

# ***Building Community From the Start***

2013 Sharing A Vision Conference

October 2-4, 2013

Crowne Plaza Hotel

Springfield, IL



# What is the IAMC?

**FREE!**

The project assists persons with disabilities to live self-directed lives through the use of person-centered planning, community supports and resource management.



# Underlying Beliefs

**Everyone** has unique gifts and talents to share.

**Everyone** deserves dignity, respect and the opportunity for choice with responsibility.

**Everyone** deserves the opportunity to try, to fail, to learn.

**Everyone** has something to say and deserves the right to be heard.

**Everyone** deserves the right to live in the home of their choice and to have control of their own environment.

**Everyone** deserves the opportunity to make meaningful contributions to their community.



# Underlying Beliefs

When we come together in celebration of diversity, recognizing the unique gifts of each individual, **everyone** benefits from new, sometimes unexpected, outcomes; from greater strengths within the community; and from a variety of mutually-beneficial authentic relationships based on shared experiences and interests.



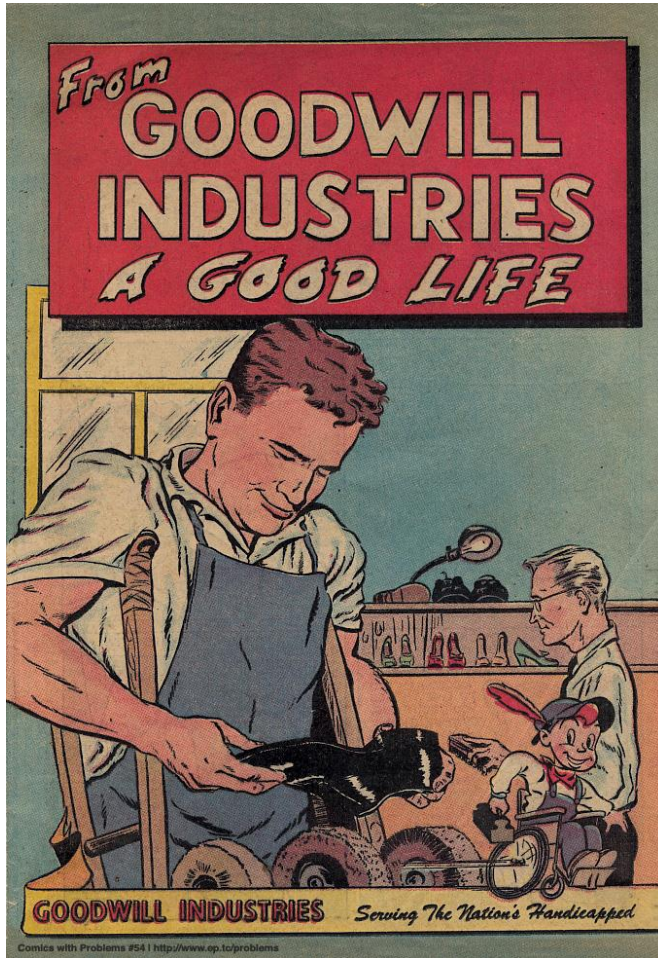


# Today...

- We will explore the idea of community.
- We will share dreams and fears.
- We will share strategies to build community connections, reach our dreams, and overcome our fears.



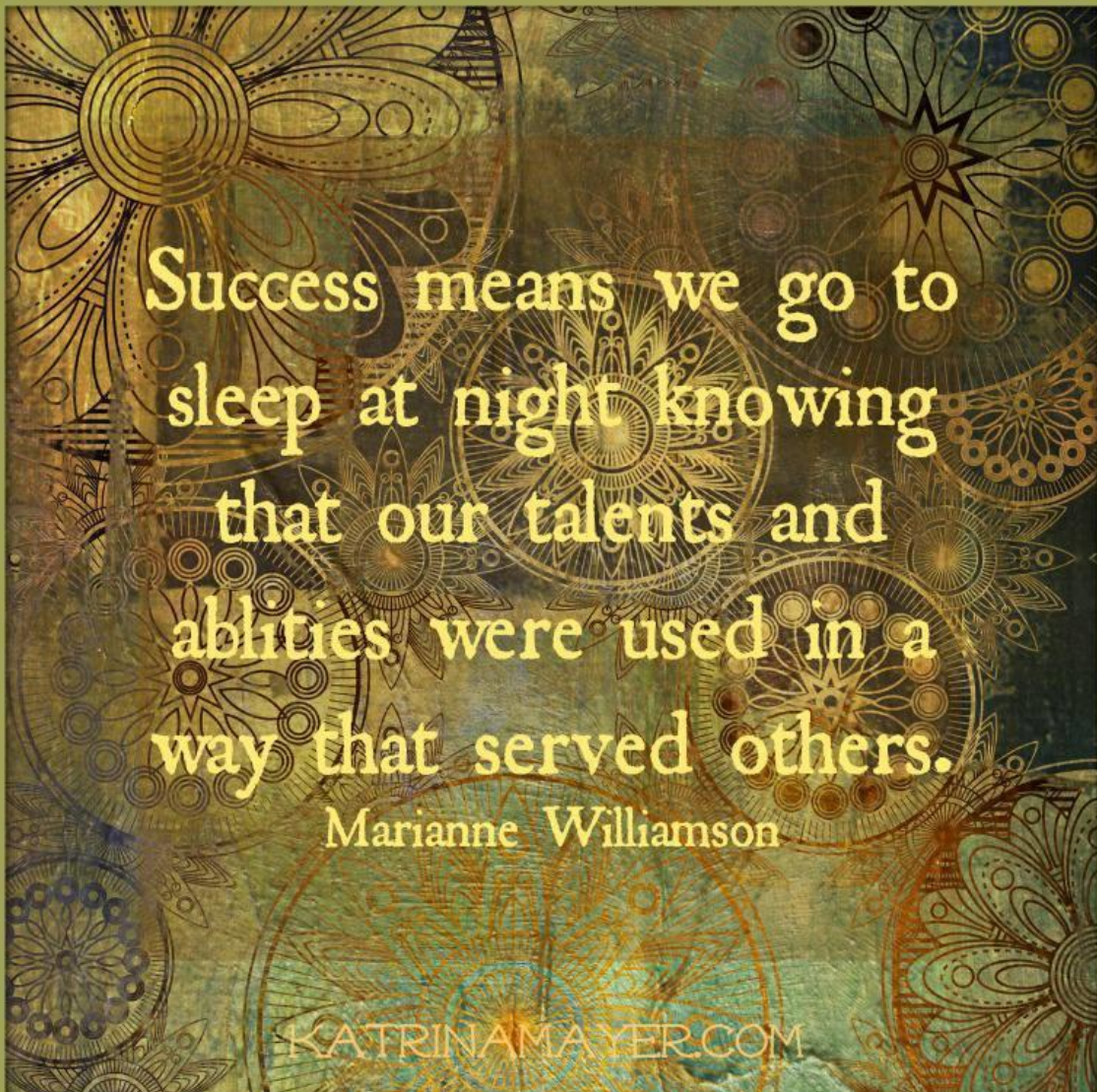
# What is a *Good Life*?



How do we define  
*success*?







Success means we go to  
sleep at night knowing  
that our talents and  
abilities were used in a  
way that served others.

Marianne Williamson

KATRINAMAYER.COM



# How Can I Have a Good Life?

Think about the person in your life:

- What would it take to create a good life?
- What obstacles get in the way?





# "It Takes a Village" = Community

The word "**community**" is derived from the  
Old French *communité*  
which is derived from the  
Latin *communitas*  
(*cum*, "**with/together**" + *munus*, "**gift**")

Source: [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org)



# How Do We Make a Good Life?

**Typically, we:**

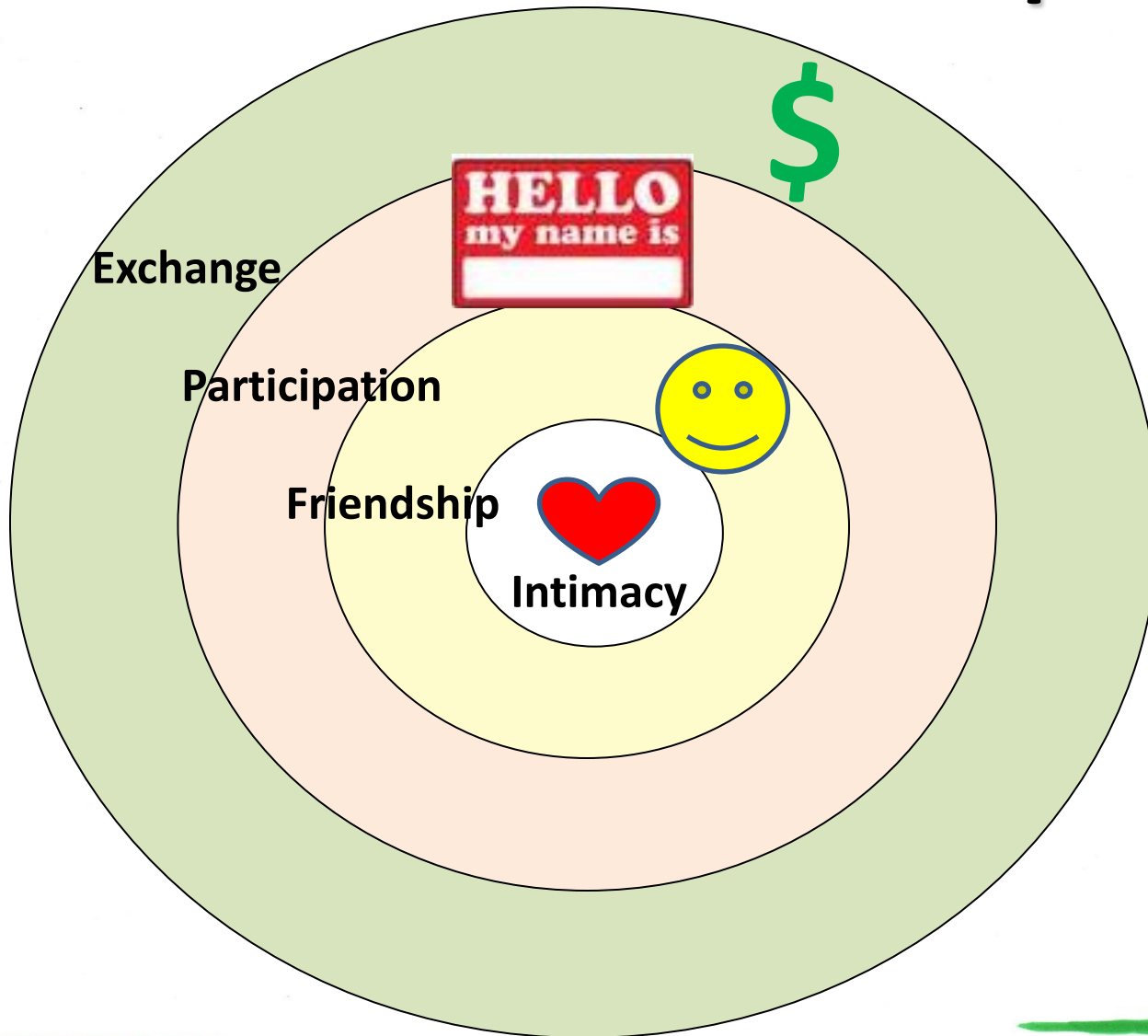
- follow natural life progression.
- “It takes a village.”



**When disabilities are part of our lives, we:**

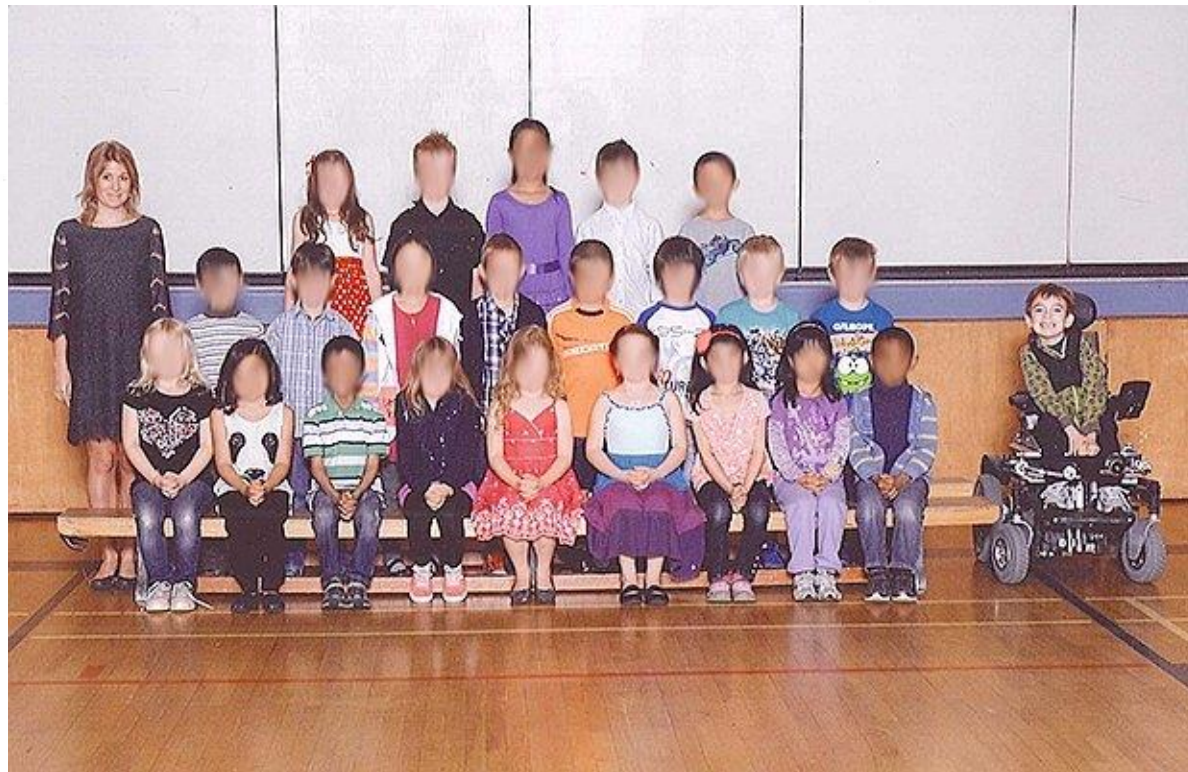
- step outside our comfort zone.
- are purposeful.
- expand our village.

# Circles of Relationship



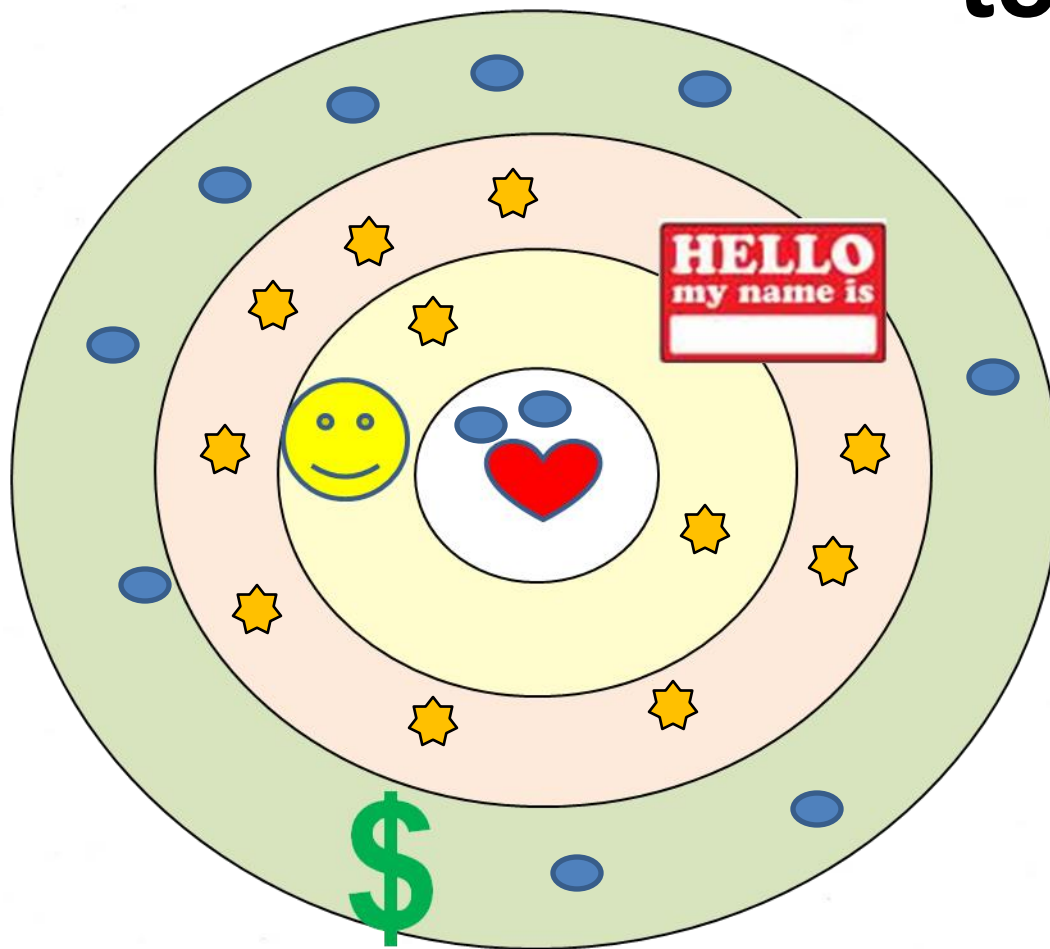


# Loneliness is the Greatest Disability

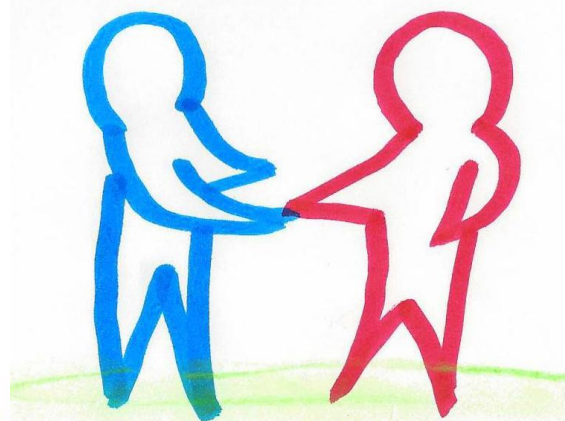


How do we go from here...

to here?









# It's All About Connection!



# When is the Best Time to Develop Community?



# **PATH:** **Planning Alternative Tomorrows with Hope**







SHE turned  
her  
can'ts INTO  
**cans**  
& HER dreams  
INTO **plans.**

[onethings.com](http://onethings.com)





# It's All About Connection!





# Even Paradise can be Isolating and Lonely



Week of: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mon**

**Tues**

**Wed**

**Thur**

**Fri**

**Sat/Sun**

Early childhood program	O.T.	Early childhood program	Speech therapy	Early childhood program	Family time
Home with mom	Parent support group	Home with mom	Doctor appt.	Home with mom	Family time

*am*

*pm*

Week of: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mon**

**Tues**

**Wed**

**Thur**

**Fri**

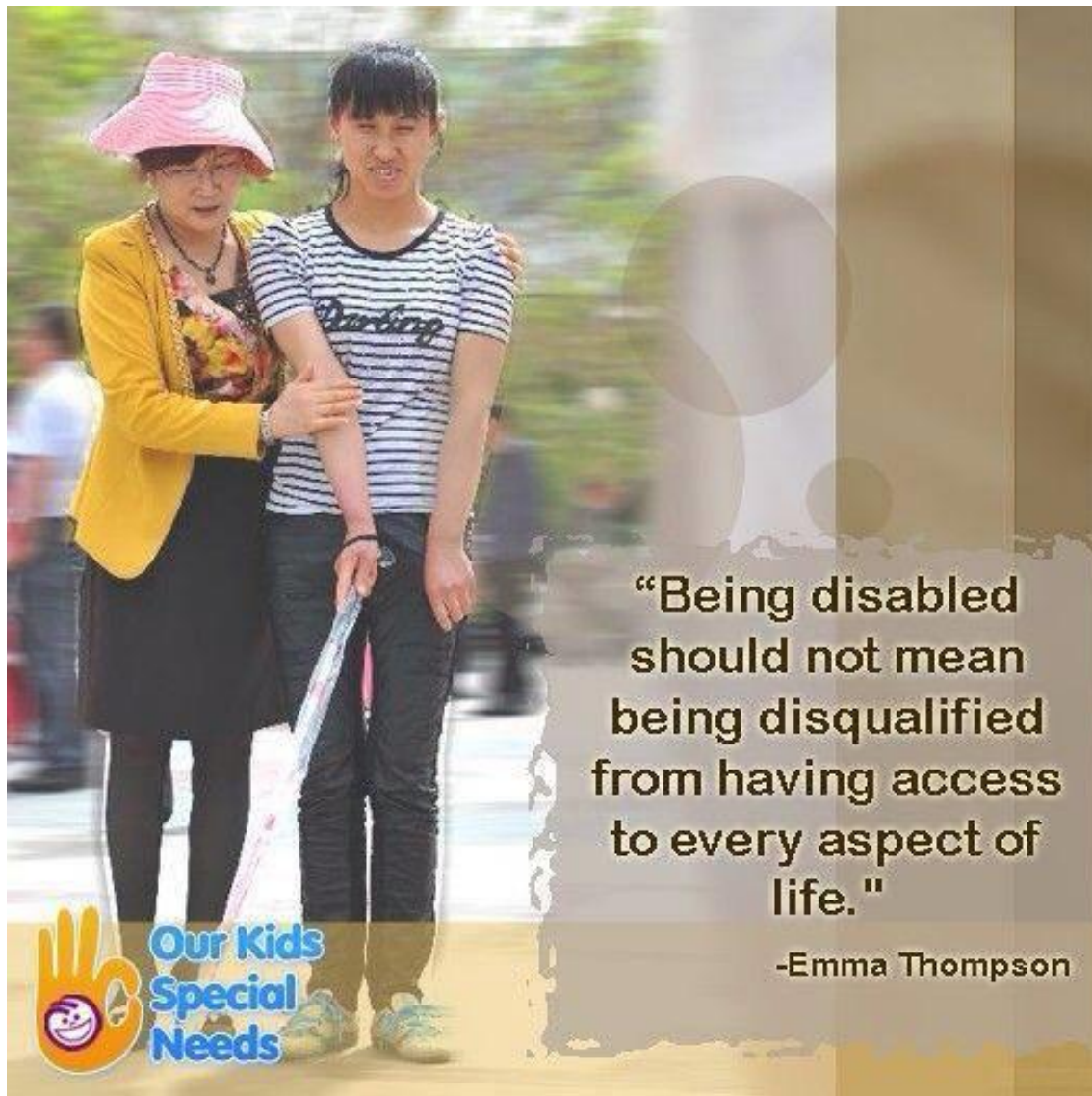
**Sat/Sun**

Early childhood program	O.T./ Doctor appt.	Early childhood program	Speech therapy	Early childhood program	Family & friends time
YMCA tot program	Parent support group	Library story time	Mom's Day Out	Neighbor- hood playgroup	Family & friends time

*am*

*pm*





"Being disabled  
should not mean  
being disqualified  
from having access  
to every aspect of  
life."

-Emma Thompson



**Our Kids  
Special  
Needs**



# It's All About Connection!



**That All Sounds Great... but...**





# Obstacles



# Least Dangerous Assumption



# Dignity of Risk

Life is like  
candy,  
sometimes  
it's sweet,  
sometimes  
it's sour.



[www.sakks.org](http://www.sakks.org)

Please support Kabuki Syndrome



I've got your back!



# It's All About Connection!



# What if...

Families of young children with disabilities:

- recognized their children's gifts and abilities?
- had a positive vision of the future?
- had personal networks (Microboards) to encourage and support them?
- maintained a full range of rich relationships throughout the community?



# What is a Microboard?



# What is a Cooperative?





# Microboards & Cooperatives Stay Connected

CALL IT A CLAN, CALL  
IT A NETWORK, CALL  
IT A TRIBE, CALL IT  
**A FAMILY:**  
WHATEVER YOU CALL  
IT, WHOEVER YOU ARE,  
**YOU NEED ONE.**

JANE HOWARD [WWW.VERYBESTQUOTES.COM](http://WWW.VERYBESTQUOTES.COM)





# Microboards & Cooperatives

## Share Life



# Microboards & Cooperatives Overcome Obstacles Together

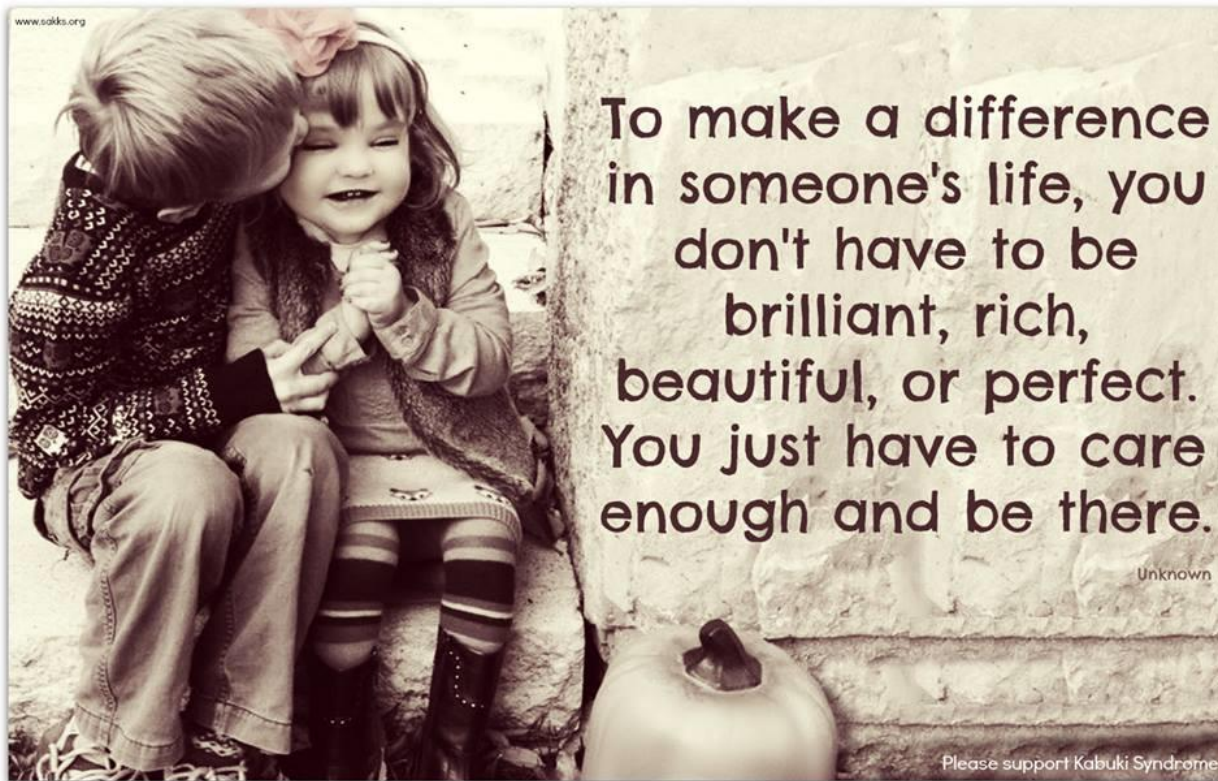
“Obstacles don't have to stop you.  
If you run into a wall, don't turn  
around and give up. Figure out how  
to climb it, go through it, or work  
around it.”

~ Michael Jordan





# Microboard & Cooperative Members Don't Need Special Skills





# Microboards & Cooperatives Dream Together

NEVER GIVE UP ON  
A DREAM JUST  
BECAUSE OF THE  
TIME IT WILL TAKE  
TO ACCOMPLISH IT.  
THE TIME WILL  
PASS ANYWAY.



# Microboards & Cooperatives Are Supportive

SURROUND YOURSELF  
**ONLY**  
WITH PEOPLE WHO ARE  
GOING TO LIFT YOU  
**HIGHER.**

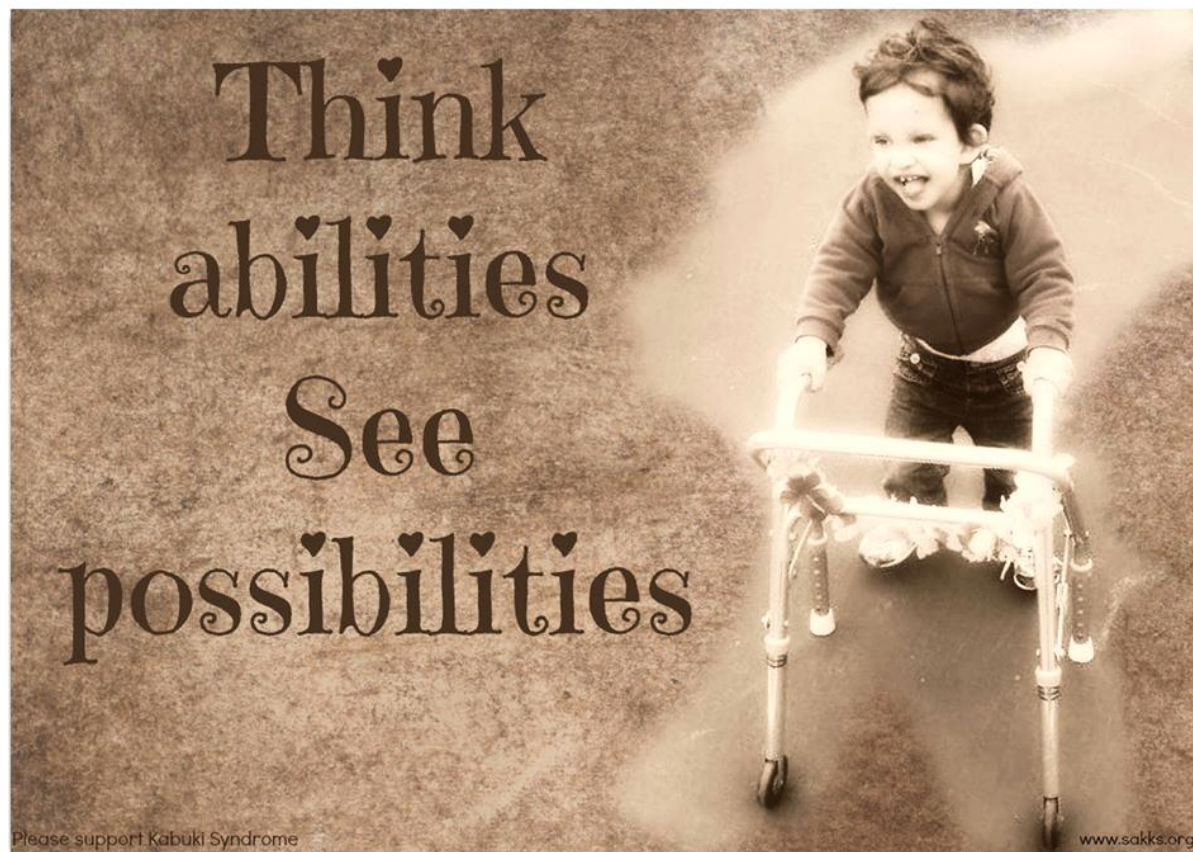
- OPRAH WINFREY





# Microboards & Cooperatives

## Focus on Possibilities





# Microboards & Cooperatives Open Doors to Opportunity

Opportunity will soon knock.  
When it does, answer the door!



# Microboards & Cooperatives

## Help Us Step Out of Our Comfort Zone



# Microboards & Cooperatives Happen on Purpose

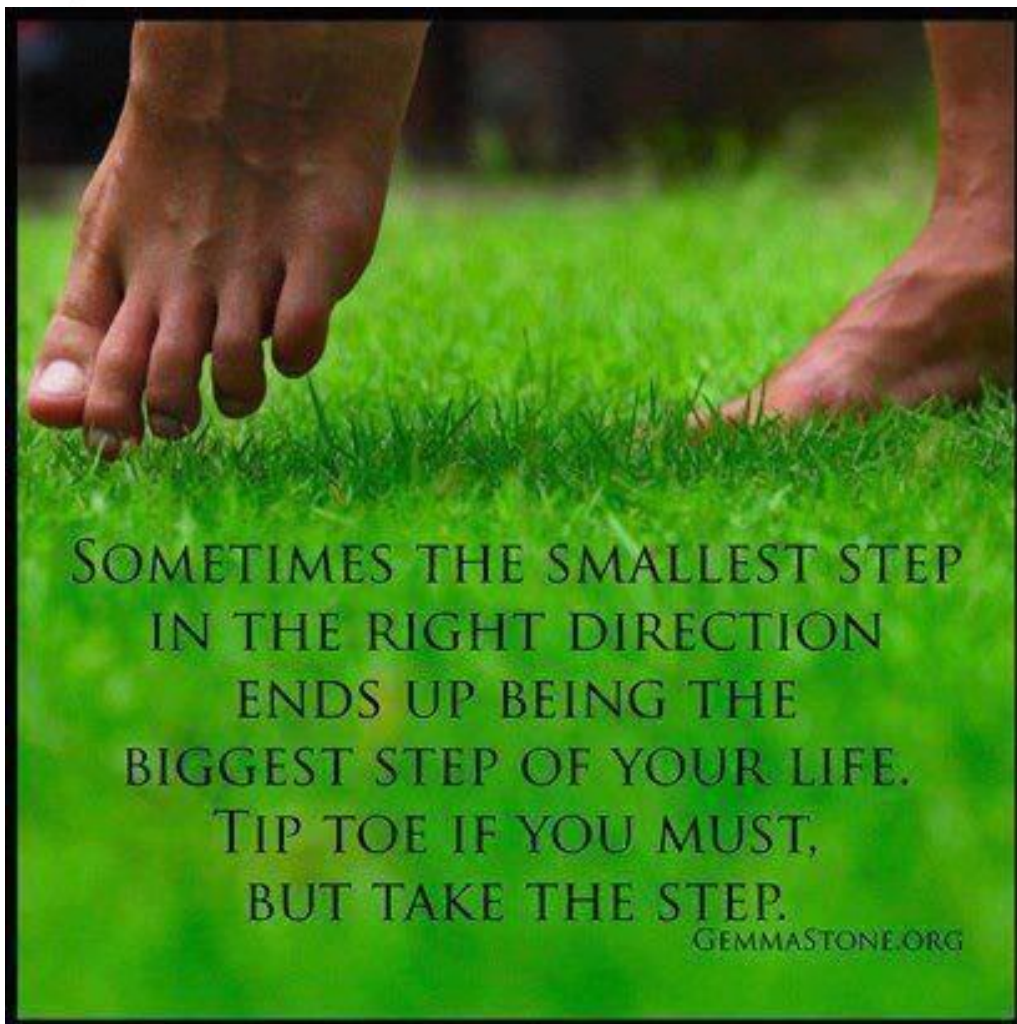
“You have to think about  
the unintended consequences  
of either the decisions you make  
or the ones you do not.”

—MADELEINE K. ALBRIGHT—





# Take the First Step...



SOMETIMES THE SMALLEST STEP  
IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION  
ENDS UP BEING THE  
BIGGEST STEP OF YOUR LIFE.  
TIP TOE IF YOU MUST,  
BUT TAKE THE STEP.

GEMMASTONE.ORG



# **We're Here to Walk With You!**

**Vicki Niswander**, Statewide Director

**Michele Westmaas**, Central/Southern Illinois Field Organizer

**Nancy Brown**, Northern Illinois Field Organizer

**Teri Steinberg**, Chicago Area Field Organizer

**Jessica Martin**, Project Assistant



# Questions?

## Illinois Association of Microboards and Cooperatives

Contact Information:

(217)778-5388

<http://iambc.org>

Join us on Facebook/iamc

