

Good, ordinary lives that work: Relationship, Role, and Bringing It All Together

From Planning to Action: Towards having a good life
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Core Beliefs

The value and worth of each person


The immense capacity of families and their allies

The abundance within our communities

The need for a principled and relevant approach

Believing in one thing rather than another:

- The unique value of each person *versus*:
 - The person as a burden
- The capacity of families *versus*:
 - Helpless families; incapable families
- Abundance in our communities *versus*:
 - Community rejection
- Principles to guide us *versus*:
 - Anything goes



*We cannot build or bring about that
which we cannot imagine.*

*If we can imagine a good life in all of
these elements, we can be actively
involved in making it happen.*

A REAL LIFE EXAMPLE: DEOHAEKO SUPPORT NETWORK



At the Heart of Deohaeko lies...

- **seven people**...to direct and inspire, leading separate and unique lives
- **seven families** and their friends and chosen allies called a **Circle**
- a deeply held (and articulated) **set of principles** and 15 + years of holding to them
- but first, at the heart of Deohaeko lies **a belief and a dream**...of home, of belonging, of contributing, of living together in community



ROUGEMOUNT

Not a goal from the beginning, but
the opportunity at the time

This is not about the building

- It is about **HOME**
 - And consciously making and building it everyday
- It is about **GOOD NEIGHBOURS**
 - Being one and having many
- It is about having and making a **GOOD LIFE**
 - Which includes work and other contributions
 - Leisure pursuits and identities
 - Relationships with many other people
- It is about holding the **TYPICAL** and **ORDINARY** as the standard

And that can happen in many buildings

Deohaeko Support Network

- is a small group of families who are all about how people live their lives:
 - * establishing a secure and welcoming home
 - * engaging in a range of personal and committed relationships
 - * exploring and sustaining valued roles at the heart of community

Core Principles

- Each person is unique and different
- Choose Community
- Focus on Relationship always
- Start with the Gifts and Contributions of the person
- Shared Decision-making
- Aim for an ordinary, good life – through Valued Social Roles and standards
- Lifelong Learning Growing – high expectations
- Gather with others to do the work

Principles in action mean...

- never 24 hour paid support
- all support is 1:1
- no support for segregated activities
- a Supporter only works for one family
- co-op member not paid to support
- always start with interest and contribution
- individual is involved in hiring

Ours is a story of possibility...

- Our parents are not more loving, more competent, more energetic than others
- Our people are not less “disabled” than others
- Our supporters are not more capable
- Our neighbours are not kinder
- Our community is not more welcoming

- BUT...

But our expectations

- based on a vision , on an imagination that
life can be better for us all -
are different.

We expect more

from everyone and

imagine that this will be good for us all

...and for that belief and that vision, we are
richly rewarded.



Tiffany Dawe

- What strikes you about these stories?