

MDS is constructing three, eight bedroom group homes for people with cognitive and physical disabilities who also face additional challenges due to their fragile medical condition. These people are from throughout Colorado who have been served the past several years, some of them most of their lives, in a state operated Skilled Nursing Facility at the Grand Junction Regional Center, one of three state operated institutions for people with developmental disabilities. In late August 2009, Governor Ritter announced the decision to close the Skilled Nursing Facility in Grand Junction, which is currently home to 32 individuals.

MDS is the private, nonprofit community-based equivalent service provider in Mesa County for people with developmental disabilities. We are assuming the responsibility of serving the majority of the individuals currently residing at the state facility and have been selected as the provider of choice by parents and guardians of 24 of the 32 people affected by the closure..

The individuals who will be living in these homes need very specialized equipment, the homes must have minimal physical barriers for accommodating wheelchairs and gurneys, and residents need skilled nursing care. We are thankful that the community has rallied to assist us in this endeavor, including developers, businesses and government. We began construction in December and plan to have the homes completed by the end of February, a very aggressive project in the best of times, let alone the middle of winter! The closure is slated for March 1 and we plan to meet that deadline.

Financial assistance for this project is being sought from a variety of sources for construction, specialized equipment, physical accommodations such as ceiling lift systems, furnishings and household items. Please contact us if you are able to assist.