



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Life Unlimited: The future of three Kansas City nonprofits united by one mission—and now, one identity.

Life Unlimited, Inc. is thrilled to announce its merger with Open Options, an organization that is also well-rooted in Kansas City's intellectual and developmental disability (I/DD) history. In 2016, Concerned Care and Immacolata Manor joined together to form the Clay and Platte County division and in 2018 Open Options joined to start the Jackson County division. Our mission will continue to be to provide unlimited possibilities for people living with developmental disabilities; adding Open Options to our family allows us to more effectively and efficiently achieve this goal.

Bringing on Open Options will also merge our longstanding programs and staff talents, making Life Unlimited stronger as we work together to set a new direction for the combined organization. All three organizations' Board of Directors have finalized the merger to improve and expand residential offerings, supports, and services, while also creating a larger platform for disability awareness.

With its founding agencies serving individuals with developmental disabilities and their families since 1972, Life Unlimited provides life changing services to individuals with developmental disabilities to help them maintain, retain, or regain skills to reach their highest potential and independence.

With state-provided support dwindling for individuals with developmental needs—including appropriate housing/staffing, transportation, medical assistance, and employment opportunities—those in need are turning to Life Unlimited for support more than ever.

Through the experience and scale of our combined organization, Life Unlimited will provide support services to more than 1,000 clients and their families in the Kansas City Metro. These include vital services related to residential housing, day programs, community therapeutic recreation, employment services, emergency medical assistance, transportation, and family resources.

“Since we became Life Unlimited, we have made great strides in increasing community engagement and investment in our mission to help individuals with disabilities experience life with unlimited possibilities,” believes Life Unlimited CEO Julie Edlund. “We are thrilled to welcome Open Options to our team to help lead us in this effort to educate the community about our work and our needs.”

Due to the expanding efficiencies the merger has provided, Life Unlimited has already renovated and built several new homes to provide more accessible living environments for its clients. Each new home will accommodate four individuals in private bedrooms and will be completely accessible. All of the homes provide services and support for those who live there. You can tour two of our newest homes in the videos below:

Great Guys Open House/Ribbon Cutting:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1dUcXC4bjO2tXXMTMOeZu3ezWdusKuP4i/view>

Sherwood Place Open House/Ribbon Cutting:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hg6l33SKNYFZiYT2O1Isu4-R7tWsnNK5/view>

We invite you to ask questions about our merger; feel free to contact Julie Edlund, CEO, at (816) 474-3026 or jedlun@luninc.org. As we move forward, we will share news of our ongoing progress with you. We look forward to seeing the benefits the expansion of Life Unlimited brings to Kansas City — especially to those individuals living with disabilities and their families.

About Life Unlimited, Inc.

Life Unlimited was established in 2016 when Concerned Care and Immacolata Manor -- two longtime and well-respected developmental disabilities providers in Clay County -- joined to form a single agency. Together, the organizations offer more than 80 years' experience providing support services to individuals with developmental disabilities.

“Since we became Life Unlimited following the 2016 merger of Concerned Care and Immacolata Manor, we have made great strides in increasing community engagement and investment in our mission to help individuals with disabilities experience life with unlimited possibilities,” said Life Unlimited CEO Julie Edlund. “We are thrilled to welcome Open Options to our team to help lead us in this effort to educate the community about our work and our needs.”

With a budget of \$20 million, program locations in Kansas City, North Kansas City, Liberty and Overland Park, operating more a comprehensive array of community-based homes and apartments, Life Unlimited offers a broad scope of services for adults with developmental disabilities. Our programs are CARF-accredited and include: Community Living and residential supports; Day Programs and enrichment; Community Recreation Programming; and Employment Services offering job skills assessment, training, placement and coaching.

Life Unlimited provides exceptional programs and individualized supports to everyone we serve. A staff of over 400 supports approximately 250 individuals in group homes or assisted living facilities. The recreation program serves more than 600 people each year. Our goal and guiding philosophy: Helping the men and women we serve experience life with unlimited possibilities.

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