



October 2003

## **Shattering Myths** *about* **Community Placement**

***Q: Can institutions serve people on DDA's Waiting List?***

**A: No.**

- “*Over my dead body.*” ~ quote from Waiting List families.  
Families on the Waiting List have struggled for years to meet their loved one's needs with little or no outside help. They did this so their son or daughter with a disability could remain a part of the family and community. That's what they want to continue, with adequate community supports.

***Q: Will people lose their jobs if an institution closes? Will hundreds of people become unemployed if an institution closes?***

**A: This should not even be a consideration.**

- We shouldn't keep people institutionalized just so others can keep their current jobs.

**A: Many staff could find work in community programs.**

- In fact, many institution staff are already working in community programs.

**It is NOT reasonable to segregate people in institutions when experience and research prove that even people with significant disabilities and intensive needs can be supported in the community.**

**It is NOT reasonable to continue to invest scarce public dollars operating large, inefficient congregate settings.**

**It is NOT reasonable to deny even one person the right to live among us in the community, where services and supports can be provided.**

### **MARYLAND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COALITION**

**People on the Go of Maryland · The Arc of Maryland · Maryland Association of Community Services  
Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council · Maryland Disability Law Center**