

WHAT IS PEOPLE FIRST?

We are people with developmental disabilities joining together to learn how to speak for ourselves. We live in institutions, foster homes, our parent's homes, group homes, and our own homes. We go to school or to work at workshops or at community businesses.

We want people to know that we are people FIRST, and our disabilities come second.....

ABILITIES NOT
DISABILITIES!



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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**PEOPLE
FIRST
OF
ASHTABULA
COUNTY**

WHY YOU SHOULD JOIN ASHTABULA COUNTY PEOPLE FIRST

1. To meet other individuals
2. To learn about the stuff we talk about
3. To let your voice be heard



MISSION STATEMENT

We believe that all people with disabilities should be treated as equal and be able to speak up for what they want by serving as leaders and working together as a team with all members of the community.

People First of Ashtabula County recognizes that people with developmental disabilities are people first. Our purpose is to promote self-advocacy by speaking and acting on behalf of the rights and responsibilities of all persons with developmental disabilities .

SELF ADVOCACY MEANS

- **Feeling strong**
- **Feeling good about ourselves**
- **Respecting others rights, speaking out for our own; showing respect not disrespect**
- **Making our own decisions about where to live and work**
- **Taking chances. Learning from our mistakes**
- **Getting all of the information**
- **Deciding what we want to do**
- **Finding out *what* and *who* will support us in doing what we want to do**
- **Knowing our rights and responsibilities**
- **Problem solving when things go wrong**
- **Taking charge and speaking out on our own behalf**