

VALUES

FAMILY - We value family as the first and most significant source of one's values and identity. A family provides unconditional love, acceptance and support. It connects us to life-long relationships, giving us continuity and history.

JOBS - We value a job as satisfying to the individual. Among the factors that make a job individually satisfying are:

Certain external rewards, such as:

- fair and acceptable pay
- fair benefits
- fair working hours
- healthy environment
- positive relationships with co-workers convenience to home
- non-discriminatory
- provisions for a rewarding environment

And/or internal rewards, such as:

- building on one's strengths
- growth and development
- making a contribution
- helping people
- being challenged
- a sense of pride
- stimulation
- feeling of accomplishment
- fun and enjoyment

All of which allows us independence, self-esteem, and personal choice.

HEALTH - We value the right of, and opportunity for, every person to optimize his or her personal health. Such opportunity encompasses education, comprehensive wellness activities, prevention, equal access to quality health care to appropriate health technology and supports, and to a healthy environment. Each person must have the opportunity to maximize the quality of his or her life regardless of his or her health or physical status.

FRIENDSHIP - We value friendship because friends mutually enrich each other's lives. They provide supports, comfort, fun, and opportunities for growth. We value the ability of every person to make friendships, to give his or her friendship to others, and to keep those friendships as he or she wishes, to the extent he or she wishes.

SPIRITUALITY - We value the right of and opportunity for every person to define and express in his or her own way a sense of spirituality. Spirituality may bring comfort, inspiration, continuity, strength and fellowship. It also helps to establish and reaffirm personal beliefs and ethics.

LOVING RELATIONSHIPS - We value the opportunity for all persons to experience loving relationships, which provide companionship, friendship, partnership, and a sense of belonging. Relationships allow for affection, intimacy, sexual expression, romance and passion, and thrive on commitment, trust and mutual responsibility.

To underscore these "most valued aspects of life," the Community Collaborative also developed a set of nineteen principles, which define how supports and services must be shaped as we assist people in their pursuit of a valued life. These principles embody the current human service concepts and incorporate the emerging "best practices" in the field. They have been used to define and test the work of the Community Collaborative. More significantly, they shape the direction of the Philadelphia service system.