Our strength is not in the political influence that money can buy. Our strength is in knowledge & numbers.

Our knowledge comes from our relationships with people that society still tends to see as powerless & unable to contribute. We know better because we have care-filled, thoughtful connections with people through everyday activities. What we know grows as we share more of our lives & take time to reflect on the lessons we are learning with people.

The power of our numbers shows when we rally for what we know is right.

People feel hope &

are willing to share

their desires &

dreams with us & feel

able to move with us

toward their dreams

Together, we have the satisfaction of participating in a process: no support > planning & organizing support > finding opportunities > growth (sometimes > being able to step back)

The odds begin to shift in people's favor (slowly)

Love, appreciation, & learning grow between us

People move into new relationships, as an active part of community life.

People begin to make more sound decisions for themselves...

We see capacities in people that are hidden to them: they see capacities in us hidden to us

We need to not only know where our legislators stand on issues like nursing homes, we need to get to know them when they are at home in our communities so we can educate them.

As we learn more about

what works & what doesn't

work for people, our

responsibility to be strong

advocates grows.

In our advocacy, as in any interactions with the community, we need to role model a positive attitude & insist on respect for the dignity of those we support.

People trust us: they can count on us & we can

Together we can witness

the source of our faith.

count more on them.

People say, "I know you won't give up on me."

## When we provide inspired & inspiring support

- We work from a place of caring & creativity
- We are clear about our obligations & live up to them.
- We feel family bonds among our co-workers & with those we support
- We are able to take initiative: do what needs to be done without waiting for orders.
- We have clear & continual communication
- We make decisions as a team & work as a unit
- We encourage, support, & challenge each other

**Louisiana Supported Living Network** 

17 September 2007

We can work together for political, organizational, & personal change

We need to make even stronger alliances with families & with other community organizations that work for justice.

Fair wages, learning opportunities & benefits for DSPs

An active part in reshaping the way case management & billing. functions are performed

Freeing people from segregation in institutions, nursing homes, group homes

\*ACS should find new ways to minimize recording errors

## We will grow even better as we keep improving by...

- ...making stronger, more positive relationships with people's families
- ...raising our expectations by learning more about what helps people grow & develop
- ...making our teams even stronger
- ...finding a balance between our commitment to the people we support & our own families.
- ...listening better & better with more open hearts & minds
- ...supporting people to tell their own stories & speak for themselves
- ... getting even more training