. Dedicated to timely dissemination of accurate information about home ownership and person-controlled support, the clearinghouse administers a toll-free telephone line, a Web-site, and publications and materials based on real-life situations and produced in formats understandable to a broad range of audiences. Materials are available in Braille, large print, audio cassette tape, computer disk, the Internet Web site, and captioned videos.

The Information and Referral component of the Alliance shares information about programs and practices with all relevant audiences. In keeping with the beliefs that guide the Alliance, the dissemination strategy focuses on broad-based methods that are accessible to all communities.

*I remember the first Home of Your Own client that came in. Jenny was actually a woman my age, a former resident of the Laconia State School, and I could see myself in her. And I knew that she wanted to move out of the group home into her own home and control her own environment. I could empathize with her and I felt it was important for me to play a part, a small part, of that process and make it happen. It made me feel good about my job and doing something for Jenny.*

Claira Monier,  
Executive Director, New Hampshire  
Housing Finance Authority

# Home of Your Own Alliance

A Technical Assistance Center  
at the University of New Hampshire  
Institute on Disability/  
University Affiliated Program

funded through a cooperative agreement with  
The Administration on Developmental Disabilities,  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

# 1-800-220-8770

## in collaboration with

Center for Universal Design, North Carolina State University  
Co-op Initiatives, Hartford, Connecticut  
Fannie Mae (Federal National Mortgage Association), Washington, D.C.  
Human Services Research Institute, Cambridge, Massachusetts  
Institute on Disabilities, Temple University  
National Experts, Planners, and Consultants  
State Steering Committees in Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Connecticut,  
Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan,  
Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York,  
Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Washington, West Virginia,  
and Washington, D.C.  
United Cerebral Palsy Associations, Washington, D.C.

*freedom out of the dark ages. That was  
my dream. I wanted to see how  
it would feel to own my  
own place.*

Doug Brooks, homeowner

For more information contact:

**T h e N a t i o n a l H o m e o f Y o u r O w n  
A l l i a n c e**

**1-800-220-8770**

or visit our Web site at  
<http://alliance.unh.edu>

This brochure is available in alternative formats upon request.

*People with disabilities want a  
place to live that they can call their  
own. In this regard, their dreams are  
no different from their fellow  
citizens. Many people with  
disabilities, however, also need  
supports in order to enjoy everyday  
community living. For these individuals,  
having a home of their own frequently is intertwined  
with the availability of natural, community and public  
supports to help address their needs.*

Gary Smith, National Association  
of Developmental Services Directors

*to live in their own home. The issue is support. There is nothing magical about any building that we have seen anywhere in the country. What we know is that the magic is with the people who surround the person, and what we need to do is provide support to people so that they can live in and control their own homes.*

Jay Klein, Alliance Director,  
Testimony presented before the  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Small Business,  
Subcommittee on Regulations,  
Business Opportunities, and  
Technology. (3.29.93)