

Connecting Individuals with Disabilities and Community Members

A one-day workshop for
Service Providers, Case Managers, School Staff,
Family Members, Advocates,
Persons with Disabilities,
and Friends

Full community participation includes friendships and relationships with a wide variety of people, and valued social roles as a community citizen. This training will present stories, slides, and successful strategies learned in “The Friends Project,” and “Person-Centered Agency Design Project,” and other efforts across the country which have been designed to support individual with developmental disabilities in having more friendships with non-disabled persons, being more fully part of their communities, and expanding the number and type of social roles they experience. Lessons learned in both rural and urban areas, with a wide variety of agencies, will be presented. The techniques and strategies learned apply to a diverse group of human services and people with different types of disabilities.

Topics:

1. Successful strategies in planning, connecting, and supporting individuals in having more friendships and community involvement
2. Expanding the variety and types of social roles of persons who receive services
3. The role of staff as “community connectors”
4. Supporting community members in being friends with individuals with disabilities
5. Agency structures which support more relationship-building, community connectedness, and valued social roles for the people served

This workshop will cover basic approaches, specific strategies, and exercises directly applicable to participants’ work. It is appropriate for both direct care and administrative staff, as well as school staff, families and community members. The emphasis is on direct “how-to” methods.

FRIENDS TRAINING

This is a two day conference where you will come away with a new understanding of community.

Day One:

You will understand what the meaning of an “Inclusive Community” is and learn how to work toward a community that has no labels and accepts everyone as they are.

You will come away with new ideas, that are easy, fun, and meaningful to the people you support and learn step-by-step approaches on “how to” create new friendships.

You will leave Day One with concrete ideas to try before Day Two.

Day Two (approximately 2 to 3 months later):

On Day Two everyone will share their experiences of “Connecting People to People” in the two-three months since Day One.

We will celebrate successes!

We will look at the barriers and challenges you discovered.

We will learn about more complex implementation methods and strategies.

Who will benefit from this training?

This training is appropriate for administrative staff, case managers, providers, supervisors, direct care staff, persons with disabilities, families, and community members. With emphasis being on “how-to” create community connections and the value of relationships, you won’t want to miss this training opportunity!

**CONNECTING INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES AND
COMMUNITY MEMBERS – PART II
MAKING REQUESTS OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS**

This training is available for those already actively engaged in supporting relationships and friendships between individuals with disabilities and community members. It addresses more advanced skills such as developing and practicing requests to make of community members, resolving breakdowns, and sustaining more long-term relationships.