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THE CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF A REAL HOME

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Many of the points discussed today are drawn from the work of others including: Michael Kendrick, Anne Cross, Di Turner & Bruce Uditsky

The Things That Make “Home” So Important That ...We'd Need To Hold A Workshop About It!

- It's a place where we spend an awful lot of our time
- It's a place which serves as a core for our basic sustenance and survival
- It's a springboard and foundation place - a place from which to step out into the world
- It's a place from which we make lots of our arrangements
- It's a centre for lots of our relationships - especially our most important relationships
- It's a place in which we are usually challenged, encouraged and supported to grow and develop
- It's a place where we're usually a faced with high expectations and lots of encouragement

Things that make home...cont

- It's where you can be yourself, where you can express yourself
- It's a place where you keep many of the material things you treasure and much of your history
- It's somewhere that is adapted to your own individual needs, tastes and preferences
- It's where you can really be in control, where you exercise lots of autonomy and many choices
- It's a place in which you develop lots of your thoughts and opinions and where you develop your responses to what is going on in the world
- It's a place in which you will often find acceptance and within which you can feel safe and secure

Things That Make Home cont...

- It's a place where you might rejuvenate yourself
- recharge your batteries
- It's often a place of sanctuary, refuge, privacy
and escape from the demands of the world
- And last but not least ...

**IT'S OUR ROLE/JOB TO HELP PEOPLE
CREATE HOME FOR THEMSELVES!**

Some Well Known Home Storming Practices

- Location of house decided on by others (cheap, only place available, donated land/property, etc).
- Designed/chosen as “Best Fit” for 4 clients and a sleepover
- Can have features, which make it look “strange” for a typical home.
- Ownership of the property or tenancy agreement held by a service or a Government Department.
- Very little control or choice over whom one might share their home with.
- Whether or not there has been some form of choice or control over who lives in one’s house this can change very quickly without one being consulted.

Home storming practices cont...

- One is relieved of many of the responsibilities and obligations of home ownership.
- One has limited control over activities that happen in one's home.
- Home is also someone else's workplace.
- Workers have rights in one's home – rights that override your own.
- Sometimes there will be restrictions on your capacity to own and display possessions because others might take, use or destroy them.
- Possessions (such as furniture) are often chosen for one with little attention to developing or expressing ones personal taste or planning and consumer skills.

Home storming practices cont...

- Upkeep depends on the maintenance team.
- One has limited influence over the choice of personnel who perform maintenance.
- It is often hard to create an atmosphere of welcome and hospitality.
- This hinders developing/maintaining networks.
- There are limited opportunities for privacy.
- Reactions to sorrow, disappointment, setbacks or hardship are highly likely to be seen or interpreted as “Challenging Behaviour.”

Home Storming Practices cont...

- One is simply expected to cope with all sorts of hardships, intrusions and interferences.
- One is expected to be grateful.
- One's family members and other loved ones are also expected to be grateful and to fit in.
- This is often not stated or even intentional but the schedules and routines dictate it.

SOME WELL KNOWN HOME “FORMING” PRACTICES

- Choose where your house is located based on needs, tastes, preferences and affordability.
- Choose a place, which would be easily recognisable as where someone would live.
- “Best fit” for you and your loved ones.
- Ownership of property or tenancy agreement is held by the person living in the house.
- If this is not possible the person living in the house would/could designate a person of their choice to act on their behalf.

HOME “FORMING” PRACTICES cont...

- Scrupulous attention is paid to the selection, if any, of other people with whom the home might be shared.
- Meticulous attention would be paid to the tastes and preferences of the person living in the house and his/her chosen companions so that they were expressed through the design, activities and appointments of the home.
- It is expected that visitors recognise and be respectful of the sanctity of your home.
- Home is the most common place where personal possessions are kept, displayed, looked after and sometimes even given loving attention.

HOME “FORMING” PRACTICES cont...

- Many of these possessions are often useful and functional but still others reflect the persons:
 - interests
 - talents
 - history
 - tastes
 - needs
- Homes require and benefit from having loving upkeep.
- Home is where one may choose to engender a spirit of welcome and hospitality for selected others.
- Home is the focus for the fostering of relationships, often established outside the home but cultivated & nurtured within.

HOME “FORMING” PRACTICES cont...

- Home is often the place where people feel it is safe and appropriate to create opportunities to express intimacy.
- Often these same people offered support to face up to the responsibilities and obligations of home ownership.
- In the creation of home, people work at designing spaces and experiences that give meaning and joy to life.
- Needed help is usually sought but in this case one would select servers who:
 - one had an affinity with
 - were qualified to do the job
 - and
 - who respected ones status as home owner.

HOME “FORMING” PRACTICES cont...

- Home is a place where one can exercise choice to keep out behaviours, interactions and activities which are in conflict with those you value.
- Home is a place where one can expect to find support to face sorrows, setbacks, and some of the hardships of life.
- In the event of disruptions or crisis one would work at restoring normality as soon as possible.
- Where someone needed guidance or support, even supervision, one would try to provide it in a way which preserved their position in the home and in a way which does not unduly restrict the person.

HOME “FORMING” PRACTICES cont...

- The most paperwork one would have around the functions of your home might be a diary, a budget plan, a shopping list, and a weekly menu (often not adhered to).
- Home is a place where safety is a high priority because the health of the people who live there is of paramount importance (not because of a Health and Safety Policy.)

SOME THINGS THAT WOULD INDICATE A PERSON WAS DOING SOMETHING GOOD FOR THEM

- The person just seems to “fit” with the activity (e.g. it fits their lifestyle, interests, competencies, passions, beliefs, etc)
- The person seems to enjoy and delight in what they are doing – are maybe even passionate about it
- The person is clearly rewarded for their effort and contribution (if the person is ‘working’ this might include things like getting a reasonable wage and other formal employment benefits)

SOME THINGS THAT WOULD INDICATE A PERSON WAS DOING SOMETHING GOOD FOR THEM cont....

- The person seems like they just can't wait to get back
- If the person needs support, the people who are providing this for them seem to have a great "feel" for them, for their identity, likes and dislikes, the way and what they communicate...etc.
- Any support provided persistently enhances and strengthens the natural supports available to the person
- The person feels, and is, safe and secure
- The amount of support the person is getting seems to fit for them and their needs (not too much nor too little)

SOME THINGS THAT WOULD INDICATE A PERSON WAS DOING SOMETHING GOOD FOR THEM cont....

- The support the person is provided with seems to be for things that are highly relevant to their needs
- The things the person does takes them into ordinary community life where they have:
 - come to be included rather than set apart or kept aside
 - come to meet others with like interests (not necessarily other devalued people)
 - been encouraged to return and where they seemed to be made welcome
- The person is doing something that affords them lots of opportunities to grow, be challenged and stimulated
- The person expresses and seems to be comfortable with the level of autonomy they are able to exercise (i.e. they are not over or under directed)

SOME THINGS THAT WOULD INDICATE A PERSON WAS DOING SOMETHING GOOD FOR THEM cont....

- The things the person is doing seem to be leading somewhere (e.g. they are developing new prospects as a result...maybe even becoming upwardly mobile)
- The things the person is doing seem to make sense and fit with the other pressing needs they might have in life (e.g. real needs may be social rather than work related)
- The person arrives fresh and appears enthusiastic and pleased to see people
- The places they have to get to are easy to get to and convenient to home
- The things a person is engaging in are likely to enhance the way other people think of them

SOME THINGS THAT WOULD INDICATE A PERSON WAS DOING SOMETHING GOOD FOR THEM cont....

- The person doesn't stick out because they are supported in a strange way
- Any support comes in a manner that is culturally appropriate
- The level of challenge/difficulty/stress/sacrifice associated with what they are doing is within a range that seems to fit with their capacity to cope
- The person takes pride in what they are doing, the way they might be doing it and the things they have accomplished
- Over time the person comes to be involved in the typical rituals, traditions, routines that ordinarily fit with the things they are doing.

Examples Of Some Very Important Things In Life No-one, Including Human Services, Can “Do” For Another Person

- ◆ make friends
- ◆ fall in love - be loved
- ◆ gain new skills
- ◆ feel good about yourself
- ◆ find meaning and purpose in life
- ◆ rest
- ◆ enjoy an experience
- ◆ witness a beautiful scene or sunset
- ◆ have faith and hope in something
- ◆ enjoy a meal with good company
- ◆ learn
- ◆ be part of a family or community
- ◆ listen to music
- ◆ go on holiday

Signs That Might Indicate Negative Changes In The Relationship Between Workers And The Person Receiving A Service

- When the worker starts doing too much
- When the person receiving the service becomes more reliant on or dependent on the worker than before
- When friends stop coming or doing things they used to do

Signs that might indicate negative changes in the relationship between workers and the person receiving a service cont...

- When the worker starts talking and behaving more like they are a family member
- When the person receiving the service asks for more and more to be done for them
- When the worker feels more relaxed about doing things before asking the person whether or not they want them done
- When the worker spends more time directing and doing rather than facilitating

Signs that might indicate negative changes in the relationship between workers and the person receiving a service cont...

- When the workers advice is sought rather than the person's family or friends
- When the solutions that are found to every problem involve the use of another human service

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