

Share Foundation seeks 'stewards' to live with villagers

By Deborah Sederberg
Staff Writer

ROLLING PRAIRIE — The Share Foundation is looking for stewards.

A steward, explained Kathy Kelly, executive director of Share, is a little like a house parent.

Share provides housing and vocational training to adults with disabilities at its 185-acre village-like Sharing Meadows facility in Rolling Prairie.

Residents, in fact, are called "villagers."

A steward lives in an individual house with two

villagers, and in essence, makes a home in a family-like atmosphere.

Stewards get two days off each week, Kelly said.

On their work days, they do many of the chores parents do — cooking, housekeeping and laundry, teaching news skills

to villagers and helping them to maintain personal hygiene.

In addition, they shop for groceries and home supplies and take villagers to appointments.

They celebrate holidays and special occasions in their own homes and join

in larger celebrations.

Stewards are provided with room and board and transportation for work-related travels as well as a salary.

"Married couples are accepted," Kelly said. One

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Photos provided

Villager Gary Barnes (left) relaxes with house steward Dan Forehand at the Share Foundation near Rolling Prairie.

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member of a couple might serve as a steward while the other holds another job, she added.

"This might be a good job for empty-nesters," Kelly suggested, "or perhaps for a new college graduate looking for an opportunity to do a year of service."

According to the Share Foundation website, "A

steward must be emotionally mature, objective, flexible, responsible, demonstrate good judgment, communication and teaching skills, have patience with others, and be able to work well independently as well as with others. A year-long commitment is required."

For more information, call the Share Foundation at (219) 778-2585 or visit www.sharefoundation.org.