

BOOK REVIEWS

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These two publications deserve to be reviewed as a pair. The vision and philosophy of community inclusion is highly evident in both books. In fact, David Schwartz, the author of Crossing the River, wrote the preface in The Whole Community Catalogue. I specifically selected these books for the topic of this issue of the Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation because they provide a clear path for where supports are heading for individuals with disabilities. Family members need to hear people talk of capacities, not limitation; dreams, not goals and objectives; quality of life, not least restrictive environment; and inclusion, not separation. Please share the contents of these two books with the family members and significant people in the lives of the individuals you support.

CROSSING THE RIVER Creating a Conceptual Revolution in Community and Disability

David Schwartz

Boston: Brookline Books, 1992, \$24.95, 238 pp.

David Schwartz is currently the executive director of the Pennsylvania Governor's Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities. He includes stories of how citizens with disabilities are helped to connect with neighbors and other residents of their towns. A conceptual framework is introduced to the reader as he suggests an image of a river with human service professionals and the people whom they support on one side of the river and the "community" and its members on the opposite side. Typically, we have seen our role as the people who help transport individuals with disabilities across the river to meet with community members on the other side. A different image, and one that may very well have tremendous consequences, is to assist members of the community to come over to our side of the river and take people with disabilities back with them, one person at a time. This book will provide parents and family members with a well-conceived values base. They will wel-

come this opportunity to read and learn from an author who writes with great honesty and conviction. No book better articulates the background against which changes must occur in the provision of supports for people with disabilities.

General highlights

- Two chapters are devoted to stories of how individuals with disabilities are connecting with their neighbors. These stories evolve from specific projects funded by the Developmental Disabilities Council in Pennsylvania.
- Schwartz introduces the reader to Kuhn's work on paradigms and the importance of understanding some basic principles of how new ideas come into being. This work has been popularly promoted by Joel Barker in his videotapes and books.
- Quotes from Seymour Sarason are found in several places in this book. His "psychology of community" concepts are readily referenced and examples are provided to support many of Sarason's assertions. Additionally, the reader detects the influence of Burton Blatt, E. F. Schumacher, and Wolf Wolfensberger on the author's personal journey through a professional life of supporting individuals with disabilities.
- Interesting observations are made regarding the philosophy and operating principles of L'Arche and Camphill Village. The reader is urged to view these living arrangements from the perspective of the development of a sense of "community" among its members.

Specific areas of excellence

- I found the following quote to be the most revealing and powerful statement about the role of professionals. "The challenge becomes to discover what our role might be, finding the ways to not impose or change the natural flow of communities but to still somehow guide them in finding and being open to the contributions their members with disabilities could make" (p. 25).
- The way to assist citizens to help people in their community need not be difficult. "Frank says,

you first have to let them know that they have something to offer. Then you ask. Period" (p. 29).

- The author echoes a belief of mine that I have only recently appreciated. "For all the times I wished I had a manual on how to do my job, I hope now that one is never published." (p. 30)
- One particular quote from Sarason centers on the "disease of professionals." That is, "the tendency to define human problems in ways that require highly educated professionals for their solution, thus rendering the problem unsolvable" (p. 81).
- An important quote regarding significant change agents is taken from Kuhn. He points out "that most new ideas come from either young people who are not yet fully socialized into the particular field, or from those who come from outside of a field entirely" (p. 93). This is particularly true regarding the influence John McKnight from a community organization background has had on the current values of community inclusion.
- "Community is not a Garden of Eden, it is merely a garden" (p. 190).
- Maybe it is time to rethink our views on alternative living situations in light of the comments in this book. ". . . people in the communities of L'Arche and Camphill see people with disabilities, not as much as individuals to be served, but as people whose presence is necessary to help them together attain community, a community which has special meaning for them" (p. 204).
- The book ends with a section titled Rules for Funding Social Change for People with Disabilities. Here are some samples:
 1. The real action is where everyone thinks it isn't (Friedman's Rule)
 2. Social visionaries can't (or won't) add
 3. John McKnight was right: Asking will be most successful if it is done when the person being asked is on his or her "home ground"
 4. To regenerate community, a certain minimal level of community must already exist

Areas in which this publication can be enhanced

- If you haven't read the original works of Sarason, Wolfensberger, Blatt, McKnight, and Schumacher, this may be the right time to augment your reading with the individuals who have set the vision for the 1990s and beyond.
- The current literature on inclusion contains some of the same general underlying principles as those espoused in this publication.
- Become acquainted with what the Developmental Disabilities Council is funding in your state and request copies of the written reports from the projects funded during the previous cycle.

Common threads throughout this publication

- The power of ordinary citizens in welcoming back members of their community who have lived in segregated settings surfaces time and time again.
- We have much to learn from pioneers in the community organization movement and the groundwork they have laid toward regenerating one's community.
- The stories in this book attest to the hard work involved in making the community accessible to all. The rewards are tremendous as people discover gifts and talents in the sons and daughters of their neighbors. It is a story of celebrating differences and learning from the successes of others.

Recommendations of its utility to rehabilitation professionals

- The following statement is often overused but in no circumstance is it more applicable. This book is the most concise account of where we should be heading in the provision of supports for people with disabilities. Depending on your experiences and commitment, this book will affect each of you differently.
- Add your own stories to the growing number being told around the country. Communities can be enriched by the presence and active par-

ticipation of its citizens with complex challenges.

THE WHOLE COMMUNITY CATALOGUE

Edited by David Wetherow, Winnipeg, Manitoba: Communitas, Inc., 1992, 128 pages, \$15.00 (Soft Cover)

In my 21 years as a student and professional in the area of human services I have not seen a book containing as much hope for the future as can be found in this publication. Parents and family members will read stories of success from people with significant challenges. Resources are abundantly provided to assist anyone interested in the inclusion of people with disabilities in their local communities. It is my understanding that this book is the first of a series of publications mirrored after the philosophy of the Whole Earth Catalog. Specifically, it is the editor's intent to share with the readers stories, essays, pictures, poems, and videos that assist in the life enrichment of all the members in one's community. You will find this book to be a gold mine of quotes, as is evident in the specific highlights of this review. I read this book very slowly, cover to cover, and will use its content to share with others the successes experienced by its contributors who have much to teach us all.

General highlights

- Skillfully edited, this publication contains just the right blend of book reviews, essays, pictures, resources, and practical advice.
- The contents of this book are divided into eight sections, each of which is prefaced by the word *re-visioning*. These sections include The People, Community, Ourselves, Our Collective Responsibility, Relationships, Education, Housing, and Vocations. These sections are followed by an excellent Resource Directory.
- Several books are reviewed including *I Raise My Eyes To Say Yes*; *Community Dreams: Ideas for Enriching Neighborhood and Community Life*; *Twelve Weeks In Spring*; *Building Community for People with Disabilities: Person-Centered Development* (monograph series); *Everyone Here Spoke Sign Language*, to name but a few.
- This is a publication that can be shared with colleagues and friends of diverse backgrounds. There is little professional jargon to interfere with your comprehension of the ways to enrich one's community by the inclusion of all people. The emphasis is on welcoming diversity. Each person will gain something different from the areas s/he chooses to read.
- There is an international flavor to many of the stories with excellent contributions from Marsha Forrest, Jack Pearpoint, Judith Snow, and their colleagues in Canada.

Specific areas of excellence

- "I suggest that a handicap is defined by the community in which it appears" (p. 49). This is consistent with the World Health Organization's comments on labels and its definition of "handicap."
- "She made us a gift of our giving, which is quite an extraordinary accomplishment" (p. 29). Many times I have this feeling that I am benefiting as much, if not more, from the process of giving my support to an individual with a disability.
- In his introductory comments, Wetherow remarks: "As John McKnight reminds us, community is always changing, evolving, and never finished. We'll always be finding new tools and replacing or modifying old ones. And we want to listen and learn, as much as to share what we've learned" (p. X).
- The compelling story of how Judith Snow survived and then thrived with her circle of support paves the way for many other articles. These stories describe variations of how circles of support have been a major vehicle in discovering the capacities and talents of individuals who find themselves frustrated by the obstacles they encounter in their lives.
- "The greatest diseases in North America today are loneliness and meaninglessness" (p. 77).
- The intrapreneur's ten commandments are in-

cluded from Hewlett-Packard (p. 74). They are:

1. Come to work each day willing to be fired
2. Circumvent any orders aimed at stopping your dream
3. Do any job needed to make your project work regardless of your job description
4. Find people to help you
5. Follow your intuition about people you choose, and work only with the best
6. Work underground as long as you can — publicity triggers the corporate immune mechanism
7. Never bet on a race unless you're running in it
8. Remember it's easier to ask for forgiveness than for permission
9. Be true to your goals, but be realistic about the ways to achieve them
10. Honor your sponsors

- Finally, a quote is provided by Wendell Berry. "It may be, then, that form serves us best when it works as an obstruction to baffle us and deflect our intended course. It may be that when we no longer know what to do we have come to our real work, and that when we no longer know which way to go that we have begun our real journey. The mind that is not baffled is not employed. The impeded stream is the one that sings" (p. 93).

Areas in which this publication can be enhanced

- The superb material contained in this catalog will keep most readers in supply of books for years to come. A commitment should be made to review at least five resources in the next year.
- Contribute your own stories of success to the

ever expanding chronicles of dedicated individuals who have discovered strength in not giving up and persevering with the help of a network of support.

- Share copies of the content from this book at team meetings, with the individuals you support, and provide resources for the family members who are on the alert for examples of how people have overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles.

Common threads throughout this publication

- Much can be learned from writers and experiences outside the field of disabilities that can be readily connected to the work on which each of us focuses.
- Obstacles can be best met when a small group of dedicated people agree to do whatever is necessary to allow another person to reach his/her dream.
- The sharing of stories offers hope to each one of us who support individuals in their search for a place in their community where their gifts and talents can be recognized, and where they can attain an optimal quality of life, as they define it.

Recommendations of its utility to rehabilitation professionals

- You will refer back to this resource more often than most books on your shelf.
- You will be offering hope for the families of the individuals for whom you provide support by sharing the stories and resources in this catalog with them.
- If any reader of this journal has an occasion to teach a course at a local college or university, you will readily find this catalog to be a companion for whatever content you may be teaching.