

What We Believe

The following Core Values and Guiding Principles were developed and adopted by LIFE's Board of Directors. LIFE Mower County embraces these values and principles and embodies them in our work and lives.

Core Values

People First. LIFE believes that all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are defined by their own strengths, abilities and inherent value, not by their disability.

Equity. LIFE believes that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are entitled to the respect, dignity, equality, safety, and security accorded to other members of society, and are equal before the law.

Community. LIFE believes that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities belong in the community and have fundamental moral, civil and constitutional rights to be fully included and actively participate in all aspects of society.

Self-determination. LIFE believes in self-determination and self-advocacy. People with intellectual and developmental disabilities, with appropriate resources and supports, can make decisions about their own lives and must be heard on issues that affect their well-being.

Diversity. LIFE believes that society in general and LIFE in particular benefit from the contributions of people with diverse personal characteristics (including but not limited to race, ethnicity, religion, age, geographic location, sexual orientation, gender and type of disability).

Guiding Principles

Participatory Democracy. LIFE acts to ensure that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their parents, siblings, family members and other concerned members of the public have meaningful opportunities to inform and guide the direction of the organization's advocacy, including determining policy and positions on important issues. LIFE strives for diversity in its leadership, as well as in all facets of the work of the organization.

Collaboration. LIFE works with individuals, organizations and coalitions in a collaborative fashion. LIFE values and promotes effective partnerships between volunteer and staff leadership at all levels of the organization.

Transparency, Integrity and Excellence. LIFE conducts its business with integrity, accountability, and open, honest and timely communication. LIFE is committed to quality and excellence in all its does.

Our Promise

The following statements were developed by LIFE Mower County to articulate how we choose to work within the organization as well as in the community.

As advocates for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities,

- We base our interactions, whether internal or external, on LIFE's Core Values and Guiding Principles.
- We are responsive and honor our commitments to the people we serve, to one another, and to ourselves.
- We respect individuals and families wherever they are on their journey and meet them there.
- We begin all relationships from a position of trust, and make every effort to see all sides of any situation.
- We listen with both open hearts and minds.
- We communicate honestly, tactfully and with respect, always.
- We use our resources effectively and efficiently to best serve our community.
- We provide people with factual, unbiased information to enable them to make informed choices.
- We provide and gratefully accept constructive feedback given in the spirit of moving the mission forward.
- We strive to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes, as we value maintaining long-term, systemic relationships with our community and the people we serve.
- We commit to being informed on issues concerning and resources for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

Mission Statement:

Founded in 1952, Our mission is to expand opportunities, empower people, and enrich lives for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families by providing a better quality of life through Learning, Inclusion, Fun and Empowerment.