Recreational Activities for Persons with IDD

Presented by:
Catherine Rush, BS, MSM
Cuyahoga Co. Bd. of MR/DD and
AAIDD Ohio



What's available?

- ▲ Senior centers
- *Adult day centers*
- ▲ Park and recreation centers
- ▲ Specialized programs for persons with IDD
- **△** others?



Needs of the group

- ▲ Need for identity: who are we? Listen to me! My music, dance, creativity.
- ▲ Need for relevance: I'm important...
- ▲ Need for relationships: I want to have friends.
- ▲ Need for usefulness: contributing to my community and others



Ideas for implementation:

- **▲** Music
 - ▲ Music of the generations
 - ▲ Create their own dances (invitational) with queens, kings, contests, costuming
 - ▲ Dance lessons, line dances, dance and singing performances, karaoke
 - ▲ *Other ideas?*



More implementation ideas

- **▲** Creativity
 - ▲ Art: contests, decorate their space, sell projects, have are shows
 - ▲ Acting: use of drama directed by a volunteer or staff or participant, short musical, short dramas, creative movements together
 - ▲ Woodworking, needlepoint, and other creative outlets to make and keep or sell



Relationship building:

- ▲ Develop relationships with others via happy hour, social events (invitational or open), game day, invite guests
- ▲ Visit shut ins at nursing homes, hospitals, hospices, to share memories, stories, call shut ins.
- ▲ Writing to soldiers, inmates, adopt children from 3rd world countries.



Leisure

- Find out interests and involve them in developing daily/weekly calendar of events
- Activities: computers, video games, gym activities, walking contests, games, parties
- Learning activities: simple reading, computers, word recognition, history



Leisure

- ▲ Other creative options: sewing, stamping, origami, name special days (such as Dr. Seuss day, purple day)
- ▲ Technology: demonstrations from others about iPods, MP3's, printing from the computer, photography, Wii's
- ▲ Cooking: classes, make a meal, learn basics



Usefulness

- ▲ Provide tasks that will benefit others such as stuffing envelopes, deliver flowers
- ▲ Volunteer assistance to other community service providers (Adult care ctrs.,etc.)
- ▲ Serve snacks for others (hospice, etc.)
- ▲ Clean wheelchairs, walkers, food drive for hunger centers.

Successful implementation

- ▲ Program will need to start with a bang to get people interested
- Leader will need to be dynamic and very creative and energetic
- ▲ Varied schedule of activities need to be provided
- *▲ Have an EXTREME open house*



Finally!!!

- *▲Name a club contest*
 - ► If I had my own club, what would it look like?
 - ▲ What would I do?
 - ▲ What would I call it?
 - ► How would I make it happen?

 GOOD LUCK!!!

