



"TOGETHER ADVOCACY GROWS" TAG

You have been tagged by someone who has a disability, a family member, a good friend, or someone who wants to make a difference in the lives of people with disabilities that lives in your community. This is an information sheet about people with disabilities and what they would like for you to know about them!

The reason we picked **TAG** is because if we all have better understanding about persons with disabilities, you would be more open to welcome them into community life. We have TAG Teams across Ohio that go out into their communities and open minds and hearts at the same time. People with disabilities wants are simple and not demanding.

"WE WANT WHAT YOU HAVE"

1. We want to be a part of our communities, such as church members, local community clubs, be invited to speak at community events about inclusion (being a part of something).
2. We want to be treated with respect, talk to us-- not to our staff. It is great to smile at us and say hello!
3. We want to be part of our local County Boards of Developmental Disabilities. Ask us about what we want and need. It is our lives that you are making important decisions about, we will be glad to help.

Together Everyone Achieves More

4. We would love to have jobs that we get good pay for a good day of work. We have many skills, you may have never thought about hiring a person with disabilities. Do not judge a book by looking at the cover! We have lots to offer.
5. We want to live in houses or apartments in the community. Nursing homes are for people who are sick or elderly. Just because we have a disability, we should not be put away. If you are young and you live in a nursing home, you will become older before your time. Please rent to us! We take care of your properties. Once we are in the community, we make good renters.
6. Transportation is a real problem for us since most of us do not drive. Yes, some of us do drive, but we need to help to make our communities understand how important transportation is to us. We have to get to work, grocery shop, doctors visits, bank, visit friends, go to community events, and then

there is Sunday and no transportation to get us to the church of our choice. Yes, we do worship in many ways like others in our communities.

7. We vote and we help make changes in the laws. Senate Bill 79- removal of the word "Mental Retardation" from the state language to "Developmental Disabilities"-- yes that was us with help from County Board Association and others who helped pass the bill! People with disabilities testify in behalf of the most needed change.

8. We need and want **CHOICES** in our lives.

9. We do not want people to feel sorry for us, we want them to get to know us as a person, and WE do not bite! Please do not label us.

10. We want education past high school, open classes at trade schools, to attend community classes for all people. We are willing to teach you how to work with us. There is a shortage of the workforce that works with people with disabilities, this would open new jobs in communities.

11. We want to be friends with others in our community who do not have disabilities. Together we can change minds, if you just give us a chance to get to know us.

12. Educate our children and future children about disabilities. If we start when they are young, there would be no discrimination because of ignorance (not knowing). People are scared of what they do not understand when people are different.

13. We want the right to technology. The internet is a great place for us to be able to connect to friends, loved ones, and for useful information to help us keep up with what is happening, and to help us learn. There are many rules that keep us from being able to use the internet such as the use of a power strip to run a computer if we live in a licensed group home.

People First of Ohio is a self-advocacy organization that began in December of 1998 with adults with disabilities wanting to advocate for themselves and others. People First of Ohio has a Board of Directors of 24 persons with developmental disabilities that represent advocates across Ohio. Advocates are making a difference by changing laws that affect their lives, helping others to understand their rights and responsibilities, educating on many topics, community inclusion (being a part of), and starting local chapters of People First.

People First of Ohio is funded by: Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council and Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

People First is a 501 C-3 non-profit organization

More information on People First of Ohio

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