

## HISTORY OF OAK HILL

Oak Hill was founded in 1893 by Emily Wells Foster, a Sunday school teacher in Hartford, to provide the means through which blind children could lead lives defined by their achievements. Since that time, Oak Hill has kept pace with, and been responsive to, the changing needs of people with disabilities. Today, Oak Hill provides services and solutions for children and adults with varying disabilities so they can live as independently as possible and be contributing, productive members of their communities.

- 1893** The Connecticut Institute for the Blind is founded by Emily Wells Foster, a school teacher in Hartford, to meet the needs of blind children.
- 1911** The “school on the hill” becomes the site for an educational institution providing living, learning and vocational opportunities for blind children.
- 1978** Oak Hill School expands its mission to begin serving children and adults with severe multiple disabilities, including mental retardation, and opens its first group home in the community.
- 1994** The remaining on-campus students move into group homes in the community.
- 2000** Launching of The Oak Hill Center for Relationship & Sexuality Education
- 2002** Opening of The New England Assistive Technology (NEAT) Marketplace
- 2006** Establishment of The Oak Hill Center for Individual and Family Supports and The Blind Vocational Program
- 2007** Start of The Oak Hill Birth to Three Program

Originally published: May 1, 2006

Revised July 1, 2007