

A Place Where I Belong: Community Making a Difference



Looking After Each Other
A Dignity Promotion Project

Getting Started in Your Community...

When this mini-documentary is viewed, questions often arise about how other communities can begin exploring ways to support a person with FASD. The model presented in the video was a good fit for Chris but will likely look different for the person you are supporting, depending on their interests/strengths, and the communities interest/resources. Here are some initial suggestions that have been developed in conversation with the Helping Hands Program based out of the Wings of Power Resource Centre in Pine Falls. Because each community has its own unique strengths and unique resources each developmental process will be different. It can be a slow complex process. The most important piece is the development of relationships through face to face meetings; quick phone calls, emails and letters seldom work.

1. Understanding the individual(s) in your community who need support.

- a. Identify a key support person who has built a trusting relationship with the individual and can be present with the individual to discuss:
- b. His/her needs, strengths, and goals.
- c. Does the person have a diagnosis of FASD?
- d. What kind of job placement would be of interest to the person?
- e. What kind of living arrangement would be a good fit for the person?
- f. Does the person receive provincial (Community Living Disability Services- CLDS, or Provincial Special Needs Program- PSNP) or Regional Health Authority funding (Community Mental Health Services)?

2. Look for an existing agency in your community that could be a "home base" for the initiative and is willing to explore new opportunities for providing support. These could include a friendship centre, a family resource centre, a not-for-profit agency, a community club, a church, etc.

- a. What resources and supports could this organization offer currently?
- b. What further resources and/or supports could be developed by the organization?

3. Look for a 'champion'/'champions' in the community who can take leadership on the initiative.

- a. What resources/connections/abilities does this person have?
- b. How will this person rally the support of others in the community?

4. Begin to explore how different organizations in the community could get involved.

- a. Are there local sources of funding that might help support the initiative? (ie. Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club, local United Way, etc.) Who will ask?
- b. Are there employers (ie. bakeries, cleaning companies, etc.) in the community who may be able to employ (volunteer, casual, or paid positions) a person/people with FASD? What supports would the person/people require on and off the job to make this employment successful? What information or shifts in perspective may be needed to educate the business about people with FASD?
- c. Which businesses within the community are 'key' players that could influence the rest of the business community to get involved?
- d. Are there local businesses (grocery stores, clothing stores, radio stations, etc.) who may be able to provide material donations or support towards the initiative?