

STEREOTYPES

Stereotypes are incorrect attitudes that some folks have about the abilities of people with disabilities. People with disabilities are often "labeled" based on stereotypes. Many people still believe some common stereotypes.

**“STEREOTYPES”
ARE NOT TRUE!!**

Here are some common stereotypes about people with disabilities:

- **STEREOTYPE #1: People with disabilities should have lots of pity.**

“You poor, unfortunate dear.”

“How does he live like that?”

“I’m glad I’m not him.”

Staring with a slight shaking of the head (when you don’t understand what is being said), or not making any eye-contact.

- **STEREOTYPE #2:** People with disabilities need to have the disability “cured” or “fixed” in order to be OK.

This is especially true for people with mental illness.

- **STEREOTYPE #3:** People with disabilities need to “overcome” their disability.

“If only you would work harder, you could get better.”

- **STEREOTYPE #4:** People with disabilities should be patronized or admired.

“You manage so well, dear.”

- **STEREOTYPE #5:** People with disabilities need charity & welfare. People with disabilities should be taken on as “a project.”

“Here, let me help you.”

- **STEREOTYPE #6:** People with disabilities need to be locked away or hidden.

“They get along so much better when they're together.”

NOTE: People with disabilities do want peer support, but we do not want to be isolated from society.

- **STEREOTYPE #7:** People with disabilities will cause my property values to go down.

“Those people can live wherever they want – as long as it's not in my community!”

“Someone like that certainly can't live in the community – they need institutional care – that's why I pay taxes.”



FACT: We are OK just the way we are. We don't need to be fixed or changed in any way.



FACT: People with disabilities live with our disabilities. We only need to overcome the economic, architectural, and attitudinal barriers.



FACT: We do not need or want pity. We may do things differently, but we get the job done.



FACT: We give back to our community and to society as a whole when we are given empowered through information, opportunities, and on-going support.



FACT: These facts apply to people with ALL kinds of disabilities – not just people with certain kinds of disabilities!!



FACT: It is up to EVERYONE to eliminate barriers like stereotypes!!

Cartoon of three young athletes at a track meet – one of them is a wheelchair user with a large Bazooka Gun who says, “Hurdles are a problem no more!”

