



i m a g i n e

About David Pitonyak

David Pitonyak is interested in positive approaches to difficult behaviors. He believes that difficult behaviors are "messages" which can tell us important things about a person and his or her surroundings. Understanding the "meaning" of an individual's difficult behaviors is the first step in supporting the person (and the person's supporters) to change.

David also believes (to paraphrase Jean Clark), that a "person's needs are best met by people whose needs are met." Supporting a person with difficult behaviors begins with an honest assessment of the needs of the person's supporters. Creating more responsive human services is possible only when we take responsibility for problems of the workplace culture. A healthy organization is an organization that invites all of its members to take an active role in decision-making, provides support to each member *as defined by the member*, and evaluates its success by the degree to which it lives up to its promises.

David has consulted with families and professionals throughout the United States, Canada, England, the Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland and the Netherlands. He is the recipient of the 2005 Positive Approaches Award from The Association for Persons with Severe Handicaps (TASH).

In 2001, David was presented with the Outstanding Professional Award by the Autism Society of America, Greater Roanoke Valley Chapter. David lives in Blacksburg, Virginia with his wife Cyndi and two sons, Joe and Sam.

Audio-Visual Needs

If available, an LCD projector (if not, an overhead projector), screen, , large pieces of paper, masking tape, felt pens (or a blackboard), and, if you are expecting over 50 people, a lavalier microphone (a microphone that can be worn as a necklace or attached to a shirt or tie).

For More Information

For additional information, write David Pitonyak, Imagine, 3694 Mt. Tabor Road, Blacksburg, Virginia 24060 or call (540-552-5629) or fax (540-552-1734) or E-Mail: Dimagine@aol.com. You can also visit the web site: www.dimagine.com.
