

One Person at a Time: Citizen Advocacy for People With Disabilities

Adam Hildebrand

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Adam Hildebrand : One Person at a Time: Citizen Advocacy for People With Disabilities before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised One Person at a Time: Citizen Advocacy for People With Disabilities:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An inspiring book about an inspiring work: Citizen Advocacy By Dennis, was at Holy Apostles Adam Hildebrand is a personal friend and his book "One Person at a Time" reflects his warmth and compassion. Adam challenges anyone willing to listen to take up the mantle of a citizen advocate for people with disabilities. He challenges us to look beyond labels and stereotypes and to build genuine relationships. I recall my own experience "patterning" a young girl named "Abby" who had been disabled in infancy by a stroke. It did not take long to become a permanent part of her cheering section. The bottom line is to cherish all human life from the womb to the tomb. That is Adam's great passion and he challenges us to join him on a journey toward the heart of the Creator. Because of sin, all of us have anti-life nooks and crannies in our attitudes. I recall Adam's presentation about the subtleties of anti-life code language and how it invades our lives. In "One Person at a Time," he underscores that point with sobering vignettes about people who were either directly killed or put at risk because their "quality of life" did not measure up. "One Person at a Time" also relates many success stories in which the socially-devalued person finally gains a friend who can show unconditional love. Even the partial success story of Walter and Barry offers hope, because a human life that remains dismal is still a life of inestimable value. There are no "throw-away" people, and a

life beset with great suffering has a redemptive quality about it. As long as there is life, there is hope. With grace and passion, my friend Adam helps us to better understand this. Rev. Dennis J. Mercieri 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Accounts of Citizen Advocacy relationshipsBy Midwest Book ReviewCitizen advocacy is a community enterprise which arranges relationships between competent citizens and those socially devalued because of a physical or mental impairment, and Adam Hildebrand's One Person At A Time explores the benefits of this approach. Accounts of Citizen Advocacy relationships are told by advocates and describe the ups and downs of their experiences.

Citizen Advocacy is a community enterprise that arranges and supports relationships between valued, competent individual citizens and individuals who are socially disvalued in our culture, usually because of a mental or physical impairment. Citizen advocacy organizations bring a devalued person to the attention of a citizen who will respond to that person's interest and needs through a freely given relationship. A citizen advocate is not one thing but many things. She or he may help a child get into and stay in school, protect someone who lives in a nursing home, find someone a home or a job, go to court on someone's behalf, or simply befriend someone who needs a friend. Each advocate's role grows from the interests and needs of each specific person with a disability. The full length stories Adam Hildebrand has gathered in this book are accounts of Citizen Advocacy relationships as told by advocates. They describe the ups and downs of their relationships, revealing their uniqueness and diversity, as well as giving the reader a sound understanding of how these relationships develop. Hildebrand also includes a history of the Citizen Advocacy movement, a presentation of its principles, advice for practitioners, and a useful directory of resources for those interested in participating.

About the AuthorAdam (A.J.) Hildebrand was a founding member of One to One: Citizen Advocacy in Beaver, PA, where he worked for 16 years as Citizen Advocacy coordinator. He is the past editor of the Citizen Advocacy Forum, an international journal of the Citizen Advocacy movement. Mr. Hildebrand has been an associate of the Training Institute for Human Services Planning, Leadership, and Change Agency, and he has consulted with many Citizen Advocacy and other advocacy organizations throughout the United States, Australia and Canada. He is a doctoral candidate at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, where he is focusing on the heightened vulnerability of people with disabilities in health care settings. He is currently a consultant for Shriver Clinical Services in Massachusetts.