# DIFFERENT TOGETHER





Building extraordinary spaces for people of all abilities to live, learn, and grow together.



## DIFFERENT TOGETHER

#### Whoever you are, however you learn, whatever you have to share, we welcome you.

Inspired by the energy, potential, and thrill of shared experiences, we are creating a vibrant and open community for people of all abilities unlike anywhere in North Carolina.

Here, on 89 beautiful acres, people of every ability will come together – discovering new relationships and old truths, **intensified by purpose, deepened by kindness, steadied by nature**.

Whether planting a seed or an idea, learning a skill or a song, Peacehaven is about being and doing together.

Now we ask for your investment, as we position for the next chapter in the Peacehaven story.

### Founded in Love – Built with Vision

No creative force is more determined than the love of parents. When Buck and Cathy Cochran, Tim and Susan Elliott, and a few of their friends decided to make Peacehaven a reality, they changed what would be possible for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and the families who support them.

Since then, growth at Peacehaven has come steadily, and with every step forward, we gain more clarity about the critical importance of our mission as well as the reality of our needs.

When we started in 2007, the purpose of Peacehaven was to give people with an I/DD and their families a dedicated place to experience the power and joy of community. Today, with residents living at Peacehaven and thousands of visitors and volunteers coming to connect on the farm through shared group activities, we are **fulfilling this vision while seeing even greater opportunity – and need**.



### Responding to a Growing Need



The NC Department of Health and Human Services estimates that over 400,000 North Carolina residents have an I/DD or other serious cognitive impairment. Research finds that nearly 70% of these individuals live with their relatives or in a non-communitybased, institutional setting; 60% of them do not participate in regular community activities; and 80% are unemployed.

Many of these adults report an aching need for social support, educational opportunities, and job assistance. With limited opportunities for community integration due to lack of available resources – especially when transitioning out of school – **adults with disabilities often experience emotionally devastating loneliness**.

Moreover, all of us live in a world that seems to become less authentically connected every day, despite our hunger for true belonging and friendship.

Peacehaven will build an inclusive community that finds the common ground in all our differences. For you. With you. To the betterment of us all.



70% of NC residents with an I/DD live in relative isolation.

# 80%

80% of NC residents with an I/DD are unemployed.

### More Togetherness. More Connection. More Humanity.

The full vision for Peacehaven's 89 acres includes a multi-purpose community center, residential housing, arts center, outdoor recreation spaces, multidisciplinary healthcare clinic for the I/DD population, and expanded farming operations. These will be created to serve and appeal to people of every ability while addressing the specific needs of those with an I/DD.

Starting with our multi-purpose Community Center, we will build an inclusive, integrated, and amenity-rich environment that will change the landscape of disability services by transforming how people live, learn, and grow together.

#### Phase 1

Building on our strengths and increasing our ability to connect with more people of all abilities

#### Projects

- Community Center
- Event lawn
- Roads, water/sewer, and utilities
- Farm programs and operations center
- Teaching greenhouse
- Trails enhancement

#### Timeline: 2025 Opening

#### Phase 2

Increasing full-time residency and staffing

#### Projects

- Village and commons for integrated living
- Healthcare clinic with I/DD focus
- Arts center
- Production farming expansion
- Inclusive recreation

#### Timeline: 2027 Opening

#### Phase 3

Fully developing Peacehaven's site capacity

#### Projects

- Additional homes and apartmentstyle living with full amenities
- Production farming reaches capacity

Timeline: 2030-2033 Opening



### DIFFERENT TOGETHER

#### A Campaign for Community and Connection

With positive momentum and recognition of rising need, Peacehaven announces *Different Together*. The first phase of this comprehensive campaign seeks to raise \$12.5M to build a multipurpose, uniquely accessible community center and supporting infrastructure and facilities. This new center will catalyze the power of collaboration and discovery by **bringing together people with any and every ability**. In this way, we embrace the risks and privileges of a complex world, finding our shared humanity as we acknowledge **we all have something to learn and something to teach**.



"This multi-purpose, uniquely-accessible Center will be designed to create connections between people that don't typically intersect, enabling learning and growth for people of all abilities."

**Tim Rice**, Campaign Chair *CEO Emeritus, Cone Health* 



### A Place to Gather and Grow

After years of strategic and architectural planning, Peacehaven is now ready to build an exciting center for people of all abilities – our residents, volunteers, and members of the community – to learn, work, play, bond, and grow together.

This 18,000 square foot Community Center will be a hub of relationship-building, education, fun activities, employment, and job training – all achieved with a commitment to acceptance and integration. As the cornerstone of Phase One, the Center will enable us to welcome, serve, and connect different constituencies at the same time. Here we will nurture new strategic partnerships and deepen existing ones with universities, businesses, disability providers, and civic groups – all the while bolstering the quality of life for residents and providing enrichment to visitors.



#### The new Community Center will integrate our most essential and fundamental human interactions.

Co-founder Susan Elliott envisioned Peacehaven as a place where her son Julian and others like him could discover purpose and belonging.

"Julian loves group activities and being around people who are busy doing things. He loves to participate when there are helping hands around him. I want his life to be full, varied, and purposeful, and want the same for the Peacehaven residents. Not sterile. Not insulated. I want life to have meaning and daily opportunities for happiness and stimulation."

**Susan Elliott**, excerpted from a letter written to co-founder Buck Cochran in 2007

Adaptive Fitness Center as an amenity for residents and offering memberships to the broader community

**Sensory-informed design** to ensure welcoming spaces and easy navigation

**Outdoor spaces** for gathering and events

**Social Hall** for Peacehaven events, workshops, and gatherings, available for rental for meetings, retreats, weddings, and more **Café** for residents and people from the broader community to share meals from food grown onsite and freshly prepared in a Commercial Kitchen by an integrated workforce of differently-abled staff



Arts and Educational Classrooms for formal, experiential, and expressive learning

> **Production Studio** for performance-based projects inspired by people of all abilities

Solar-generated electricity to produce more energy than consumed

**Rain catchment systems** for efficient recycling of water for irrigation and other non-drinking uses

**Coworking Spaces** will create revenue and collaborative workspace for residents and community members.

### With Their Partnership



More than a building, the new Community Center will be a transformative space designed for dynamic programming — blending formal education, hands-on experiences, and creative expression, all under one roof.

Our existing and planned programs leverage strategic partnerships with universities including UNC Greensboro, NCA&T University, and Elon University, alongside dynamic collaborations with local businesses and civic groups. As these carefully designed immersive spaces unfold, they will spark new ideas, programs and solutions that transcend boundaries. With like-minded partners we'll fuel growth and drive innovation, redefining how a community learns, works, and thrives together.

"For nearly a decade, UNCG has found a strong partner in Peacehaven. I'm excited about their plans to deepen their ongoing commitment to building a more inclusive, vibrant, and prosperous society, which will greatly expand opportunities for students to engage with people of all abilities."

#### Dr. Terri Shelton

Vice Chancellor of Research and Engagement, UNC Greensboro



### **With Your Partnership**

We will meet the needs of people with an I/DD by transforming the possibilities of community for everyone.

> Fighting the deep isolation that is too often a part of living with an I/DD will continue to be our defining purpose **as we create a welcoming, authentic space for people of all abilities.** Our history has taught us an extraordinary lesson as we position for the future: **the best way forward is together**.



Peacehaven is for *anyone* who believes in the dignity, capacity, and perspective of *everyone*.

> Peacehaven is a model residential community for disability support and environmental sustainability, already achieving distinction for its mission and applied philosophy of integration. With our Community Center, we will be able to better support and engage future residents while also providing a collaborative, beautiful, and functional space for people of all abilities.

Once the Community Center is open and new programming up and running, we estimate 24,000 visitations to Peacehaven each year in a fluid mix of new and repeat visitors from surrounding cities and towns. By coming together to work and learn, laugh and play, challenge and nurture, **everybody at Peacehaven benefits from the power of belonging**. That's how we're building a community of kindness, trust, capability, and unstoppable kinetic energy.





### Time together is how we all grow stronger together.

Sharing a meal, studying a problem, playing a game. The more differences we encounter along the way, the more durable and satisfying those bonds are. There has never been a more important time or more excellent opportunity — to invest in the transformational power of community. As Peacehaven continues to become a progressive model for how to build and rethink community, we thank our friends, partners, and advocates for their support, ideas, and engagement.

different-together.peacehavenfarm.org

Peacehaven 1458 NC Highway 61 Whitsett, NC 27377