



Bethesda
Faith. Service. Inclusion.

Guiding Principles

The focus of all services provided by Bethesda staff, volunteers, Board Directors and leadership is upon supporting people to live within their community. The following principles guide us in accomplishing that goal.

1. **A Unique and Valuable Person** – “I am a unique and valuable person created by God and, through His Son, Jesus Christ, I have an opportunity to enjoy all of His blessings. I am ultimately defined by my worth as a beloved child of God and not by my abilities or disabilities.”
2. **A Relational Person** – “Positive and caring relationships are central to my healthy development.”
3. **A Person with Rights and Freedoms** – “My rights and freedoms must be safeguarded by the Canadian Charter and, if any of these are threatened beyond my control, then effective supports must be readily available to assist me in maintaining or re-acquiring the right or freedom in question.
4. **A Person with Choices** – “I have the right to exercise choices, including my preferred religious, cultural and personal practices. I have the right to experience the dignity of risk.”
5. **A Person Deserving Dignity and Respect** – “I have the right to live a dignified life and deserve to be respected in having similar opportunities as other people in society.”
6. **A Worthy, Purposeful Person** – “I am a worthy, purposeful person who has gifts to contribute to the well-being of society and should be given the opportunity to live in my community as a full, participating member.”
7. **An Accountable Person** – “I am accountable before God and to those around me to ensure order and harmony within a society which respects each person’s belief and value systems.”
8. **A Person Needing Caring Support** – “My need for growth and development must be addressed on a personal basis which requires that I be surrounded by empowering, caring and supportive people. I should be respected in making my own decisions regarding aspects of my life. I should be able to expect dedication from those providing support to ensure that my needs are being addressed at any given point of my life. Imperative to successful growth and development is removing the poverty of any loneliness that I might experience through strong, healthy and reciprocal friendships.”
9. **A Person with Family and Friends** – “My relationship with family and/or friends (including advocates) is vital to my healthy development and to safeguarding my well-being. Family and friends must be welcomed to participate in my service planning as well as to speak on my behalf if I require it.”
10. **A Person with Health and Safety Needs** – “My health and safety must be guarded at all times in a dignified manner and must be done so in honoring my dignity of risk.”
11. **The Role of the Helper** – “The role of the helping professional and other helpers is to be viewed as a support base to me and my family from which responsible care can be assured. The helpers must recognize that they are accountable to me and my family. The helpers are also held accountable to Bethesda in performing duties that keep the best my interests above all else.”
12. **Effective Delivery of Services** – “Effective delivery of services is best accomplished by cooperating with government departments, agencies, professionals, groups and other organizations interested in my welfare.”