

## Frequently Asked Questions about the Lodge Program

**Where will the Lodge members be coming from?** The Lodge members are not people coming directly from the hospital. They are further along in their recovery and choose to be in this location living together and working.

**How are members selected to be in the Lodge?** All members receive criminal background checks and are carefully screened.

**How much supervision will be provided?** Support will be provided on site daily as needed and there is a 24 hour on call system for emergencies.

**How does employment work?** Members are expected to work a minimum of 20 hours weekly with the goal being full time employment.

**Why should we welcome a Lodge to our community?** Lodges are well maintained. The members offer valuable services from which the community will benefit. Members are good neighbors who want to work, pay taxes, and enjoy the neighborhood they call their home.

For questions about the Lodge  
call or email Donna Santucci:  
(412) 461-1322 x243

[dsantucci@transitionalservices.org](mailto:dsantucci@transitionalservices.org)

## Fairweather Lodge Principles

\*Members develop a sense of self worth and have a personal stake in the organization.

\*As the organization develops, the members gain more jurisdiction over the operations of the home and business.

\*All members of the Lodge have a role based on their strengths and gifts.

\*Lodges are active parts of their community.

\*Lodge members communicate respectfully to one another and are expected to participate in group governance.

\*The members of the Lodge participate as a group whenever possible. Interdependency among members creates community and a strong support system within the Lodge.

\*The goals of rehabilitation and developing work norms are balanced in the Lodge.

## A Guide to The Our Own Home- Transitional Services, Inc. **Fairweather Lodge**



**“A way to independence  
through shared  
responsibility and support”**

Our  
Own Home

TSI

## What is a Fairweather Lodge?

The Lodge is a living arrangement designed specifically for persons with mental illness who wish to live independently and be active members of their community. Those who benefit most are persons who may not be able to afford things like rent, food, transportation and utilities on their own, but could do so with the help of other housemates or those who appreciate the support and growth afforded in a shared living arrangement.

Lodge members share in the day-to-day experiences of running a home and a business together. They create their own "house rules" and manage their own activities and work practices.

Members are expected to share in home and work responsibilities.

Fairweather Lodges are member-managed. Assistance is provided only as needed and in case of emergencies. The Lodge Coordinator is a consultant to the members and is a teacher of the Principles of Fairweather Lodge living.

## Member Benefits of Lodge Living

- \*Provides very affordable group-living while respecting one's personal freedom**
- \*Creates a supportive environment in which residents live, grow, work and learn from others**
- \*Encourages residents to take part in healthy, decision-making processes**
- \*Offers support at home and on-the-job as members live and work together**
- \*Ensures members receive adequate mental health services including medication management**
- \*Enhances members' employability by developing social and work related skills**

## About the Our Own Home and Transitional Services Collaboration

Our Own Home is an organization started by family members who envisioned a premier Fairweather Lodge in Allegheny County. Working with the private and public sectors, the group developed their vision and secured means to bring it to fruition.

Our Own Home has partnered with TSI to develop the program structure and manage the operation of the Fairweather Lodge.

The four bedroom home is located in a west Pittsburgh suburb, close to public transportation, shopping and a university.

Members of the Lodge are trained and employed through a joint venture with a commercial janitorial company.



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