



FORTE
RESIDENTIAL

Autism

Some answers to
support your loved
one from a mom
who has lived it.

Autism is at epidemic proportions. The waiting list for Medicaid Waiver services is long. After a 10 year wait for my son's waiver slot to open up I, like many parents, found the task of selecting the right provider daunting. I went through a lot of agencies that did not provide appropriate staff for my autistic son. Finally I came across Forte Residential, Inc.; a company founded by Tom Van Meter for his son with profound disabilities. Through this company Tom now enables parents to control who spends precious time with their beloved child/adult served by the Medicaid Waiver. The parent is in charge of selecting the staff to work with their dependent loved one. Parents can also be

paid as staff for their dependent child who is 18 years old or over. My son Matt loved interviewing Notre Dame students and choosing the ones he felt would best suit him. He felt empowered. When Matt was laid off his job, I decided to have him socialize approximately 6 hours a day. It was stressful for him at first, then he began to love it. He learned to play tennis, play pick-up basketball games at the Recs Sport at Notre Dame and many other wonderful things. At one point, he had 4 different staff at once! Having his peers work with him raised his self esteem and he finally had some friends. There is some paperwork involved for parents weekly and you have to be a strong advocate for your loved one. The beauty of this agency is that you can be as creative as you want in helping your child/adult and you can set the hours around your own busy life. I highly recommend Forte Residential. The staff is professional and they truly care about your child/adult. Forte is a Christian based organization. Forte trains the staff you choose. They have four locations in Indiana: Syracuse, Columbia City, Plymouth, and Noblesville.



Matt and Eddie
(former ND student Forte staff)

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