

CAMPHILL VALUES – a work in progress

Introduction

This is an attempt to put down on paper a clear set of value statements that we believe can be accepted as shared values for Camphill Communities. It has been put together following a wide consultation through the Member Communities of the AoCC. It is not intended to be a prescriptive document, but rather a useful guide or starting point to help people who might be new to Camphill.

Camphill Values

We value the uniqueness of each individual

We are committed to uphold the human dignity of each individual – most especially when this dignity is in danger of not being acknowledged. Our life together in community and the work that we do together is inspired by an understanding of Anthroposophy - the insights of Rudolf Steiner - as it relates to the world today and is enriched by the work of Karl Konig and others, who founded the Camphill Movement.

We believe that each of us is a human being and also a spiritual being - and that each of us is on our own journey of inner development.

We know that people do their best when they live and work together in service to a higher aim.

For us in Camphill that aim is to create communities in which people with and without disabilities can live, work, learn and celebrate together. We value being part of a welcoming community where strong relationships can be developed based on trust, respect and positive regard. A community dedicated to the care and spiritual wellbeing of us all; celebrating differences and nurturing creativity.

Through conscious effort, through self-reflection and through being open to the reflection from others, we strive to improve ourselves so that we are better able to help others. We try and overcome personal antipathies and interpersonal difficulties for the sake of the greater good.

We value meaningful work and the experience of lifelong learning

We endow our life and work with significance - everything we do deserves our attention and care. We care for our houses, the land, everything that is a part of the life of the community where we live and work. We do our work out of a sense of love and devotion – as a deed to others and to the community of which we are part.

We value the opportunities that meaningful work provides in giving purpose and direction in our lives. An enhanced sense of wellbeing and greater self-confidence are experienced in the value others see in our contributions.

We strive to ensure that our Communities are places of learning, where each person, no matter what their age, can avail of educational, social, cultural, artistic and therapeutic opportunities and experiences that will enhance their knowledge of the world around them and of their own experience of themselves.

We value striving to achieve high personal and organisational standards of professional conduct and practice in everyday work. At the heart of our professional approach is taking ownership and initiative, being accountable for our actions, and building trust and teamwork.

We value shared lives in community

We value the opportunities we have to share in meaningful life activities, which enable everyone to contribute in co-creating our harmonious homes workplaces and places of learning. Our community wellbeing and that of each individual stems from these endeavours.

We each play a part in the shared life of our communities. We each make a contribution in our own way - through our work and through our gifts. We do the best that we can for others and for the community that we are a part of – and in return we benefit from the work and efforts of the others.

We value and care for the land and the wider environment that surrounds us

We want to contribute to the wider society of which we are a part and to be a force for good in the world.

We recognise our responsibility to the environment that surrounds and recognise that we must live within our means from both an ecological and economic perspective. We seek to respect the land that we have and to look after it in ways that are ecologically sustainable.

We actively promote a sense of common cause and collaboration with other Camphill communities in our own country and around the world.

We recognise that things are changing - society is changing; our organisational structures are changing and people's needs and wishes are changing. As a result the sense of community also changes – it grows stronger and weaker at different times and in different places.

Yet, through all these changes, we are committed to living and working together in ways that can make the values of Camphill manifest in our own life, in the Camphill communities in which we live and work and in society.

Dave Mitchell

Chair of the Association of Camphill Communities

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