



New Community Opportunities Center at ILRU Presents...

Creating and Operating Services to Support Youth in Transitioning to Independent Living

April 11, 2012

Presenters:

Kimberly Arnett and Annie Kim

The Ability Center of Greater Toledo (ACT)

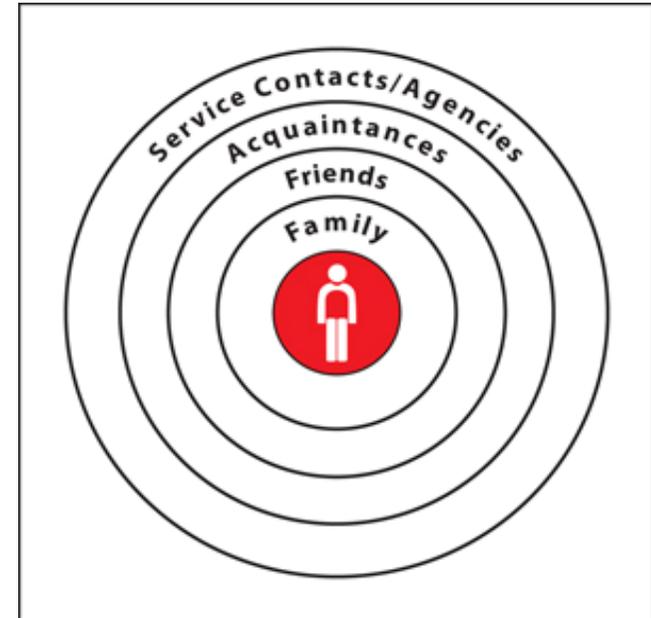
ACT: Community Connections – Increasing Social Capital

- Key for The Ability Center’s services and supports.
- One of the most important facets of community is that it promotes a sense of social capital for the members who belong. Social capital refers to the connections and relationships that develop around community and the value these relationships hold for the members.
 - Allows citizens to resolve collective problems more easily
 - Widens our awareness of the many ways we are linked
 - Increases tolerance

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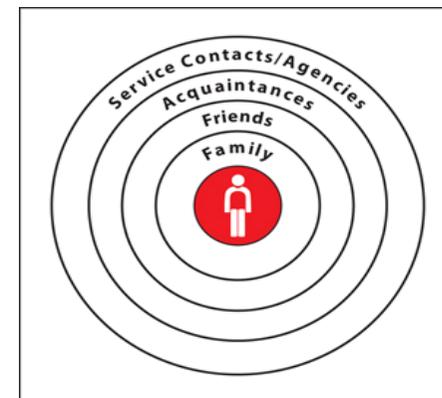
- Average non-disabled person in community can count around 150 people in his or her various social circles
- Individuals living with significant disabilities, the number of people in his or her social circles is around 15.
 - 10% of the norm
 - Fails to provide natural and equitable opportunities for people with disabilities to live and interact freely in their community.
 - Closest “friends” are often people “paid” to provide them with daily support.



ACT, cont'd.



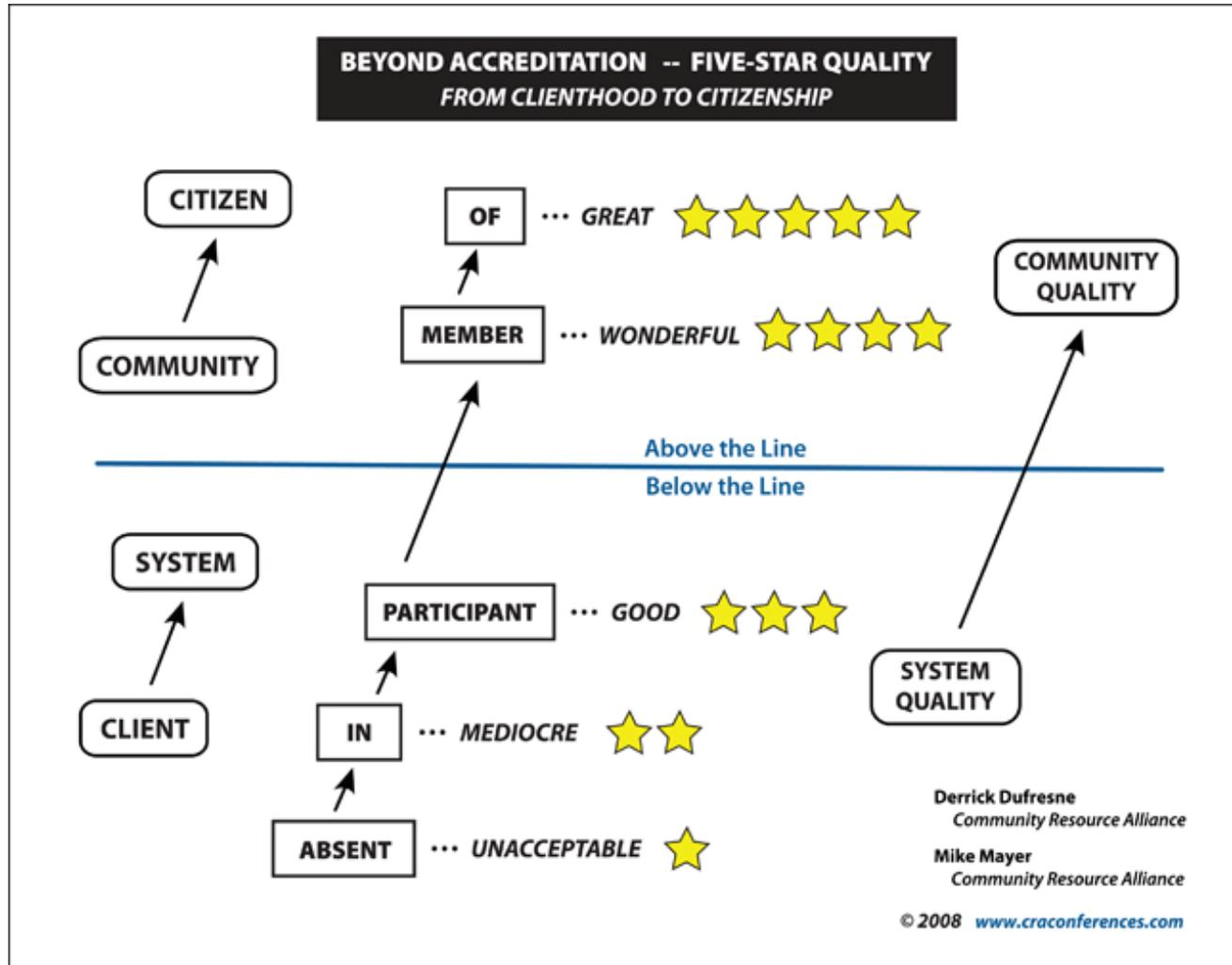
- If you belong to no groups, but decide to join one, you cut your risk of dying over the next year by half
- Social capital keeps us safe, sane and secure, this fact cannot be understated
- It has been suggested that social isolation, or the opposite of social capital, is responsible for as many deaths per year as is attributed to smoking.
- When we consider social capital for people with disabilities, we must recognize the void. We know that people with disabilities still are separated from the greater community and mostly involved in special programs or services designed for them.



ACT: Five Star Quality

As long as a person's experience is contained within the "Disability Bubble" (meaning as part of a program that is operated by an agency for people who have disabilities) it can never be better than Three-Star Quality.

ACT: Beyond Accreditation – Five Star Quality



ACT: Example of Achieving Five Star Quality

- **One Star:** A dance for people with disabilities that is sponsored by the human services/disability organization held at the sheltered workshop. (*The person is absent from the community*).
- **Two Star:** A dance for people with disabilities held at the local YMCA that is sponsored by the human services/disability organization. People with disabilities are “the audience” even though some people who do not have disabilities may attend. (*The person is “in” the community*)

ACT: Example of Achieving Five Star Quality, cont'd.

- ***Three Star:*** A dance for the general community is held at the local YMCA sponsored by the human services/disability organization in partnership with the YMCA and other organizations. People with disabilities from that agency and possibly others are in attendance. *(The person is a participant with the community).*

ACT: Example of Achieving Five Star Quality, cont'd. 2

- ***Four Star:*** A dance for the community held at the local YMCA and sponsored by the YMCA and other community groups and the human services/disability organization provides “invisible” (not publicly recognized) supports to the YMCA and the rest of the community to enable people with disabilities to fully participate as anyone else would. People with disabilities from throughout the community are clearly welcomed and may or may not have paid supporters assisting them. *(The person is a member of their community).*

ACT: Example of Achieving Five Star Quality, cont'd. 3

- ***Five Star:*** A dance for the community held at the local YMCA and sponsored by the YMCA and other community groups. People with disabilities from throughout the community are clearly welcomed and may or may not have paid supporters assisting them.

ACT: How Did We Get Started?

- 3/3/09 Staff meeting Five Star introduction
- 3/3/09 Board retreat on Five Star (Decision made to pursue Five Star)
- 5/26/09 Staff Meeting to set Five Star Strategic Plan goals
- 10/16/09 Staff Presentation-Strategic Planning

ACT: How Did We Engage the Community?

- 1/28/10 Derrick Dufresne/Al Condoluci presentation (2 hr video) 200 Community Partners in attendance
- 1/28/10 Derrick/Al (podcast)- Loneliness Kills
<http://www.abilitycenter.org/programs-and-services/inclusive-communities>
- 1/28/10 Derrick Presented to Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities (LCBDD). (afternoon)

ACT: How Did We Engage the Community, cont'd.

- 1/28/10 AI (afternoon) (Social Capital with ACT staff)
- 2/19/10 Five Star advisory meeting (Decided to have follow-up meeting on 3/30)
- 2/19/10 LCBDD and ACT met to discuss collaboration of inclusion teams
- 3/30/10 Follow-up meeting community what's next (benchmarks)

How Can You Take Steps Toward Community Inclusion?

- Establish an Inclusion Task Force to represent both the needs of participants with disabilities as well as your agency.
- Develop professional relationships with other agencies within your community to establish linkages to provide supports & accommodations.
- Utilize resources about the ADA such as the ADA hotline (800) 949-4232 through the regional Disability and Business Technical Assistance Centers and the National Center on Accessibility (812) 856-4422. As well as the Ability Center. (419)885-5733.

How Can You Take Steps Toward Community Inclusion, cont'd.

- Attend an inclusive conference and network with others who have inclusion programs.
- " Yes First " attitude.
- Evaluate present facilities for accessibility and promote ADA compliance for all new construction.
- Develop marketing strategies to communicate and inform potential participants with and without disabilities about 5-star.

How Can You Take Steps Toward Community Inclusion, cont'd. 2

- Establish registration procedures that make it easy for people with disabilities to register and request an accommodation.
- For many individuals with disabilities, a feeling of acceptance is the most important accommodation. If staff members demonstrate an attitude of acceptance and welcoming, the experience can be positive for everyone!

ACT: Camp Cricket



- Day program designed for children with and without disabilities between the ages of 5-14.
- Two - two-week sessions: one for children from 5 through 9, and one for young people from 10 through 14.

ACT: Camp Transition

As we look at the bigger picture, what becomes clear is that Camp is key to our most substantial push for Five Star. There is an obvious need in the community for supported inclusive opportunities for kids with disabilities. Continuing our current trend of expanding Camp Cricket does not provide a solution to the problem.

ACT: Community Capacity Building

- Currently we provide support to students enrolled in UT Recreation programs by:
 - Providing Internships, ensuring they are community based vs. clinical
 - Providing clinical opportunities for students
 - Collaborating to provide Disability Awareness training to students and faculty
- Over the next four years, we plan to continue this collaboration as well as expand opportunities for community-based internships, encouraging our community partners to hire staff familiar with programming for all.

ACT: Supporting Our Community

- During the next four years, The Ability Center proposes to collaborate with community partners to assist in providing inclusive opportunities.
- Example of support may include one or all of the following:
 - Disability Awareness Training for staff
 - Educating parents
 - Educating typical peers
 - Providing trained staff to assist with support
 - Offering assistance with program fees
 - Showing the benefit of hiring staff with an inclusion background
- We see ourselves continuing to ensure qualified inclusion staff is available throughout our partnerships whether paid by ACT or by community organizations.

ACT: Summer Community Opportunities

- Partner with the community to provide inclusive opportunities for age 5 and up.
- Provide staff to support both summer camp opportunities within the community as well as individually supported options.



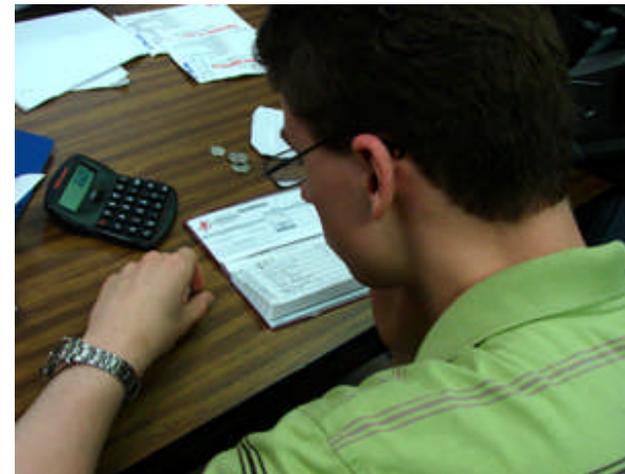
ACT: Mentor Program

- Currently available to current ACT consumers, ages 16-24, that have met with our Transition Coordinator and have developed an Independent Living goal.
- Mentor meets with consumer weekly to work towards accomplishing goals.



ACT: Example of Independent Living Goals supported by Mentors

- Assistance learning more about adaptive sports and join a sports group
- Increase daily living skills
- Assistance with studying for drivers license test
- Exploring and obtaining a job



ACT: Youth Leadership

- Risk Taking and Problem Solving in groups
- Planning for your Future while the world keep changing
- Leadership and Education
- Disability Culture and the Power of Our Stories
- City Government
- Advocating for Accessibility
- Accessibility Assessments
- Law Enforcement and Good Citizenship
- Self-Advocacy and Independent Living



Introduction to Community



- Introducing individuals 15 – 24 to age appropriate activities offered within their local community

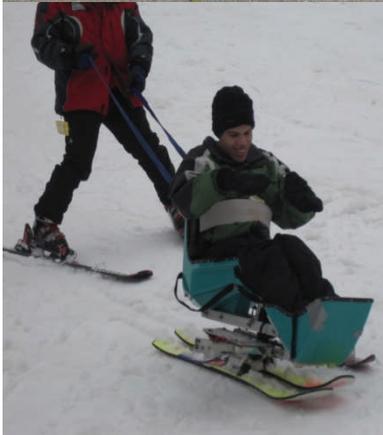


Introduction to Community, cont'd.



- By participating in age appropriate, public, community activities, and events, individuals are able to improve their social skills, meet new people, and be more active in their community.





ACT: Community Partners

AccessQuip • Adelante • Alexis Go-Cart • AlumiRamp, Inc • The Andersons • Aqua Hut • Arby's • Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio • Assistance Dogs of America, Inc. • Bowlero • Bowling Green Parks and Rec Dept. • Bowling Green State University • Boy Scouts of America, Erie Shores Council • Buckeye Dentistry • Cake Art Supplies • Calver House • Catholic Club • Catholic Charities Diocese of Toledo • Catholic Heart Work Camp • Cedar Point • Centennial Quarry • City of Toledo, Department of Neighborhoods • Crossgates Early Childhood Center • Crosswinds Golf • Corn Hole Tournament • Crane Creek State Park • Dennis Russo Self Defense • Directions Credit Union • Dragon Boat Festival • 84 Lumber • Elmore Kiwanis Club • First Tee of Lake Erie • Forest View Bowling Lanes • Georgettes • Girl Scouts of Western Ohio • Hanson, Inc., • Hospice of NW Ohio • Huntington Center • Island Adventures • Kroger • Lakeside Association • Lourdes University • Lucas County Board of DD • Lucas County Commissioners • Lucas County Fair • Magruder Hospital • Maumee Bay State Park • Maumee High School • Maumee Valley Country Day School Summer Camp • Medical Mutual • Melting Pot • MetroParks of the Toledo Area • Michael's Craft Store • Michigan Adaptive Sports • Mini Motions Dance Studio • Mr. Freeze • Mongolian BBQ • Monroe County KOA Campground • Mountain Mentors

ACT: Community Partners, cont'd.

- N.A.M.I.
- Nickel World
- Northview High School
- The Nth Degree
- Ohio Department of Aging
- Ohio Department of Development, Office of Housing and Community Partners
- Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services
- Ohio Elks
- Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission
- Ohio Skate
- Ohio State University Extension
- Olivet Church
- Ottawa County Sheriff's Department
- Ottawa County United Way
- Our Guest Inn-Port Clinton
- Owens Community College
- Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity
- The Pinnacle
- Pizza House-Port Clinton
- Pizza Hut
- Port Clinton Fire Department
- Port Clinton Kiwanis Club
- Ralphie's
- Ribs for Red Cross
- Saint John's Lutheran Church – Oak Harbor
- SECE-BGSU
- Shorty's BBQ
- Silver Sneakers
- Southview High School
- Stranahan Foundation
- The Strategic Alliance Partnership
- Strawberry Festival
- Sunshine Incorporated of Northwest Ohio
- Toledo Area Ministries
- Toledo Art Council
- Toledo Botanical Gardens
- Toledo Best Buddies
- Toledo Boxing
- Toledo City Bike Co-op
- Toledo Community Foundation
- Toledo Grows
- Toledo Lucas County Housing Fund
- Toledo Mud Hens
- Toledo Public School Transportation
- Toledo Rotary Foundation
- Toledo Rowing Club
- Toledo Speedway
- Toledo Zoo
- Tri-Ceramics
- United Way of Greater Toledo
- University of Toledo
- UT Athletics
- UT Ritter Planetarium
- WGTE
- Walmart
- Washington Local Schools
- Wendy's
- Woodforest Bank
- 4H of Wood County
- YMCA/JCC
- Zyndorf Glass.

Contact

Kimberly Arnett

- The Ability Center of Greater Toledo (ACT), 5605 Monroe Street, Sylvania, OH 43560
- Email: karnett@abilitycenter.org
- Website: <http://www.abilitycenter.org/>

Annie Kim

- The Ability Center of Greater Toledo (ACT), 5605 Monroe Street, Sylvania, OH 43560
- Email: akim@abilitycenter.org
- Website: <http://www.abilitycenter.org/>

Purpose of the Project

This program is part of a series of trainings and other activities provided to the IL field by the New Community Opportunities Center at ILRU. The project's purpose is to assist CILs in developing self-sustaining programs that support community alternatives to institutionalization for individuals of any age, and youth transition from school to post-secondary education, employment, and community living.

New Community Opportunities Attribution

This training is presented by the New Community Opportunities Center, a national training and technical assistance project of ILRU, Independent Living Research Utilization. Support for development of this presentation was provided by the U.S. Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration under grant number H400B100003. No official endorsement of the Department of Education should be inferred. Permission is granted for duplication of any portion of this slide presentation, providing that the following credit is given to the project: Developed as part of the New Community Opportunities Center at ILRU.