



Illinois Association of Microboards and Cooperatives

"Empowering Quality Lives"

Microboards in Action: Heroes of the Game, Inc.

People with disabilities are often forced to live in places that are not of their choosing and or participate in "group programs" where they are likely to lose access to individual attention and choices.

People who do not have a good network of support are seldom empowered to advocate for simple every day choices many of us take for granted.

Microboards, developed some 20 years ago, are a way to strengthen people who are vulnerable.

Microboards are, quite simply, a way to build community around an individual who is vulnerable (such as a person who has a disability, mental illness or is elderly) Through the development of a board of directors who becomes incorporated there is a group who meets regularly to work on ways to create or nurture natural supports and /or ensure quality paid supports for the focus person.

Quinn's microboard, Heroes of the Game, Inc. is made up of people from various backgrounds with amazing gifts and talents who come together to enhance and create opportunities to enrich Quinn's life.

Heroes of the Game, Inc. has been in existence for less than a year.

Below are some highlights of the benefits:

- A facebook profile was created and Quinn has been able to connect with many people in a positive way
- People on the board get regular updates on Quinn's life and are part of his celebrations and find solutions to challenges. Quinn spends time with people on his microboard outside of those meetings
- People have visited our board meetings and have learned about healthy, positive and possible ways to support people who face challenges
- Quinn has had many more opportunities to try new things, including giving back to his community and share them with the board
- Quinn BELONGS to a group that believes in him and are grateful for the opportunity to know him
- A fund is being developed to prepare for Quinn's future. Members and allies of Heroes of the Game, Inc. participated in a PATH (Planning Alternative Tomorrows with Hope) and are working toward the dreams for Quinn ~that he will have the freedom to choose where he would want to live, who he would want to live with, and how he would give back to the community.

submitted by Wendy Partridge