

“Celebrating Achievements, Anything is Possible” ...a story of hope and transition

Designing Sustainable Supports; Taking a Lead
Portlaoise, Ireland May 14th 2010

Celebrating Achievements; Anything is Possible!

...a story of hope and transition

Designing Sustainable Supports; Taking a Lead

National Conference
Portlaoise, Ireland May 14th 2010

Alison C. Ouellette
Windsor, Ontario, Canada

5/6/2010


Presentation Overview

- Life for Dave today
- Family History
- Transition from High School
- Dave's Business
- Dave's Home
- Living a Life that Matters

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Dave Today

- At 36 years old, Dave lives on his own and runs a small delivery business



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Our Family

The family Christmas 2007 & 2008

- David, Alison, Paul
Jessica, Hailey,
Agnes, Kirk, Isabella
& Daniel
- October 2009



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The Ouellettes 1974

- Just home from the hospital
- A special welcome from proud big brother, Kirk



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Smiling is Contagious

- Kirk with David at 3 months old



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Dave's Diagnosis

- March 21, 1975, Dave at 9 months old with Kirk
- Kirk 4, David 2 years old, brothers hanging out



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And then there were 3

- Paul, Dave, Kirk, Mom & Baby Jessica
- Dave shared his 5th birthday,
– June 21, 1979 with Jessica's Christening



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Giggling Threesome

- David 10 years
- Kirk 12 years
- Jessica 5 years old



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Dave's Having Fun

- Ready to Sail
– 1985
- Bring on the Wind and the Waves



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Dave in Elementary School

- Class picture
- St. John Vianney Grade 5



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School Activities

- Grade 6 School Fair
- A computer program custom made for Dave



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Grade 8

- End of the year party
- Graduation from grade school



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Survived the Surgery

- May 1992 Spinal surgery for scoliosis and g-tube
- Dave's idea of recuperating while wading in cold Lake Huron



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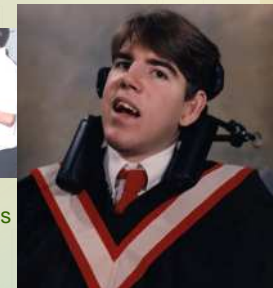
Dave at the Prom



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- David and Joni, F.J. Brennan High School Prom
- Front Page News story, The Windsor Star – June 1992

Dave's Graduation



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- Taking part in the video project for Communications Class
- Happy to be a 1996 grad

Dave's Transition after High School and Citizenship

- Dave needed daily activities after high school
- Dave did not want to sit around and watch TV all day
- Dave loves being out and about in the community
- Dave wanted to contribute as a citizen with rights and entitlements

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David, A Canadian Citizen

- With this title David has Rights
- Meanwhile he has Responsibilities to his community
- Being a Good Neighbour
- Paying taxes
- Contributing to the community

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Developing Dave's Vision: Considerations

- To participate in the community
- To be productive and offer a service
- To become an entrepreneur
- To encourage the community to value him for what he can contribute
- To volunteer and give back to the community

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Areas of An Activity Plan...more considerations

- Paid Work
- Volunteer Work
- Recreation & Leisure
- Continued Learning

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How did we get here

- By looking at Dave's likes & dislikes
- By focusing on Dave's strengths & abilities not his disabilities
- By following a normal work week pattern
- By developing meaningful work with good customer service principals
- By providing a valuable customized service

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Available Options in 1997

- Enroll in a segregated day program
- Stay home all day
- Develop his own plan for daily activity

Important Factors

- Dave loves cars and driving
- Family van available part time

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Factors Considered in Planning

- Enrollment was full at segregated service
 - Had some SSAH funding for an assistant
- However**
- Knew the segregated day program would be boring for Dave
 - Knew Dave loves cars and driving
 - Discovered his own business could suit his schedule and his health needs

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Activity Plan for Dave and his Business

- Locate businesses who value folks with disabilities; suggest a snack basket
- Involve Dave's Support Circle in planning & ongoing evaluation of business operations
- Train Dave's personal assistant to support his business activities
- Seek out volunteer work to be a contributing citizen & create leisure events

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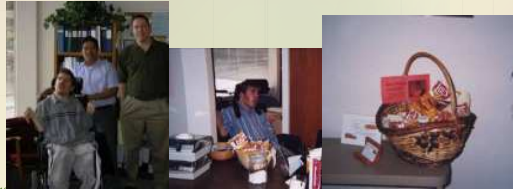
The Hows and Principles of Dave's Plan

- Go to the community of understanding to start; ask Dave's service providers to be his clients
- Start with a small idea that suited Dave; such as his love of driving & the family van
- Use all the skills of the circle members; advertising materials; such as designing business flyers or a web site

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Dave's Deliveries and Baskets

- Dave has goodies baskets at 5 locations
- Mail deliveries for clients weekly
- Custom gift baskets designed & delivered



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Dave's Deliveries and Baskets

- Dave and Jessica heading out to take care of business
- Michael helping Dave for a delivery run



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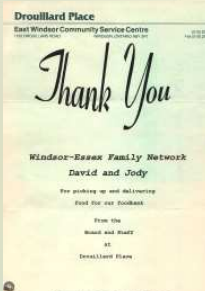
Dave's Business-marketing materials

- Advertising flyer & business cards for Dave's Deliveries and Baskets
- Promotional Signs set up near baskets along with his business cards
- Dave's web site
<http://home.cogeco.ca/~davidkyle>



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Dave's Commendation for Volunteer work



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Testimonials from Customers

- Ron Donaldson, St. Clair College says *"We look forward to Dave's friendly service every week"*.
- Marilyn Shenvill, Brokerage says, *"...couldn't live without it; it saves so much time for us"*.



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Recommendations for Planning a Customized Day Activity

- Develop a Circle of support for the person
 - the Circle includes the person, the family and any friends who want to assist
- Develop the Plan in consultation with your son or daughter or the person whom you are supporting
 - “Nothing about me without me” People First motto
 - Include the individual's support worker
- Focus on the 4 areas of an activity plan

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**Strength does not come from
Physical Capacity .
It comes from an Indomitable
Will.**



...Gandi

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My Vision for Dave

- That he be involved with his neighbours;
- That he participate and be activate in the community;
- That he do volunteer work;
- That he be an inspiration to people in the world

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My Vision for Dave's Home Life

- That he live independently
- That he have a circle of care and support
- That his home be HIS !
- In the future he will need help steering this vision and maintaining his home life

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The Importance of Family

“Belonging is the Fulcrum point for the individual between a sense of self and a sense of society. It is the rock on which we stand, in security, knowing who we are, capable of inner growth as we discover other realities born and developed in other groups and cultures.”...Jean Vanier, Becoming Human

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Dave's Place

- 992 Janisse Drive
Windsor, ON,
Canada
- Paul, Alison &
Dave at his front
door



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Working Hard to Make it Happen

- Looking for just the right place , Purchase vs Rental
- Location of home/apt.
- Accessibility
- Renovations, Painting & Decorating
- Including Family and Friends



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Dave's Place

- Dave's Bedroom
- Dave's 6 foot whirlpool tub
- His overhead lift all came from his room at mom's home



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Making It Work, Changing Myths

- Have a House mate
- Layer the support
- Change the Myths
 - Everyone with a disability does not need to live in a group home
- Reach out to the Neighbourhood
 - Doing this as any new neighbour would not an agency campaign moving into the neighbourhood

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Open House

- Christmas Open House
- Lots of friends from the community
- Inviting and meeting the new neighbours



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Enjoying the Good Life

- Dave and Marilou sitting in his garden admiring the view



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Dave's Team of Personal Assistants

- Meeting of the team members; nurses and personal assistants who assist Dave to live in his own place



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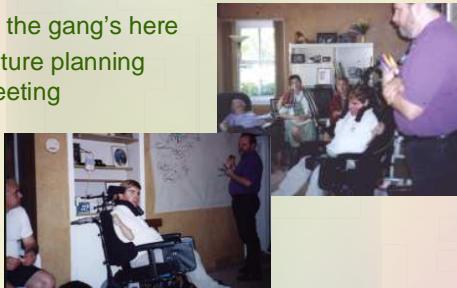
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Dave's MAPS Meeting

- All the gang's here
- Future planning meeting



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Dave's Circle of Support

- Team of Personal Assistants
- Family & community friends



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What the W-E Brokerage Service Did to Help

- www.windsorsexbrokerage.com
- Assisted with **independent** unencumbered planning; information & new trends
- Supported our family through transition times and provides technical support for annual support agreement
- Keeps us updated on new ideas and community initiatives

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What Community Living Windsor Does to Help Our Family

- Provides some individualized support funds flexibly through an adult respite program
- Provides a book keeping service for worker's payroll
- Acts as transfer payment agency for David's Individualized Funds from Ministry of Health
- Responds immediately when requested
- Provides flexibility for any new avenues of support
- Always willing to look at new ways of supporting families

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The Community's Involved

- Building Dave's Deck,
 - F.J.Brennan High School's construction class



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Dave's Neighbourhood

- Why we chose this location
- Dave's house is located on a very busy corner lot
- Next door is a school
- Down the street a baseball park and hockey arena
- He can catch the wheelchair accessible bus 2 blocks away at the next corner
- Only 7 minutes away from family
- Reasonable housing cost in this area



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Helpful Tips for Individuals & Families

- Form a Circle/ Group of Supportive Friends which includes the person with a disability for advice, support and counsel
- Seek out all Resources that you can access for your family member
- Consider how he/she will live on their own; e.g. having a housemate; use his/her ODSP pension to pay rent/mortgage payment

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More Helpful Tips

- Talk with your son/daughter
- Choose where he/she wants to live in conjunction with their wishes
- Consider the outcomes you want to achieve for your family member
- Prioritize your needs
- Plan sensibly

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Ideas to Consider

- Purchase the home/condo and rent it back to your son/daughter
- Use gov't programs; such as, CDN Registered Retirement Saving Plan through the Federal Gov't Home Buyers Plan to lessen the amount of mortgage on the home/condo
- Find a affordable/geared to income apartment/house to rent if unable to buy

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Further Ideas to Consider

- Layer the support your family member presently has to achieve independence from the family home
- Advocate for more support but don't let the lack of funding deter you from the ultimate goal
- Involve family and friends ; they are often waiting to be asked and invited to help
- Be creative

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Keeping it Going/Looking Beyond

- Coordinate schedules for nurses & assistants
- Manage Dave's Indiv. Fdg. Budget
- Provide ongoing support to Dave's staff
- Monitor his care and oversee his well being
- Plan with Dave's support network

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A Place Called Home

Welcome to Dave's Place



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The Outcomes for Dave

- Excellent quality of life & health
- Boosted his self esteem
- Choice
- Control
- Independence as any young adult wants
- Inclusion in his community
- Inspires others around the world



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Anything is Possible

Dave, King of his Castle



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A Place Called Home

- Second edition of Dave's story released 2008



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Our lives begin
to end the day
we become silent
about things that
matter.

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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