REAL WORK, REAL LIVES, AND REAL CONTRIBUTION: 
An exploration of what “works” in supported employment for people with developmental disabilities

Leaders in Inclusion, Milton Tyree and Hope Leet Dittmeier, guide an interactive, two day experience focused on changing the conversation.

Milton Tyree has more than 35 years of experience in the design, development and provision of supports and services centered on people with disabilities having access to valued aspects of everyday life. A particular area of interest has been the ongoing struggle around people with disabilities having good employment. His work for the University of Kentucky’s Human Development Institute focuses the supported employment leadership development, and he directed the Supported Employment Training Project, Putting Faith to Work Initiative, Community Work Transition Program, the “Belonging in the Community” Initiative and the Kentucky Public School Integration Transition Project. He is one of the most well respected and experienced supported employment practitioner and leader in the United States, and consults in many places.

Milton’s SRV background includes serving as a PASSING report writer and team leader, as well as an SRV co-presenter, and group leader. He’s written about SRV’s implications for employment services and developed an SRV derived supported employment leadership event. His employment efforts have also been strongly influenced by the work of the late Marc Gold, and he’s an associate with Marc Gold & Associates.

Milt also consults with congregational members and clergy for the Presbyterian Church (USA) about benefits of inclusive faith communities. He lives in Louisville with his wife, Vicky, and daughter, Kaylyn, a University of Louisville student.

At a young age, Hope worked at an institution for people with disabilities. That experience fueled her passion to work the past 35 years to identify and create options for people with disabilities to enjoy a lifestyle and quality of life that matches that of valued citizens. Another major influence on Hope’s work has been her sister-in-law Ann, who despite a disability diagnosis and dire predictions at birth, has enjoyed the good life – being an employee, homeowner, aunt, neighbor, honored volunteer, friend, choir member, and more.

Hope’s professional focus has always been on helping people with disabilities enjoy the good things of life that most citizens take for granted – being a valued family member, working, having a nice home, making choices for ourselves, having and being a good friend, growing into our best selves, making a difference in the world, having a good reputation, and participating in community life with others with similar interests. While this appeals to our common sense, it is contradictory to the way the service system is designed.

Hope holds a Master’s degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from the University of Kentucky. Among other roles, she has served as Family Support Specialist, a regional planner, the founder and CEO of a small organization that provided customized supports, and international trainer and consultant working primarily in Ireland and Canada. Currently, as Executive Director of Mattingly Edge, she leads to transform the organization from a large legacy day program to one that provides integrated and individualized supports that help people live, work, and learn along their neighbors in community.