

Winona County DEVELOPMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT CENTER

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Program Partner Name: Winona County Developmental Achievement Center Inc. (DAC)
Classification: Health/Disability Services
Federal I.D. #: 410871492
Contact Person: Mary J. Hewett (e-mail: maryh@winonadac.org)

Tax Status Determination: 501(c)(3) not for profit corporation - Incorporated in 1963
Website: www.winonadac.org

Mission: To foster interdependence of individuals with the community.
Vision: For all individuals to have the opportunity to work in the least restrictive setting.
Values: *Dignity and respect for all people.
*Services that are based on individual choice and needs.
*Communities that support and develop creative partnerships and inclusive environments.

Organization Overview: The Winona County Developmental Achievement Center (DAC) provides services that assist individuals with developmental disabilities in reaching their full potential. We provide support and guidance in the areas of vocational and work skills, mental and cognitive abilities, physical skills, emotional maturity, and social/community awareness and participation. Because of this support individuals are better able to make positive choices about their work, personal interests and community involvement. The Mission of the DAC is to foster interdependence of individuals with the community. We work to increase independence but realize that everyone in some way is also interdependent on others, so we provide avenues where interdependence can benefit the individual as well as the community.

In 1961, acting on the recommendations of the interim commission on the Problems of the Mentally Retarded, Handicapped and Gifted Children, the Minnesota Legislature provided the funding to develop nine DACs as pilot projects. Demand for services grew and by the end of 1963, ninety-four DACs had been established across the state. The Winona County DAC became incorporated as a non-profit corporation in 1963. The Winona DAC started with 10 people in the program and is now licensed by the Minnesota Department of Human Services to serve 60. There are currently 275 DACs in Minnesota serving 13,878 people.

Staff members provide support, guidance, and mentoring to individuals working in-center and at community jobs in Winona County. Individuals also have the opportunity to participate in many community activities. Other areas of programming available are physical therapy and recreational activities, communication and social skills, community awareness and volunteer opportunities.

Who we serve: The DAC is licensed to serve 60 adults age 18 and older who reside in Winona County. The primary disability of all clients is mental retardation. Other disabilities, which affect client development or behavior, are mental illness, autism, Fragile X Syndrome, Prader-Willi Syndrome, Williams Syndrome, PKU, TBI, epilepsy/seizure disorder, physical challenges, speech/language delays, hearing and visual impairments. The needs of the clients are addressed through individual plans developed to provide choice, support, assistance, and monitoring for each individual. The plans focus on providing the least restrictive environment while making sure the clients and staff are productive and safe.