

On January 19, 2009 TD Charitable Foundation presented Wiley Christian Adult Day Services, Inc. with a check for \$10,000 to begin a multi-sensory environment program at the adult medical day care (located in Pennsauken, NJ). The foundation's generosity is helping to realize a dream – to possess technology which will engage those with challenging mental and physical disabilities.

A controlled multi-sensory environment (MSE) is used for people with mental and physical disabilities such as: autism, dementia, developmental disabilities and brain injuries. This involves exposing them to a soothing and stimulating environment. These rooms are specially designed to deliver stimuli to various senses, using light effects, color, sounds, music, scents and tactile objects. It provides stimulation for those who would otherwise be impossible to reach. The MSE enables the agitated client to cope with stress, anger and sorrow through sensory stimulation. It creates an area where clients of all abilities are able to engage their environment without assistance from others.

The MSE officially opened at Wiley Adult Medical Day Care on Monday, April 6th. Andrea Honey, teacher/activities assistant, brought out the “World’s Largest Piano” to introduce the multi-sensory products. The piano is flat and lies on the floor. The clients were able to use their feet to record an original tune and then have the joy of having it played back to them. One woman in a wheelchair was able to glide over the keys and make her own music. It was a wonderfully creative time with music and song! This is just one example of how the multi-sensory technologies can be used. The exciting mix of colors, lights, aromas and soothing sounds in the MSE creates a welcoming environment for all.

The clients and employees of Wiley Christian Adult Day Services, Inc., would like to thank the TD Charitable Foundation for their commitment our community. They have assisted us in bringing this new, innovative technology to our adult medical day care. Thank you for helping to improve the lives of our clients!

