

Being Part of the Community

HOW TO DO IT

SKILL: Community Mapping

What it does

Community mapping gives a graphic representation of what is happening in the community - places and people. It is a way to learn about the possible associations in your community.

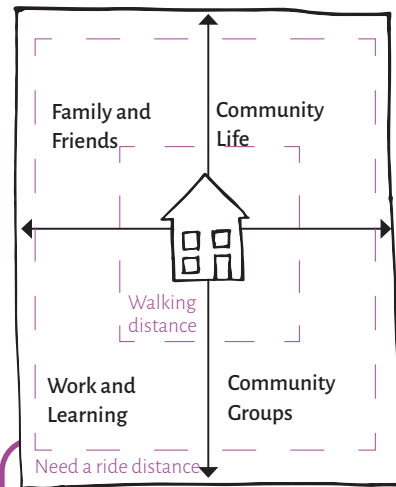
How it helps

It helps to discover what is unique about the community and common gathering places. It finds out what people do for fun, where people feel valued and welcomed. It identifies the various organizations and networks in your local community. It matches the person's interests, gifts and skills with what is present in the community.

How to use it

Invite people to create a map that includes significant places and people. Gather information by talking to others, checking out newspapers, newsletters, and the internet. Ask:

- What places don't require transportation?
- What places do require transportation?
- What are the major streets for shopping and entertainment?
- What are the public places (community centers) where people go?
- Where is the center of the community?
- What are favorite places to shop?
- What is unique to your community?
- Where are the informal places that people hang out?
- Who are helpful people and where can they be found?



New to a community? Check with your Chamber of Commerce, Welcome Wagon, or Parks and Recreation. Find a local resource person to help you build your map.

The template shown here looks at opportunities to build community connections and sorts them by those that do and do not require transportation.

Additionally, the template encourages you to look at different aspects of community life:

- Family and Friends,
- Community Life,
- Work and learning opportunities, and
- Community Groups.

Your map should focus on what is important to the individual you are supporting in addition to providing them with new opportunities to try.

Supporting people in becoming valued members of their community requires that we develop an understanding of where opportunities exist in the local community to build connections. There are many ways to develop community maps.

- You can pin flags to a paper map
- Use Google Maps or Google Earth to build custom map overlays.
- Choose a style of mapping and give it a try.

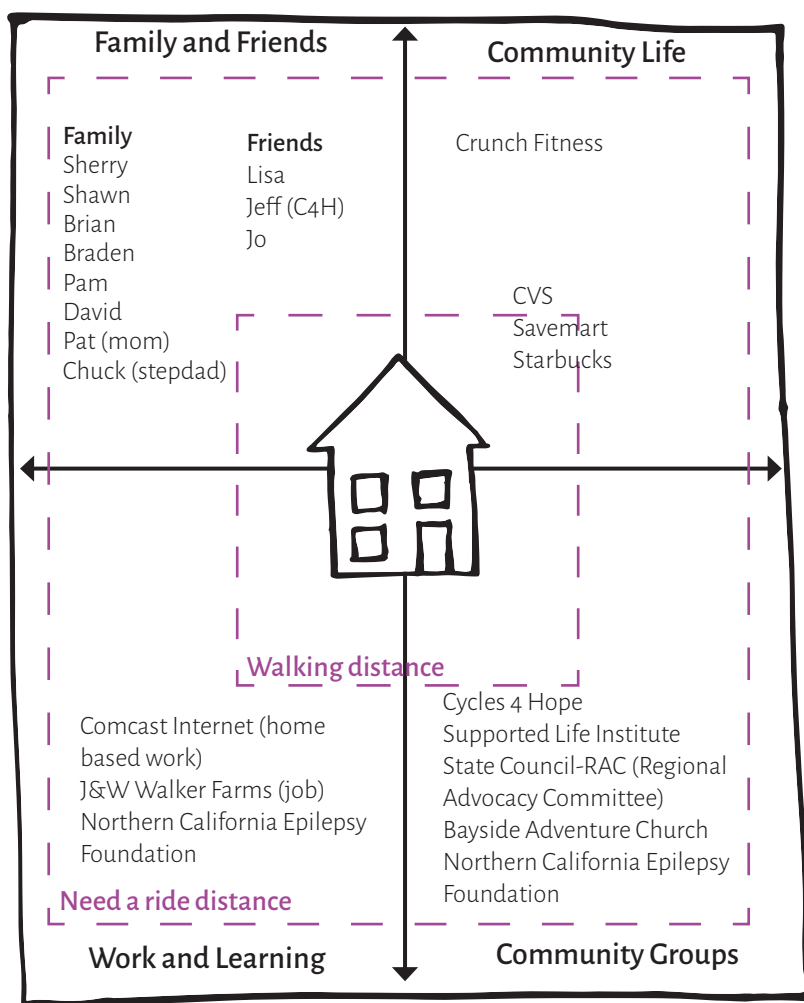
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SHARING
STORIES

Tyler

Tyler's support staff worked on helping him achieve what is important to him in becoming a valued member of his community. They created a map of his community which captured people and places important to him. The map identifies places he can walk to and places that require transportation.



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