

# NORTHERN SUBURBAN SPECIAL RECREATION ASSOCIATION

## Values Statements

The Board of Directors, in July, 2002, adopted the following Values Statements to guide us in implementing the Mission of NSSRA. These statements were the result of work by NSSRA staff and the Program Advisory Committee. The Values Statements are considered to be our beliefs. These Values Statements reflect the beliefs of NSSRA and therefore, by extension, the partner agencies.

The first portion of the Values Statement exercise was a discussion about Philosophy. But what is a philosophy?

### The American Heritage Dictionary says...

“A basic theory, viewpoint; **the system of values by which one lives**; the critique and analysis of fundamental beliefs as they come to be conceptualized and formulated.”

**Because beliefs govern our actions**, a philosophy, *or a system of values*, guides how the mission of NSSRA is implemented by the staff. This discussion led NSSRA staff and the Program Advisory Committee to embark on a joint effort to articulate “value statements” that reflect our views.

These statements will guide NSSRA staff in implementing the NSSRA Mission. These statements can also make the public aware of the benefits of recreation and therapeutic recreation that are available through NSSRA and the partner communities. The statements below are a consensus of the staff and the Program Advisory Committee.

Within our Mission and resources, NSSRA:

1. Believes that **every person with a disability is unique** and has value, preferences, and leisure interests that are unique.
2. Believes that to best serve each individual requires an **assessment of leisure skills and interests**, physical and cognitive ability, family circumstance, communication ability, and demeanor.
3. Believes that a **choice of recreation opportunities** shall be provided for persons with disabilities.
4. Believes that recreation opportunities shall be provided in settings that are inclusive and in settings that are specifically designed for people with disabilities, and **that each participant has a choice of these settings**.
5. Believes that **differences** in our participants and the communities we serve **should be welcomed and celebrated** to promote the acceptance of diversity and disability in our communities.
6. Believes that it is critical that we **support the needs of our registrants and their families**, providing information and resources about services for those individuals.
7. Believes that the **benefits of our programs** include developing the individual’s personal growth, including social skills, positive peer relationships, self esteem, friendships, and emotional stability.
8. Believes that the **benefits of our programs** include developing better physical health, acquiring life-long leisure skills, and improving the quality of life.

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9. Believes that the **benefits of our programs** include respite and a better quality of life for the families of those who use our programs.
10. Believes that recreation programs shall be provided in **safe and enjoyable environments**.
11. Believes that involvement in our programs allows people with disabilities **greater independence in life choices**.
12. Believes that more and better services, and less duplication of service, results when we **collaborate with other agencies** that serve people with disabilities, such as schools, nonprofits, residential facilities, and treatment agencies.

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