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Life Styles Celebrates its 45th Anniversary Championing Inclusion for Adults with Developmental Disabilities

FAYETTEVILLE, AR – July 7, 2021 – On July 14, Life Styles celebrates the 45th anniversary of its founding in Fayetteville by Carol Hart in 1976. Long before “inclusion” and “diversity” entered the mainstream lexicon, Life Styles was at the forefront of championing acceptance, dignity, and integration of people of all abilities within the Northwest Arkansas community.

Life Styles was born from Carol Hart’s experience working as a classroom aide at the *Washington County School for Trainable Children* (now the Elizabeth Richardson Center). There Carol learned that children with special needs were prohibited from attending school and that there were no programs for adults with developmental disabilities. So at the age of 27 Carol established Life Styles to help realize meaningful, self-directed lives for the eight clients she initially took under her wing—two of whom remain Life Styles clients to this day.

Just a few of the milestones that have helped shape Life Styles’ 45-year legacy are on view at <https://www.lifestylesinc.org/birthday>

To celebrate the anniversary, Life Styles clients will enjoy a “birthday” party on Wednesday, July 14 from 1PM – 3PM and a 70s-themed dance on Friday, July 16 from 5PM – 8PM. Both events will be held at the Life Styles Stensgaard Center located at 2590 West Sycamore in Fayetteville.

Now under the leadership of Executive Director John Newman, Life Styles continues to advocate for the full participation of people with disabilities in community life. “Since its inception, Life Styles has been a place where clients can foster self-determination in an environment dedicated to inclusivity,” says John Newman, executive director of Life Styles. “We are excited to continue the Life Styles tradition of pioneering groundbreaking services that respect and support the independence of our clients, and that continue to advance the cause of disability rights. Programs like these are essential to addressing the growing need for disability services and advancing diversity in the booming Northwest Arkansas region.”

About Life Styles

Founded in Fayetteville, AR in 1976, Life Styles Inc. is a non-profit organization serving more than 300 adults with disabilities in Northwest Arkansas. Life Style’s interconnected suite of Adult Development Services, Supported Living Services, and Supported Employment Services help individuals with disabilities live productive, self-directed lives at home, work, and play. All Life Styles programs are grounded in the belief that community life is for everyone; all people have value; and that when individuals with disabilities are given the opportunity and support to participate and contribute to the community, all of our lives are enriched. Learn more at www.lifestylesinc.org or on FaceBook at *Life Styles Inc.*

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