

# MEMBERSHIP MONDAY:

# Thrive Support & Advocacy

Highlighting Thrive Support & Advocacy' Impact on the Community

**At the Providers' Council, we are proud to highlight the impactful work of our members who are strengthening communities across the Commonwealth. This week, for Membership Monday, we are featuring Thrive Support & Advocacy, a community-based organization that supports youth and adults with developmental disabilities in leading meaningful, self-directed lives. Guided by a strengths-based approach, Thrive works alongside individuals and families to promote dignity, inclusion, and connection within their communities.**

## Who is Thrive Support & Advocacy and What Do They Do?

Thrive Support & Advocacy is a community-based organization that supports youth and adults with developmental disabilities in leading meaningful, self-directed lives rooted in dignity, choice, and community connection. Founded in the early 1970s by parents who believed their children belonged at home and in their communities, Thrive has long championed an approach that focuses on strengths, possibility, and belonging. The organization works to ensure individuals are seen for their abilities first, creating opportunities that help redefine success on their own terms while supporting families and strengthening the communities around them.

Thrive provides the space, support, and resources individuals and families need to thrive, offering programs and services that include:

- Residential supports that provide stable, community-based living environments where individuals can build independence and meaningful relationships
- Family support and navigation services that help individuals and families access resources, guidance, and ongoing support.
- Social and recreational activities that bring people together around shared interests and experiences, supporting connection, confidence, and a sense of belonging.
- Skill-building, leadership, and wellness opportunities that encourage personal growth, self-advocacy, and active participation in the community.
- Community outings and special events that create opportunities to try new experiences, strengthen social connections, and engage more fully with the world beyond home.

Across all of its work, Thrive emphasizes empowerment, inclusion, and creating opportunities that celebrate strengths, build confidence, and support full community participation.



## When Did Thrive Support & Advocacy Join The Providers' Council and Why?

Thrive Support & Advocacy has been a Provider Member of the Providers' Council for several decades, reflecting a long-standing commitment to collaboration, shared learning, and leadership within the human services sector. Through Council membership, Thrive is actively involved in advocacy efforts including *The Caring Force*, supporting statewide initiatives that advance the human services workforce and the individuals they serve.

Thrive's leadership and impact have been recognized at the Providers' Council through multiple honors. In 2019, Thrive received the *Peer Provider Award*, which recognizes member organizations that demonstrate exceptional service, innovation, and commitment to the individuals and communities they support. More recently, in 2024, *Stacey Forrest* of Thrive Support & Advocacy was honored with the *Ruth M. Batson Advocate of the Year Award*, which recognizes individuals who show sustained dedication, persistence, and leadership in advancing funding, services, and supports for people served by the human services sector.



### A voice from Thrive Support & Advocacy



At Thrive Support & Advocacy, our mission is to empower people of all abilities to live meaningful, connected lives in their communities. Our experience as a Providers' Council member has strengthened our ability to collaborate, advocate, and learn alongside peers who share a commitment to equity, quality, and innovation across the human services field.



### Looking Ahead: Thrive Support & Advocacy' Continued Commitment to Support and Innovation

As Thrive Support & Advocacy looks ahead, the organization remains focused on expanding inclusive, community-based supports that respond to the evolving needs of the individuals and families it serves.

#### Upcoming Initiatives & Events:

- **Community-Based Day Supports (CBDS):** Continued expansion of inclusive, community-centered programming focused on skill development, independence, and meaningful engagement both in Worcester and Marlborough.
- **Flourish Food Pantry:** Ongoing efforts to address food insecurity through culturally responsive, accessible pantry services and strong community partnerships.
- **Social & Recreation Programs:** Inclusive social opportunities, including Special Olympics teams, community outings, dances, and our signature *Prom for All Ages™* in May, which celebrates abilities and belonging.
- **Workforce & Community Partnerships:** Growing collaborations with local employers, donors, and civic partners to create employment pathways and inclusive community experiences.

Interested in learning more or getting involved? Explore the links below to learn more about Thrive Support & Advocacy, their programs and services, and upcoming opportunities to support their work and connect with the Providers' Council.

[Providers' Council](#)

[Thrive Support & Advocacy](#)