

CT REAL CHOICE FACT SHEET October 2006

Resources

A Media Guide to Disability

Produced by the Connecticut Council on Developmental Disabilities available online at: www.ct.gov/ctcdd/

MEDIA PORTRAYAL OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES



Why Is this Important?

- Perceptions are often based on media portrayals
- Architectural, occupational, educational, and communication barriers limit interaction between people with disabilities and people without disabilities
- Participants at recent regional forums on community inclusion identified this as being a major barrier to community inclusion

What are the Issues?

- Stories often use medical or inspirational themes
- Common depictions include: the superhero, the pitiful, the victim, or the vulnerable
- Disability is not portrayed as a normal part of everyday life, despite the fact that one in five people has a disability
- Misconceptions are reinforced, such as the belief that people with disabilities are different from people without disabilities

How can the Press Help?

- Use people with disabilities as sources
- Write more positive stories about people with disabilities to break down stereotypes and prejudices
- Do not deny the presence of a disability; provide accurate coverage using people first language
- Read one of the numerous free resources, such as *A Media Guide to Disability*



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