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The TI has studied issues related to human services more thoroughly and completely than any other entity of which I am aware. The concepts of SRV stand the test of time. They do not change with the latest “new idea” that comes along but can be used to “test” the latest new idea to determine its potential impact for people who are societally devalued. The information I learned through TI designed trainings early on (Normalization/PASS/SRV/PASSING) provided a framework for how I would try to raise my daughter and the design of the services I would seek for her. Later, learning of the treatment of people with disabilities under the Nazi regime was a profound shock from which I have never recovered. I didn’t learn that in history class! It has influenced my interest in sanctity of life issues and has taught me to be aware of issues today (physician assisted suicide, euthanasia) that are dangerous for people with disabilities as well as others who are devalued.

Meeting Dr. Wolfensberger for the first time at a Moral Coherency workshop in Syracuse. I was scared to death and you drug me to the front of the room to introduce him to me. I didn’t want to speak in front of him because I was certain he could look directly into my eyes and see just how ignorant I was. Then he sat at the same table as me for lunch one day and while telling a story, he laughed. I hadn’t expected someone who thought so deeply and taught about such serious topics to laugh. It was delightful to hear and also caused me to realize he really was human. I also remember getting to visit the TI offices one time and seeing the area where tidbits of information from each state was kept. I don’t have any idea now what was in the WV pile. I was making copies for Susan. I had worked in offices my entire adult life, but received explicit instructions on exactly how to make copies on this machine that would have made one think I was learning to operate a nuclear reactor.