

Challenges Facing the Field of Disabilities Part II

Rud and Ann Turnbull

Ann: We really want to listen to families, listen to teachers, listen to policy makers, and get the real essence of what the challenge is and then work in partnership with people to create solutions and then to export those out. While we listen, we want to make sure that we hear voices from underserved communities.

Rud: If you want to really know who the most challenged people in America are? They are families that are un-served and underserved and have disabilities. Somehow or other, bit by bit, working with many, many families, and many people, changing un-served to underserved would be important for us, and then changing underserved to well-served would be even more important. If we can have a little part to play in that movement, I think that our work will have been worthwhile.

Ann: I'll say, what you really mean, I mean some people, the words underserved and un-served often are covers.

Rud: They are covers for racial differences, ethnic differences, linguistic differences, and cultural differences, differences depending on whether you were born in the United States, whether you came here, whether you came here and naturalized, whether you came here and are simply here. This is a great huge country and if we can't accommodate all of us, then we are not nearly what we can be, to be the best we can be we have to service all.

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