

## **Some of the ideas from an SRV framework include:**

- Our society as a whole does not value all individuals equally. However, we may all choose to find value and worth in each person.
- We need to acknowledge, rejoice in and expose others to the gifts of our family member.
- People make judgments and then act – often very unconsciously – on what information they can gain simply by seeing a person.
- Many judgments are made based on what social roles they see, assume or imagine the person to be holding, eg., in work, family, leisure, etc.
- When no other information is available or obvious to others, they will attribute negative stereotypes onto the person with a disability. These include assuming that the person is sick, ugly, essentially a child, unable to contribute or be productive, not possessing a typical range of emotions or life dreams, a menace to others, a burden, and the family to be pitied.
- Thus, we need to, above all, emphasize the naturally typical roles that the person holds (family, culture), develop and support new roles based on interests, skills and passions, and downplay negative roles that will be assigned by others (child, burden, etc.).
- All people have a contribution to make to a healthy community. People are better able to contribute when they are active participants rather than just spectators. In addition, others will judge people more positively when their contributions are shown.
- We need to acknowledge, accept and safeguard the unique vulnerability of our family members within this kind of society. How do we do this?
  - By setting the bar high and modeling typical expectations. What is good enough? - What is good for highly valued, age and gender peers of our family member in our community is good for our family member.
  - By ensuring that good and valued options are offered and chosen. Our family members are vulnerable, and we need to bend over backwards to ensure that we seek the most valued options at all times.
  - By focusing on good relationship. Relationships will make the difference between a good life and one that is neglected and wasted. Partly this is because “we are judged by the company we keep”. Partly, because individuals will react and intervene based on love and care, in ways that systems cannot.
  - By using relationship to safeguard. The greater the vulnerability of the person, the greater the need for more and intense personal relationships of various kinds in order to safeguard a person’s life.
  - By being the community we want to see.