Philosophy

The Resource for Education, Advocacy, Communication, and Housing (Reach) stands for the belief that every person, regardless of physical or mental ability, regardless of earning power or productivity, is born with the same immeasurable worth. We celebrate and promote self-determination, inter-dependence and membership for each of our consumers.

Background...

From a small group of parents, REACH (formally Whittier Area Parents' Association for the Developmentally Handicapped) has grown in its ability to provide much needed services for consumers in the Whittier Area. These parents' concerns for appropriate educational and residential services for their sons or daughters gave them the impetus to incorporate as a non-profit, tax-exempt organization in 1969.

REACH's Board of Directors is composed of parents of consumers and community leaders. Administrative staff has the responsibility for implementing the policies and priorities for program improvement set by the Board of Directors. Funding for programs comes through your donations and a variety of State and Federally mandated programs.

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REACH

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REACH

Celebrating Self-Advocacy, Interdependence and Membership

REACH

Mission Statement:
To Transform Lives of People with Disabilities Through Innovative Education, Communication and Housing Services.

Resource for Education, Advocacy, Communication, and Housing

Delta Services

Delta Services is a program which lends support and training to individuals interested in becoming more independent in their community. This program was developed by REACH in response to family, staff and community input. Delta Consumers and families currently experiencing Delta Services are giving us positive feedback. Some of the things unique to Delta Services include:

* Enhanced staffing ratios
* Augmentative communication

support (including Facilitated Communication)
* Scheduling flexibility
* Individualized approach to housing
* Emphasis on developing friendships
* Volunteer/Paid employment

Training in specific skills relating to independence are infused in all of the activities chosen by the consumer. With Delta Services, REACH has adopted a model program that reflects the three major components of change and growth in our consumers: the *consumer*, the *family* and the *external support system.*

Supported Living

Supported Living is a housing philosophy committed to giving consumers a choice in where and how they live. The idea of Supported Living is a simple concept which enables a consumer to join with REACH to receive whatever assistance is necessary for the person to live in a decent and secure home of their own choosing. REACH believes that regardless of your disability, each person can live in a home of their own given the necessary supports. Even if you need continuous support 24 hours a day, REACH can help you find and coordinate support so you can live in a home of your own.

Communication Services

Communication is what allows us to connect with others and develop important relationships in our lives. The overall goal of Communication Services at REACH is for an individual to have the most efficient means of communication available. We are able to use strategies that increase the person's use of speech, body language and technology so that they are actively participating in conversation and learning. Communication services include:

* Speech and Language Assessment
* Speech and Language Therapy
* Augmentative/Assistive Technology assessment
* Communication Coaching
* AAC/AC Support
* Training Seminars
* Off-Line Consultations

We assume competence in all individuals and know it is best to team with the educators, occupational therapist, behavioral support persons, and families and strive to work with teams who focus on the individual. All persons will have their right to communicate fulfilled.