

Second Café to Go held in Branford

On February 21, 2013 the second of two Café To Go's was held at the Branford Holiday Inn Express. The Cafe To Go is what is known as a World Cafe. The World Cafe is a means of creating conversations that matter by creating a relaxed atmosphere where participants discuss important questions. By having real and meaningful conversations participants develop solutions to key issues. This Café was also the result of collaboration between the DDS South Region Regional Advisory Council (RAC), Family Support Network (FSN) and DDS staff.

Approximately 26 individuals and family members participated. There was lively conversation about the creation of greater independence for individuals that would eventually lead to living within their communities more independently with natural and some existing community supports, as well as more intensive collaboration about networking to obtain additional supports. This was also an opportunity for families to hear about successful housing situations that were developed by families and individuals, and to creatively reflect on their own family situation.

The Branford Holiday Inn Express generously allowed us the use of one of their conference rooms as part of their community outreach program. Their outreach and service that night was excellent.

Thank you Lauren Kras and your staff for your outstanding hospitality. We look forward to working with Lauren and her expert staff as we plan for the next Café to Go in the New Haven area.

If you missed out on one of the Café's To Go's, don't worry, we will be having two more in October 2013, so look for the announcement on our website. Also, DDS North Region is having a similar event on May 16, 2013 at the Art Connection in Hartford.

After the Café To Go, families expressed an interest in getting together on a regular basis and brainstorming about housing and planning for their child, including their adult children, in helping them follow avenues that will lead towards greater independence. There is one group that meets at 6:00 p.m. on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at William Seely School in Groton, CT. If you are interested in attending one of their get togethers, you may contact either April Dipollina at adipollina@lmhosp.org or Diane Martin at dianemartin1105@sbcglobal.net.

We have a second group forming in the New Haven area, if you are interested please contact Deb Pagano at dpagano@ctfsn.org.

Café To Go...going strong!



