

L  *V-Dane*
Living Our Visions

“Doing together what we can’t do alone”

LOV-Dane is a group of Individuals with disabilities, their families, friends and allies committed to creating community centered lives full of family, friends and choices.

How can we find the “good life” for our adults with disabilities? They want to be valued members of our community with employment, recreation and meaningful relationships. As family members, we have been feeling isolated in pursuit of this vision- so began LOV- Dane. One year ago a group of families from across Dane County began meeting to share our common issues and think about what we could do collectively. Mike Green, an expert in Asset Based Community Development, has supported us to develop a strong sense of community through focused relationship building.

It sounds so simple, building relationships—yet learning to intentionally have conversations that share deeper meaning has opened new doors for us. Deliberate relationship building has been a powerful tool to determine what we want, are motivated to work on and willing to share with others.

LOV- Dane is committed to supporting adults with disabilities to have fulfilling, community based lives full of family, friends and choices. To reach our goal, we are developing a county wide family network to work on common priorities such as moving out and building community connections. This larger circle gathers monthly to share fellowship, hope, wisdom and to take action.

Our first large action was to partner with local cooperative experts to explore how cooperative structures might benefit individuals with disabilities and their families. This group secured funding through a state wide grant to develop three learning events to explore how cooperative models could be beneficial. This July LOV-Dane hosted a conference entitled “Dream, Create, Cooperate” where more than sixty people came together to envision the possibilities. In keeping to LOV’s relational focus and belief that together we are better, the conference used open space technology including world café format and group development of breakout sessions. It was a great success and has spawned an action team to deepen the exploration of cooperatives as one way to create the good life for our loved ones.

To learn more about LOV-Dane and how you can be involved, contact us!

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