

## **Philosophy:**

### **Guiding Principal**

“It’s hard to describe, but it lies somewhere in the motivation behind human conduct.” – Bob Swain, President

### ***Universal Human Needs:***

“Unconditional love is imperative...and we all, as humans, need to not only receive, but give this kind of love.” --Bob Swain, President

As human beings, we all experience the same universal needs. We need to be surrounded by those who care about us. We need to express ourselves and share our emotions. We need to be valued and to be heard. We need to contribute positively to others’ experiences and to be productive. High Spirit not only recognizes, but celebrates, invites, and encourages the expression of these universal needs.

By providing an environment for people who might otherwise be unheard or unable to access these basic human needs, High Spirit demonstrates a new model in which people with and without disabilities can live a rich and meaningful life.

This is our human condition in its most honest form.

### ***Close to Home***

A person is his or her most honest self when they are home. Whatever this special place may be, physically or geographically, a person knows in their heart when they are home. High Spirit is a place to live, yes, but it’s not just a bunk, High Spirit is truly *home* for people with disabilities. (Photo of cooking? Opening curtains?)

High Spirit is not remote or isolated but a, lively, integrated, inclusive place. Located in the vibrant town of Great Barrington Massachusetts, resident of High Spirit participate in all the town has to offer: excellent coffee shops, live music, swimming at the Community Center, dance and singing at Community Access to the Arts, therapeutic riding at Blue Rider. Our members are involved in the activities of our neighborhood, but also, welcome others with and without disabilities to participate in High Spirit’s social, recreational and work activities.

High Spirit heals a deficiency that existed (in Massachusetts) for this unique population of young adults. By providing a place, a purpose, and unconditional love to everyone in the community, High Spirit dares to live in accord with the best of human values.

(map here??)

***Sustainability:***

High Spirit uses biodynamic farming, a farming method beyond organic, in which we not only do not deplete our farmland, we heal it. Our crew of motivated, enthusiastic participants work the land daily to ensure the wellness of our farmland.

The idea that the residents of High Spirit are participating in a valuable farming practice, helping to stimulate organic growth both in an agricultural and in an introspective sense, is what makes High Spirit unique. All the work and support that goes in to High Spirit, both physically and financially, benefits individuals, work practices, education and training for volunteers and employees, and awareness. Both our business and our human relations sustain and support themselves in an elegant and effective balance. These models have been continually motivated by the need to have such a specialized organization designed to care for young adults with significant intellectual disabilities in the state of Massachusetts.