

Fred's Story

Discussion Guide: For Community

What support does Fred need to live in his own apartment in the community?

- People to assist with basic living and working arrangements
- Help with particular problems
- Help with his medical conditions
- Community acceptance
- What else?

What other groups might need special support to maintain their lives in the community? What type of support systems are in place to help?

- Elderly, medically fragile of all ages
- Mentally ill
- Young families
- People served by visiting nurses, home teachers, meals on wheels, home health aides
- 12-step support groups of many kinds
- Family members and friends
- Church groups
- Community day care
- What else?

The speakers in the black and white film from 1960's thought separation from the community was the best way to assist people with particular needs. How is our philosophy changing?

- Recognition of the importance of one's home community has led to more options for support
- Less need to go elsewhere to get help
- Efficiency of home-based services has increased community options for care
- People are demanding that services be available in their home community
- What else?

What did Fred miss about his real life back in his home community?

- Family members and events
- Acceptance and a role as a member of the family/community
- His job of choice at the grinder shop
- Familiar community places and faces
- What else?

Can someone receive too many supports for their particular needs?

- People generally desire to be as independent as they can be
- Too much assistance can be intrusive, frustrating, and irritating
- Other ideas?

Do you know of any companies that employ people like Fred?

- McDonald's
- Stop & Shop
- Others?

How do you think such employment efforts encourage more acceptance of people with disabilities?

- Seen as valued members of the community
- Meet and socialize with others who don't have disabilities
- See and model appropriate social behavior
- Are seen by more people as contributing members of the community
- What else?

Why didn't Fred like the job he was assigned at the institution?

- Dirty work
- No benefits in terms of vacations, a pension, no prestige or personal satisfaction
- He knew it was a low-quality assignment
- No choices given