



# Transition to Adulthood

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## A Parent Perspective

Ray Connor

Illinois Individual Care Grant Parents Group

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# A Proud Parent

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Shane, 19



Nick, 15



# What Do They Need?

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- To be like everyone else
- Acceptance and respect
- Education – to be the best they can be
- A job
- Recreation and social activities
- Friends, friends, friends
- Independence
- A place to live



## Also Consider

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- Driving!!!
- Guardianship
- Disability – SSI, Medicaid...
- Maintain high expectations, consistent with ability, they'll surprise
- Wills, Trusts, Successor caretakers



# Where to Get Help?

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- Schools – first and foremost
- Rehabilitative Services
- (Special) Recreation Agencies
- Mental Health agency for case management (WRAP), social skills, support services and treatment
- Parent groups



# When?

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- As early as possible
- Transition goals in the IEP by age 16 at the latest
- Academic or vocational decision early
- Recreation (socialization) from childhood
- Job training and coaching in school and Rehabilitative Services by senior year
- Case management from onset.



# Remember the Parents

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- Helping a youth transition to adulthood requires dedication and commitment
- Even in adulthood these youth can continue to require extensive support
- As Kim Peek, 55, the real-life Rain Man, said, “Dad and I share the same shadow”