

Be a Community Builder!

Tips for Support Staff



Please Know:

1. Know that community-building and friendships are very important for all.
2. Each and every person has gifts.
3. There are people in the community who will enjoy each and every gift, each and every person.
4. We must be deliberate about this. It just does not happen unless we create and support opportunities.
5. Relationships are important to our health and overall happiness with life.



Role of a Good Community Builder:

1. Focuses on positive capacities and is creative, flexible and adventurous
2. Has a collaborative relationship with the person.
3. Is proactive in terms of approach to behavior difficulties, attempts to find the right environments and people.
4. Provides unobtrusive support enhances the appearance of competence of the individual.
5. Knows that nothing special is required for a community member to relate meaningfully and positively.
6. Walks with the person. Going at their pace, maintaining a stance of commitment, presence and responsiveness.
7. Their goal is to bring the person outside of the service system.



Please try:

1. Relationship Map-where can relationships be strengthened?
2. Look at places person currently goes, is there someone there who may be a connection?
3. Go out with person 1:1- truly watch and listen- what works, what doesn't?
4. What are this person's gifts? Celebrate them! Who else might enjoy their gifts?
5. Look at a person's interest. Where do people go with similar interests? Pick the right environment and go to the same place multiple times.



Please remember:

1. You are doing one of the most important things you can for someone.
2. It takes time, patience is a virtue.
3. Please don't give up even if it seems impossible. It is possible.
4. One person, one place!
5. Community is more about people than places.
6. It is not doing more, it is thinking and doing differently.