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Council for Extended Care Is Now Sunnyhill

Supporters and staff of the **Council for Extended Care (CEC)** recently celebrated the agency's 30th anniversary by taking a new step forward. Company officials announced that **Sunnyhill Inc. will be the new name of the agency that provides people with developmental disabilities residential and recreational services.**

Changing the name of the agency was a topic of conversation for many years, and there are several good reasons for the change, says Gina Gaal, chairman of the board.

"No one knows what Council for Extended Care means," Gaal said. "We're often misidentified as an agency that deals with issues of aging."

There is also confusion because our residential services [CEC] and recreational services [Sunnyhill Adventures] have different names, says Vicky Presnell, executive director. "One name makes us more easily identifiable," Presnell said.

Finally, there is the sensitive issue that surrounds the full name of the agency---The Council for Extended Care of Mentally Retarded Citizens. It is a title that no longer reflects the way people with developmental disabilities are viewed and is contrary to the vision of the agency which is to work toward the day when individuals with disabilities are accepted in totality by the world community, Gaal says.

"We all have disabilities, but we don't have a label that identifies us in that way," she said. "We are people first with our own abilities and disabilities that are simply characteristics of who we are."

And the name change will not change the character of the agency or the services we provide, Gaal says.

"It is not a catalyst for change but a reflection of the change we're doing. We will continue to do what we do best---provide quality services for our clients," Gaal said. "We now have one name and one image—a home on a hill---that shows how our services offer people the opportunity to live independently in their homes."

Sunnyhill Inc. is a nonprofit 501 (C) (3) organization. The company is comprised of two divisions---Sunnyhill Residential Services and Sunnyhill Adventures. Sunnyhill Residential Services provides housing assistance, customized support for daily living, educational and employment opportunities and social engagement within the larger community. Sunnhill Adventures provides summer camp programs for adults with developmental disabilities and children of all abilities, as well as a travel program for adults with developmental disabilities.