



Community Engagement

Bigger than themselves

People want to be a part of something useful, valuable, and bigger than themselves. We all (in our own ways) strive for human connections and a sense of belonging. Being involved in community based activities; connecting socially and finding ways to be in nature are all incredibly valuable ways to achieve these basic human needs that we all have.

For the people we serve, they often need us to be the motivators and the facilitators of getting out to community activities, connecting socially and experiencing nature.

As spring has arrived, now is the perfect season for us to reconsider how we are facilitating this. We may need to challenge ourselves to stretch and also stretch the other in ongoing, renewing or discovering new ways to get out into community and reach out to create social opportunities.

What Did John Say?

“The vehicle for empowerment is each person’s circle of friends. The less the person is engaged, the more necessary it is to create structure and support a circle of friends. Human engagement involves the gradual unfolding of a sense of active participation as a companion with others and as a member of a community. It is a feeling becoming an active participant in community life. It is not self-centered, but a shared feeling of we are somebody because we are together and we are forming a better community. It’s initial expression is found in the simple act of reaching out to others and drawing others into one’s life.”

**Q1**

How active are the people we support in accessing community activities / relationships?

What opportunities could exist? Consider the COR social options, the community (i.e. leisure guide), summer festivals, opportunities to enjoy nature.

**Q2****Q3**

In what ways can we motivate the people we serve to become more engaged in these ways?

Connecting to Our Purpose

At the heart of our work is a commitment to nurture, teach, and sustain the experience of connectedness, companionship, and community. People naturally seek to be part of something useful, valuable, and greater than themselves. This longing is deeply rooted in a desire for human connection and a sense of belonging needs that are met through shared experiences, social engagement, and time in nature.

For the people we serve, these connections often don't happen on their own. That's why our role is so vital. We are not just caregivers or supporters we are facilitators and motivators, helping people bridge the gap between isolation and inclusion. Whether it's participating in community-based activities, connecting socially, or simply stepping outdoors, these experiences foster the very connectedness our Central Purpose calls us to uphold.

This season invites us to stretch ourselves and others to find new or renewed pathways for connection. In doing so, we fulfill not only their needs, but also the heart of our shared mission.