Flourish is a center for independent living which helps people thrive in an environment that supports their needs and opens doors to new opportunities. It is designed to provide stability and comfort so that they flourish independently, while strengthening a thriving community that can address needs and interests. The core purpose of this space will be to come alongside people, to guide them as they face their individual challenges and ultimately to empower them to overcome their struggles and push them towards success in finding jobs, living independently, and flourishing in meaningful interactions with the world around them.

A safe, stable, and comforting environment, with control over sensory stimuli such as lighting, acoustics, and IAQ. Encourage client interaction through shared activities, and helping them translate this to other aspects of life. Boosts client confidence and gives the skills and abilities to live independently, maintain a job, etc. Ability to perpetuate positive experiences and lessons learned for a lasting impact.

GOALS
FAMILIARITY
SOCIALIZATION
INDEPENDENCE
LONGEVITY

Location
Placed in Lafayette, Indiana in the area of Main and Kossuth. As a low income area, median household income $34,800, 8.5% above poverty line $28,800, 47% of people below the poverty line (there is an even greater need for support and resources there with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and their caretakers). There are not other resources available, like specialized opportunities, mental health treatment, and well maintained recreational facilities. Lafayette is in the planning stages of Points, a revitalization project targeting a run-down historic district. There are a few organizations in the area that partner with, including Lafayette Transitional Housing, which works with the homeless and the Paul Center, which works with non-traditional educational needs. These groups would be ideal partners because they share in Flourish’s mission to address needs that are typically underserved in a low income community.

Design for ASD
Interviews with Dr. Rose Mason, Assistant Professor, Special Education, Purdue University and Alex Crawford, Special Education Paraprofessional, revealed just how important stability, predictability, and soothing spaces are for those with ASD. They face certain challenges that can relate to sensory overstimulation and understanding social cues, and have need someone to come alongside them to push them towards a higher potential. It also became apparent how many stigmas are attached to those with Autism and we wanted to create a space that would help those faced with various challenges to defeat the impossible and conquer.

Plant Life
Dr. Collin Hobbs of Huntington University and Kristen Van Waters, RN, proved incredibly helpful in understanding the importance of indoor plant life and what potential risks they bring. Most of the risks in a healthcare setting would be for immunocompromised patients, pollen allergies, and aroma allergies. With careful plant selection and integrating plants into the educational experience, these risks can be mitigated as well as providing a life-like work skill. Plants in indoor settings have many psychological benefits, from productivity to promoting a calming atmosphere.

KITCHEN TRAINING AREA
The training room will be used to demonstrate multiple cooking techniques and health lessons in order to ensure proper food safety is being conducted in the kitchen. Along with cleaning and machine operation lessons.

ENTRANCE
The entrance provides a simple and clean look to avoid overstimulation. Large signage is clearly displayed over the front door entrance so people know exactly where to enter the building.
1. Art therapy space
2. Caregiver support and resources
3. Acoustic panels
4. Quiet room as part of sensory space
5. Different purposed spaces differentiated by floor coverings
   - Use all LED lighting
   - ACT ceilings and clouds are used throughout the space for max sound absorption

Design for people with ASD
1. Used local furniture is used all throughout the learning center to save cost and help protect the environment.
2. Low water set to 120 degrees
3. Switches are low with large surface area
4. Hot water set to 120 degrees
5. Signage high contrast for visually impaired and in braille
6. No steps or high threshold changes
7. 3'0" doors
8. Chairs mobile for room for wheelchairs
9. Space left for wheelchair user
10. 36" minimum clear paths
11. 5'6" turn radius
12. Bed is 18" to be closer to wheelchair height
13. Toilet is 19" got easy transfer to wheelchair
14. ADA shower
15. Foldable shower seat
16. Use of edible landscaping as an efficient use of soil
17. Gardens used to teach cooking, proper use and cleaning of vegetables & herbs
18. Learn how to maintain bio walls
19. Use of native decoration plants for reducing invasive species
20. Trellis to shade courtyard and filter light entering building
21. Rainwater storage from roof, and use of grey water for watering plants
22. Use deciduous foliage to provide shade during the summer which dies back in winter to let sun in further
23. Fence around courtyard for safety
24. Safe detergent and cleaning products
25. Energy star appliances for efficient energy use
26. All LED lamps to reduce energy use
27. Low flow/dual flush toilet
28. Water Sense faucets
29. Light paint colors to bounce natural light
30. doors with glazing to let light penetrate
31. Transom windows and light shelves
32. Double glazed windows with argon for max insultation
33. Dimmable lighting for control and use
34. Water bottle fill station at water fountain
35. Compost area & system to reduce landfill waste and supply fertilizer

STUDIO
The studio is a flexible space for multiple uses.

FURNITURE
Used local furniture is used all throughout the learning center to save cost and help protect the environment.

OUTDOOR COURTYARD
The outdoor courtyard offers an opportunity for people to learn how to garden and care for a variety of plant life. The walls surrounding the courtyard create a comfortable safe place where people can come relax and enjoy being close to nature.

NATURE
Plant life along with materials found in nature and colors are used throughout that create a strong connection with nature and a calm environment without too much stimulation for people with autism.

SUSTAINABLE DESIGN
- Interface flooring
- Sherwin Williams "Harmony" paint with zero VOCs achieving GREENGUARD Gold Certification satisfying LEED (R) V4 criteria
- Use used furniture
- The location is within walking distance of several neighborhoods, and Lafayette's 5 Points revitalization process will be adding several new bike lanes
- Concrete locally sourced from IMI, with recycled concrete content
- Wall panels, framing, column forming, drop ceiling framing/rel

RECEPTION
The reception has an open space concept that invites people in. The simple and unique layout creates good wayfinding so people know exactly where to go.