

# VOICES

## THE DAILY TIMES

A GANNETT NEWSPAPER  
FOUNDED IN 1886

### **Developmentally disabled need Holly Center as choice**

With news of some changes at Holly Center, I am writing as a family member of a Holly Center resident who is happy in his home, thrives there and receives many services and relationships enhancing his health, well-being and independence.

My brother is 58, has multiple disabilities and has been a resident since 1976, when our parents (now deceased) moved to Salisbury specifically to help assure my brother's placement at Holly Center, which was and continues to be a top-notch home for him.

Holly Center also is an outstanding provider of respite care for disabled individuals and their families across the area.

With some planned consolidation/downsizing on the Holly Center campus, our family continues to worry about the long-term future of this wonderful facility. We believe our citizens with severe disabilities deserve a full range of options including the comprehensive care offered by a state residential facility.

Many thanks to Eastern Shore legislators using their wisdom and insight to support the unique mission of Holly Center to individuals and families. Delegate Norman Conway, Sen. Jim Mathias and Delegate Addie Eckhardt have offered unwavering support of a full range of homes and services for individuals with severe intellectual disabilities as well as other types of challenges — Holly Center is definitely among the choices needed.

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