Widening the Circle/PATHWAYS to Friendship

The Arc of Massachusetts



**The Ask: Invitation to Engagement**

Widening the Circle, under The Arc of Massachusetts, has sponsored this workshop and partnered with DDS and Organizations in offering this developmental opportunity. This training provides direct support professionals, leadership, and families with a direct strategy and fundamentals to connect people with and without disabilities.

This workshop engages participants with our basic, shared need for freely-given friendships. People with disabilities usually have most of their relationships through human service programs and with their families. While such relationships are important, the hard reality is that most disabled people have few, or even no, freely-given friendships outside of those circles. For such relationships to begin and grow, someone needs to take the initiative to issue an invitation. For several reasons, disabled people themselves and community members who are not involved in service provision rarely make this invitation. To address this reality, others need to become the “askers”—the inviters—into relationship. This workshop will provide potential inviters with a deeper understanding of the opportunities and challenges, while offering guidance and practice on effectively fulfilling the role of inviter.

This workshop was originally designed by Tom Doody and Deborah Reidy.

For more information on sponsoring or attending a future offering of this workshop you may contact:

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