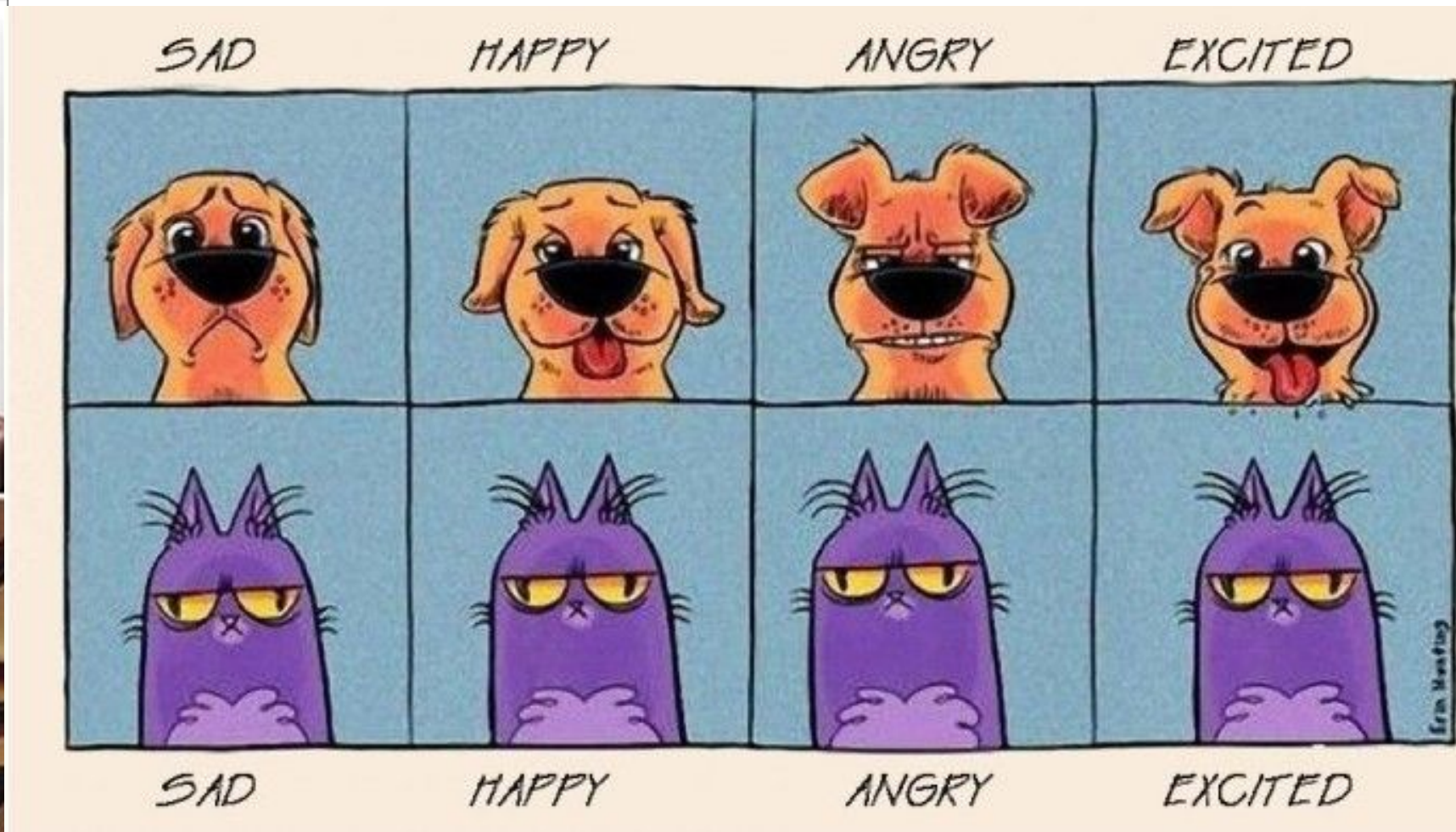




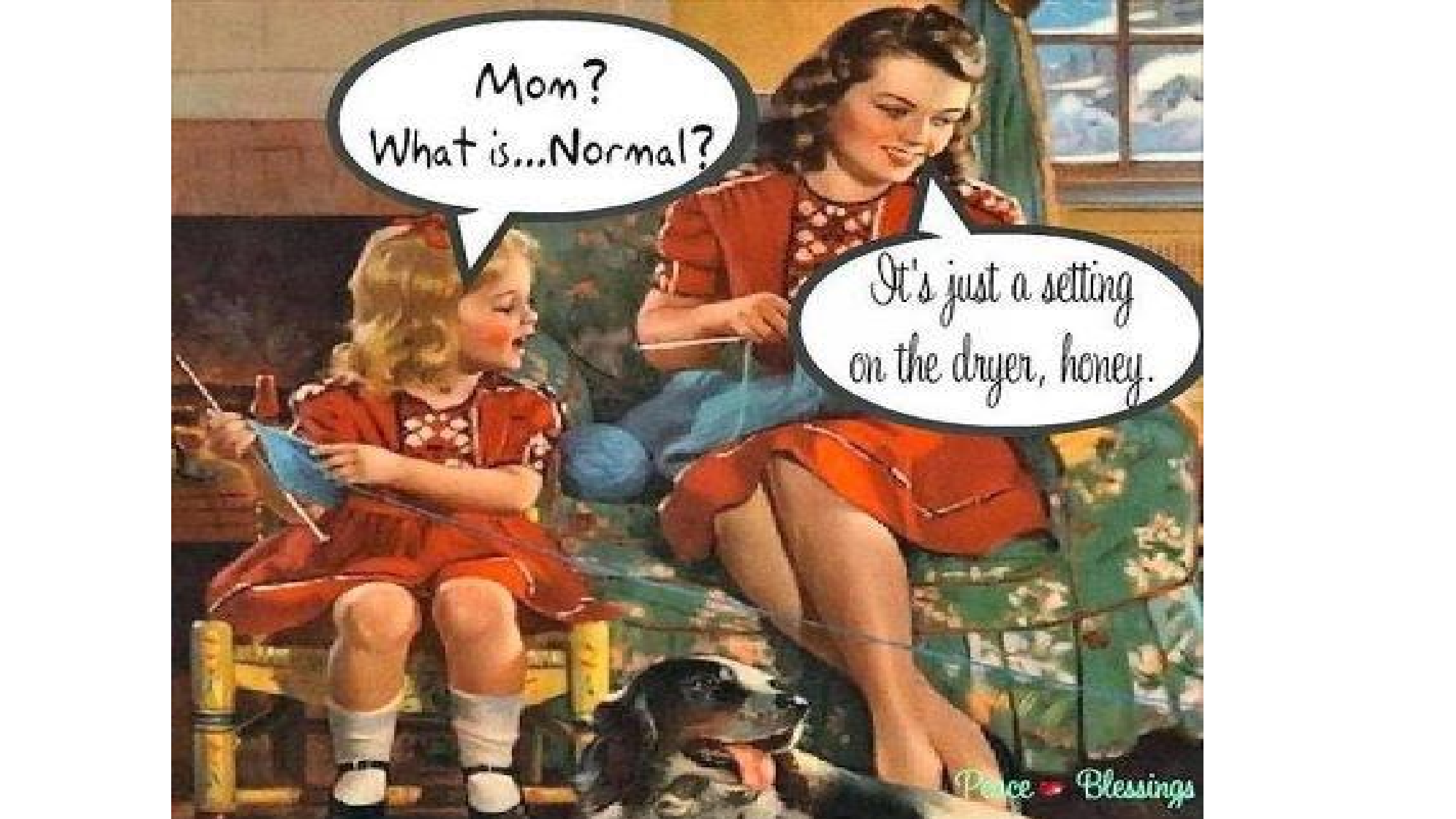
**THEY ARE WHO THEY ARE
THEY ARE NOT BROKEN**



A DOG IS NOT A CAT



They are not Broken ... They are who they are!



Mom?
What is...Normal?

It's just a setting
on the dryer, honey.

WHAT IS NORMAL? The factors describe a New Normal

- To constrain normality is to induce [conformity](#). To expand diagnosis is to induce anxiety. Is anyone really well?
- The deaf, anorexics, people with Asperger's syndrome—groups whose members might otherwise be considered impaired or deviant—have made vigorous claims to represent "the new normal."
- Where once people pursued normality through efforts at self-reform, now they proudly redraw the map to include themselves. In this context, diagnostic labels confer inclusion in a community. Today, an emotional or behavioral state can be understood both as a disorder and a unique perspective.

(Peter Kramer, *Psychology Today* reviewed June 2016)

WHO ARE THEY? EX: Jason Moss

What Jason Likes

- His Dogs
- Talking, talking, telling, telling
- His music and movies, CDs, tapes, DVDs
- Most things mechanical, electrical, or plumbed
- His room and garage and yard
- Activities of his choice in the community
- Helping around the house
- Visiting with people who do mechanical things
- Favorite TV programs
- Going out to eat
- Garage sales, flea markets, junk hunting for mechanical things to take apart, re-invent



What Is Not Helpful

- ⇒ Having to rush
- ⇒ Any thing too early in the morning because of sleep seizures
- ⇒ Not being on time, changing activities without warning, ignoring schedules, changes in routine
- ⇒ Surprises, startling noises, being touched or too close

What Helps Jason

Be Successful



- Verbal, visual and physical orienting for all his activities
- Getting his Meds on time
- On time and in order expected
- Giving him personal space
- Acknowledging his involuntary sensory overloads
- Understanding his balance, visual perception is poor
- Reading his cues regarding self-control and stress
- Having a sense of humor and light heartedness
- Acknowledging environmental issues which trip him up
- Allowing him to make choices and learn if they were good or not
- Showing patience as a model for Jason to have patience
- Consider the risks for Jason

All About Jason Moss



Jason is 33 years old, lives at home with his mom, he calls her "Jan Moss". He is loved by his family and close friends. They think he is fun and funny. He knows what he likes: boundaries, rules, order of things, time, place, day, and requires lots of orientation to be comfortable. He gets agitated when things are out of sync, order, hates surprises.

He can state his preferences and might bite himself or bang his head if they are ignored. He requires a lot of privacy and personal space to be happy and calm.

All About Jason

He Is
Who
He Is



s dogs

Jason loves his dogs and they love him. His dogs calm him and give him comfort, they are essential for his happiness and life satisfaction. He prefers dogs to most people!



Jason uses his sense of humor to cope but sometimes doesn't know when others are teasing and requires a verbal prompts and assurances. He will ask, "is this a joke, are you kidding, I hope you are kidding!" He uses his sense of humor to defuse uncomfortable situations, and loves to watch Funniest Home Videos.

Jason Has Life Experiences

Jason likes to be in the company of men. He misses the companionship he had with his father who passed away suddenly on Fathers Day when Jason was 21.

Jason and his dad worked with tools together, rode the motorcycle side-car together and did odd jobs and home maintenance for his Grandmother and Grandfather, who are now deceased. Jason worries about loss of loved ones. He frequently asks, "*What would we be doing today if my dad were alive?*" then answers himself, "*not girl stuff, not boring stuff.*"

Jason requires many verbal assurances about his family and loved ones. He likes to talk about his dad and their fun times.



Jason has experienced many health issues: heart surgery, hernia and eye surgery, many oral surgeries, gall bladder removal. He has much stomach distress and will tell you, "I was born with a bad stomach, yes I was, bad stomach. Gotta know where to go, yes I do, seriously".

Seizures are a worry for Jason.



Jason has many seizure experiences and is learning to communicate their onset, and severity. He has auras sometimes. He is on several medications to control his seizure activity.

Jason Likes to Work on Things



Jason prepares to dismantle a fan he purchased at the Thrift Store



He loves tools, has many of his own, slept with them as a baby.

Jason likes to be busy using tools, likes to touch them and use them and requires verbal prompts to keep them in order and care for them. He likes to go places and look at tools and learns much about tools from his excursions to Lowes, Home Depot, Ace Hardware, Habitat.

Sweet dreams are made of this



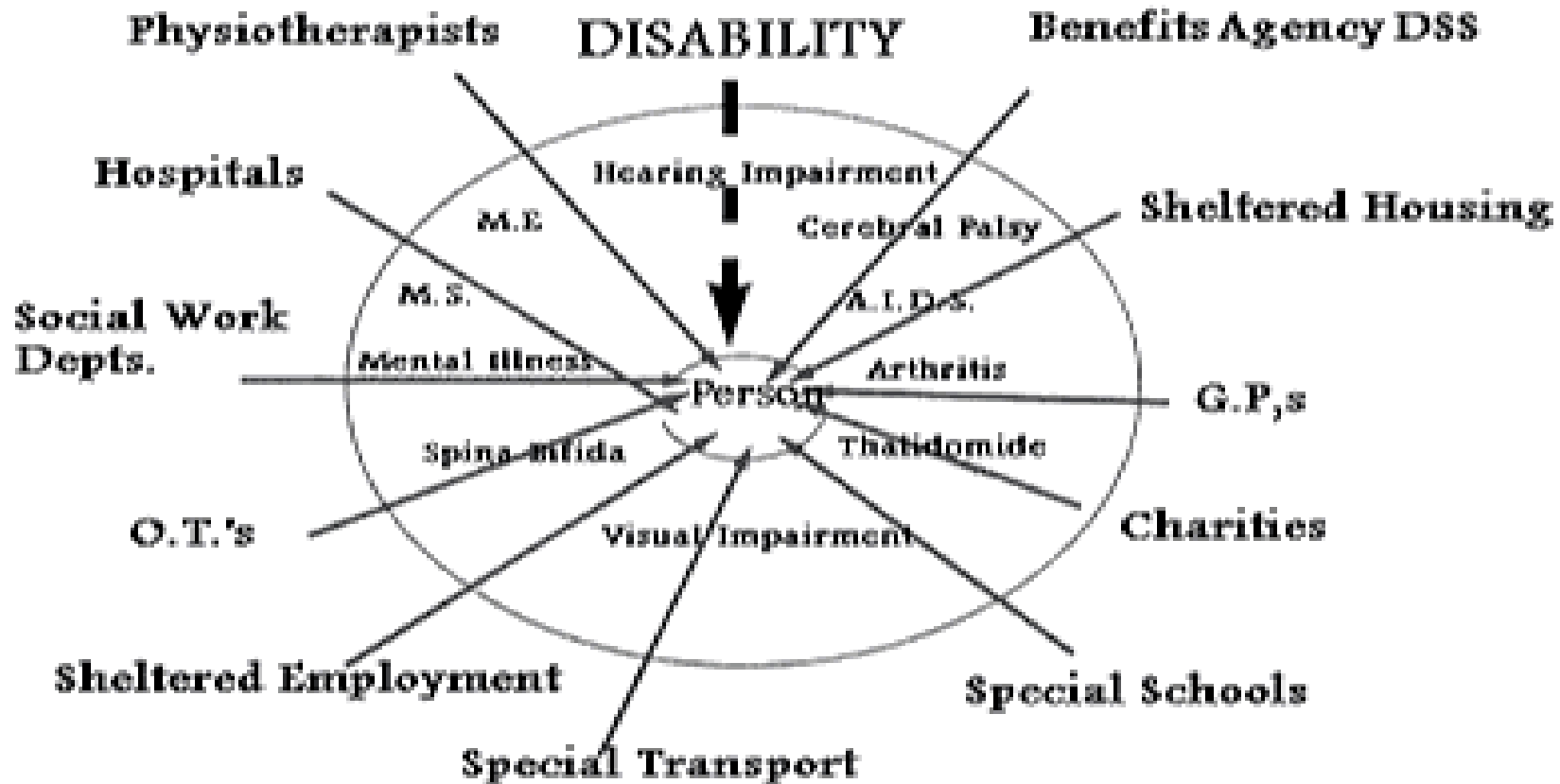


**A Good Life
Who Decides**
Jennifer and Mike
met 4 years ago,
they have been
inseparable ever
since!

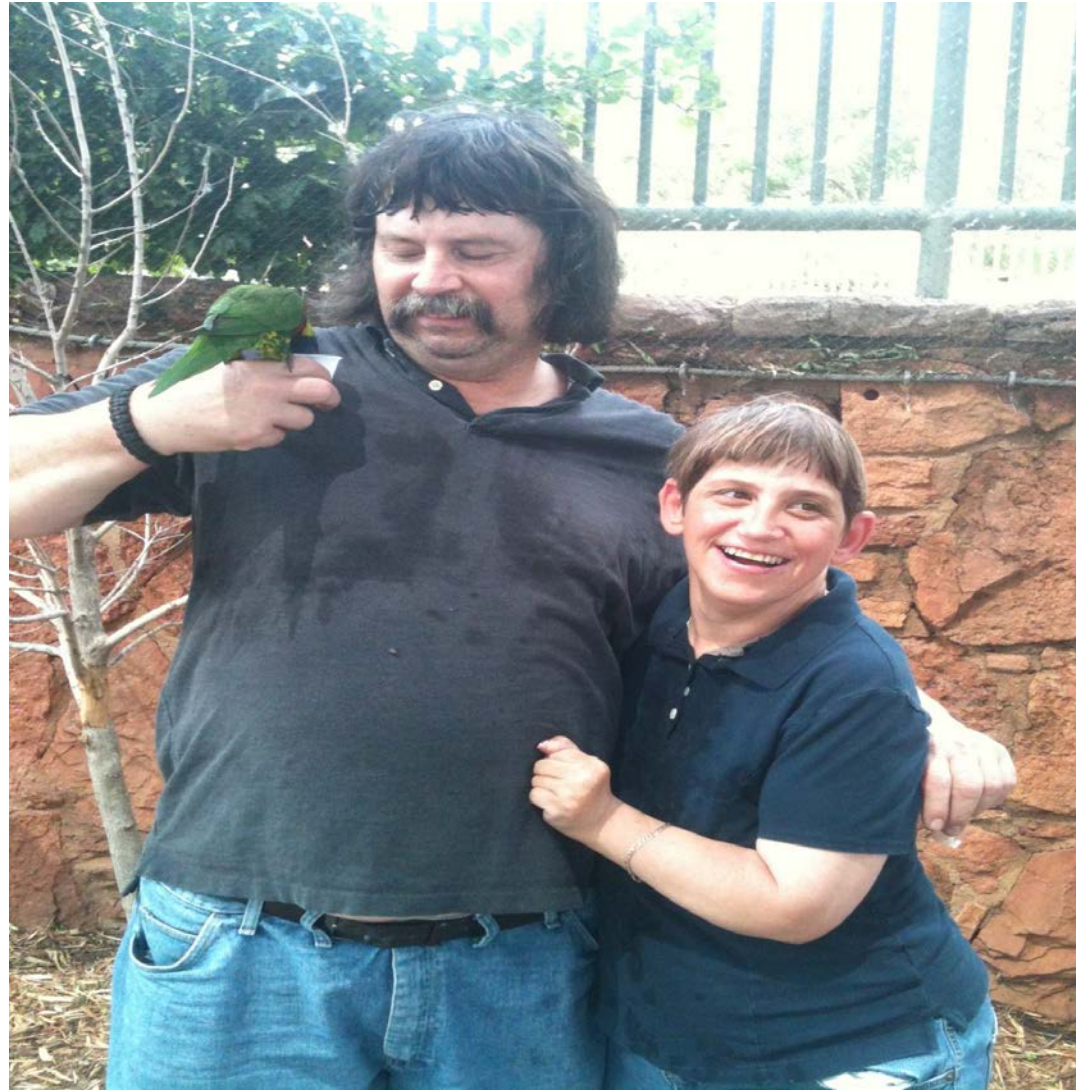


Who am I to disagree?

MEDICAL MODEL



I travel the world and the seven seas
Everybody's looking for something



THE RIGHT TO FAIL



????????????????????????????????

Who has lost your keys, purse, ID, money

Who has lost a job

Who has had a failed relationship

Who has had car trouble or fender bender

Who has made a financial mistake

How many chances do you get and give?

How many redirects is too many?

If it isn't working, why do you keep doing it?

Who calls "failure" you or school, agency, system,
based on what?

If it ain't broken you can't fix it

How do we see ourselves?

What are our abilities?

What is our capacity for tolerance of those who are different?

How do we accommodate others differences?



EMBRACE THE DETOUR

As disability is a detour, a departure from the main
A different route for sure, but the destination is the same!
No maps or guide come with this trip
We wing on, as if we know the way
Intuition sometimes charts our path
Well...that is what some say
It is a detour, we are not lost
Our arrival has no date to mark
And if another path leads us in another way
We embrace the journey, and carry on another day