

NADSNEWS

The Newsletter of the National Association for Down Syndrome

July, 2005

We Grow Dreams

We Grow Dreams, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation, operates We Grow Dreams Greenhouse & Garden Center in West Chicago, Illinois. It provides job training and employment opportunities for individuals with special needs. It was founded by parents of people with disabilities.

Research has found that people with disabilities benefit from low tech, labor-intensive work that is adaptable to different skill levels. The greenhouse operation fits that description perfectly. The We Grow Dreams program is designed to serve 70 families at a time and to date has 60 participants. Families make an initial commitment for one year. They pay an hourly fee for job training services for the participant as well as provide volunteer hours to the organization. The program also provides a one-on-one job coach for each participant.

The greenhouse provides a safe environment where people with disabilities can develop work skills and produce and sell products. They interact with the regular employees as well as greenhouse customers.

We Grow Dreams Greenhouse has been in business for over 30 years as a wholesale and retail operation. Its long-range goal is to establish the program nationally. For more information, contact Donna Jarmusz, one of the founders, at (630) 357-1269 or e-mail her at dfjarmusz@aol.com.

We Grow Dreams Greenhouse & Garden Center is located at 1055 W. Washington St., West Chicago, IL. The phone number is 630-293-1404.

When you do business there, you are not only helping your garden to grow, but you are also supporting the job training and employment of deserving, hard working people with disabilities.▲

