



# The Role of Support People

“I took this from a posting by David Weatherow (directfunding@yahoo.com) that addressed Microboard participants, and adapted it. It lets volunteers identify areas that they are interested in, or where they have talents. A person that participates in a circle of support can assume any and/or all of the activities. This tool can be used with volunteers that are new, but also to jog some of us oldsters to keep us focused by inserting the focus person’s name in the appropriate spot.”

- Virginia Eernisse

- a) Listen deeply to (the focus person), in a spirit of respect and alliance;
- b) Be a friend by spending time with (focus person), visiting his/her home, opening your home to him/her, etc.);
- c) Introduce (the focus person) to other trusted people;
- d) Introduce (the focus person) to trusted community circles and associations (church, clubs, etc.) to which you belong or to which you have personal connections;
- e) Identify the individuals gifts, and help find ways (focus person) can make contributions and offer these gifts to the larger community;
- f) Pay attention to ‘quality’ in (the focus person) life, using your own life as a point of reference;
- g) Help recruit, screen, teach and direct support workers;
- h) Help with the nuts and bolts of managing resources - meeting payrolls, budgeting, scheduling, etc.;
- i) Represent (the focus person) interests and needs to decision-makers (planning, budgeting proposal-making);
- j) Be a good ‘steward’ of the resources that are made available to the individual
- k) Serve as a point of accountability and reporting to the funders;
- l) Making sure that the last two roles didn’t overrun the first nine; never forgetting to celebrate accomplishments.