BRIDGES TO THE COMMUNITY BUILDING SOCIAL CAPITAL
CATHY FICKER TERRILL AND BETH TERRILL
SOCIAL CAPITAL FIRST APPEARED IN PRINT IN THE 1950’S

The World Bank defines social capital as:

“The social relationships...that enable people to coordinate action to achieve desired goals.”
ALL PEOPLE MAY BE CREATED EQUAL, BUT...

We are each born into different circumstances.....

With different amounts of social capital.
My friend Mike... go to guy at the grocery store
ACCORDING TO PIERCE BOURDIEU...

“Social capital are the advantages and opportunities that accrue to people through their membership in groups.”

Social Capital in the Creation of Human Capital
WAITING 30 YEARS FOR DENA’S BAT MITZVAH
How can you help individuals with disabilities build their social capital to enhance their lives?
ABOUT ME | My Dreams

I dream about going to London with my friend, Tia. I want to exercise more and lose some weight. I want to learn easy ways to cook and stay healthy.
ELIZABETH TERRILL

This is My Life - This is My Plan

ABOUT ME | Important People

**MY FAMILY**
Coco & me
Brother-in-Law, Imanol
Sister, Morgan
Mom & Nephew John
Dad & Niece Anne
Niece Sophie

My Boyfriend, Chris

My Buddy, Tia

My Long-Time Friends, Linda & Mike G.

My Former Roomate, Suzanne

My Pal, Linda H. & My Uncle Larry
ABOUT ME | Important Activities

- Having my own bedroom
- Relaxing with games on my phone
- Having enough money
- Going out with friends

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My Goal #3 | Maintain Strong Relationships

My relationships with friends and family are very important to me.
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If there was a Goal #5 | Having Fun!
League bowling has decreased 40%
Individual bowlers have increased 10%
Civic group membership has decreased
Volunteer Hours decreased

Voter turnout has decreased
Church attendance has decreased
Union membership has decreased

Social Capital is declining, people are becoming disconnected
EMPLOYMENT THROUGH SOCIAL CAPITAL
KEEPING FRIENDS WITH TECHNOLOGY
LOW TECH SUPPORTS TO BUILD SOCIAL CAPITAL
RISK

- RISK HAPPENS.
- TECHNOLOGY..
- SAFETY..
- CELL PHONES
SUBSTITUTE DECISION MAKING...MOVING TO SUPPORTED DECISION MAKING

- THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF A SUBSTITUTE DECISION MAKER.
- IS BASED UPON WHAT THE PERSON WOULD HAVE DECIDED FOR THEMSELVES?
- MOVING TO SUPPORTED DECISION MAKING
- CANCER IS THE ENEMY
According to Robert Putnam...

Social Capital = Reciprocity

If you do something for someone, they are more likely to return the favor.
SOCIAL ROLES
BRIDESMAID
ROTARY VOLUNTEER
PARK DISTRICT VOLUNTEER
EMPLOYEE
HELPING NEIGHBORS
A FEW GOOD MEN IN BLOOMINGDALE
HELPING A SINGLE MOM WITH THE LAWN
ELDERLY LADY WITH THE TRASH
A RETIRED TRAIN GUY
I never had a friend with a disability.

OMG: I have never had such a wonderful friend.
People helping people in long-term relationships.

- Trade visits
- Run errands
- Do favors for one another

Most people can manage 5 - 10 strong relationships.
....AND THEN THERE WAS JOHN

Strengths
Enjoys spitting
Drinking beer
Stealing beer
Poker
Likes guys
Loves Pancakes
ADVANTAGES OF SOCIAL CAPITAL

Friends you can confide in
A neighbor who watches your house
An uncle who gets you a job
A ride to the grocery store
Ideas and information

Richard Florida
The Rise of the Creative Class
Communities use social capital to channel diversity and creativity and achieve stability.

Jane Jacobs
The Death & Life of Great American Cities
space and time to connect

time to demonstrate trust

a means to effectively communicate

an opportunity for genuine participation — NOT MERE PRESENCE

DEVELOP SOCIAL CAPITAL, PEOPLE NEED!
SOVIET UNION
AN EXAMPLE OF A STATE UNABLE TO TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF ITS IMMENSE RESOURCES BECAUSE THEY LACK SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Focus Group: Baltic States Family Support

- Capacity for choice
- Learn to speak for ourselves
- Access to information
- Learn to dream
- Learn to connect: Social Capital
RGA RESPITE PROGRAM

- Provider driven
- Professionally provided
- Limited to in-home supports
- Capacity for social capital - limited
“Mom, respite used to give you a break from me, but now I need a break from you and dad. I need some more friends.”
RGA RESPITE PROGRAM

Respite converts to Self-Determination Model

Parents are encouraged to use the dollars to expand their social capital and natural supports
➢ My son has Cerebral Palsy and wants to go to camp...

➢ My son has Autism and likes to run...

➢ My daughter, who has MR, is in high school and has no friends...
Social capital, like other forms of capital, accumulate when used productively...

Jane Fountain
Social Capital: A Key Enabler
1998
1 Friend + 1 Friend = More Friends

Community Connectors
Family Connectors
Employment Connections

Or
Are you using the funds to create segregation?
HOW I HELP TIA... HOW TIA HELPS ME
Stocks of social capital, such as trust and networks, tend to be self-reinforcing and cumulative.

Robert Putnam
The Prosperous Community
1993

A family needed a ramp - was it a deck?

Neighborhood party ⇐ Alderperson ⇐ Social Capital
SOCIAL CAPITAL HELPS PEOPLE TO CHANGE...GROW...SOAR

- Better knowledge sharing
- Dollars go farther
- Access to new dollars
- Natural Supports
NEVER DOUBT THAT A SMALL GROUP OF COMMITTED INDIVIDUALS CAN AND WILL CHANGE THE WORLD. MARGARET MEAD

- Families have changed the world.
- They started the advocacy movement for pwd
- They fought and won funding for special education.
- They secured funding for Family Support.
- Families used the social capital to make change.

- They partner. They network. They share.
THE POWER OF PLACE

Social relationships grow in social spaces. People meet in cafés, pubs, parks, post offices, and malls. People connect and exchange gossip and advice. They form and strengthen ties that bind them into communities. They build trust and understanding.

Cohen & Prusak, In Good Company (2001)

Do we give people with disabilities the support they need in order to have space and time to connect?
FROM BRIDGES IN THE COMMUNITY TO SOCIAL CAPITAL

How can we help individuals with disabilities build their social capital to enhance their lives?
Should we measure friends and community connections? Is it a critical outcome?