



# Spectrum Learning

A DIVISION OF SPECTRUM SOCIETY

## DAVID PITONYAK: The Importance of Belonging October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Registration  
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# The Importance of Belonging

## David Pitonyak

### **Being connected to the people we love is critical**

to our emotional and physical well-being. Many people experiencing our services are sick from loneliness. This workshop is about ideas for moving beyond interventions and coverage to a system that supports enduring, freely chosen relationships. The workshop can be conducted in either a one-day or two-day format (the latter involves problem-solving with teams).

#### **Objectives**

At the conclusion of the workshop, participants will have developed knowledge in the following areas:

- The impact of loneliness in the lives of people who experience disabilities, particularly as it relates to difficult behaviors;
- The importance of going home to the people we love as an important organizing strategy for helping people to develop relationships;
- Strategies for helping people who are lonely to develop enduring, freely chosen, positive relationships.
- Problem-solving strategies for times when relationships are unbalanced or slow in developing.



## About Spectrum Research, Training and Development

*This division of our work is an expansion of our successful practices in supporting folks to live in their communities. We regularly host some of the best voices in our field for discussion and collaboration opportunities. Some of the excellent workshop leaders we have been glad to work with:*

*Jayne Barrett, Circles of Support Initiative, Southern Australia \* Pat Fratangelo \* Barb Goode \* Aaron Johannes \* Mary Kealy, Brothers of Charity, County Clare, Ireland \* Michael Kendrick \* Norman Kunc \* John Lord \* Patrick McDonagh \* Shelley Nessman \* Linda Perry \* Margaret Rodgers, CRU, Queensland, Australia \* Tim Stainton \* Susan Stanfield \* Lorna Sullivan, Imagine Better, New Zealand \* Emma Van der Klift*

*As well, we frequently work with groups of self advocates, staff, families and, preferably, mixes of these and community members to train on specific topics or engage in dialogues and planning for both individuals and communities. We have conducted workshops, training and dialogues from the far North to Nashville TN.*

**Spectrum Press** publishes a small number of books each year, by, for about about people with disabilities and those who care about them.

To learn more about our work and upcoming events, check out our blog and monthly e-newsletter at [www.101friends.ca](http://www.101friends.ca) or our online bookstore at [www.spectrumpress.ca](http://www.spectrumpress.ca)

## Your Presenter: David Pitonyak

David Pitonyak, Ph.D. is interested in positive approaches to difficult behaviors. He believes that difficult behaviors are "messages" which can tell us important things about a person and his or her surroundings. Understanding the "meaning" of an individual's difficult behaviors is the first step in supporting the person (and the person's supporters) to change.

David also believes (to paraphrase Jean Clark), that a "person's needs are best met by people whose needs are met." Supporting a person with difficult behaviors begins with an honest assessment of the needs of the person's supporters. Creating more responsive human services is possible only when we take responsibility for problems of the workplace culture. A healthy organization is an organization that invites all of its members to take an active role in decision-making, provides support to each member as defined by the member, and evaluates its success by the degree to which it lives up to its promises.

David has consulted with families and professionals throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, Canada, England, the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. He is a recipient of the 2005 Positive Approaches Award from The Association for Persons with Severe Handicaps (TASH). In 2001, he was presented with the Outstanding Professional Award by the Autism Society of America, Greater Roanoke Valley Chapter.

David lives in Blacksburg, Virginia with his wife Cyndi and two sons, Joe and Sam.

To learn more about his work, visit his website: [www.dimagine.com](http://www.dimagine.com)



## Join us on October 11<sup>th</sup> for a day of stories, learning and dialogue.

**David Pitonyak is one of the most significant voices of our times in the field of disability supports. He has presented around the world and is best known for his engaging manner as he uses stories and examples from his experience to demonstrate the potential, needs and gifts of people with intellectual disabilities.**

Breakfast and afternoon snacks, as well as drinks, will be provided. Lunch on your own.

**Be part of a team of engaged learners!**



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## Want to join us?

### HERE IS HOW TO REGISTER

Cost: \$100.00 per person or a team of five for \$400.00

Place: Oakridge Mall Auditorium, 41<sup>st</sup> and Cambie, Vancouver, B.C.

Date: October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Time 9:00 – 4:00

**Register online at [www.spectrumpath2012.eventbrite.com/](http://www.spectrumpath2012.eventbrite.com/)**

**Questions?**

***info@spectrumsociety.org or 604-323-1433 or tweet @SSCLpectrum or @imagineacircle***

*We look forward to seeing you there!*

Express yourself. Build your network. Find your voice.

