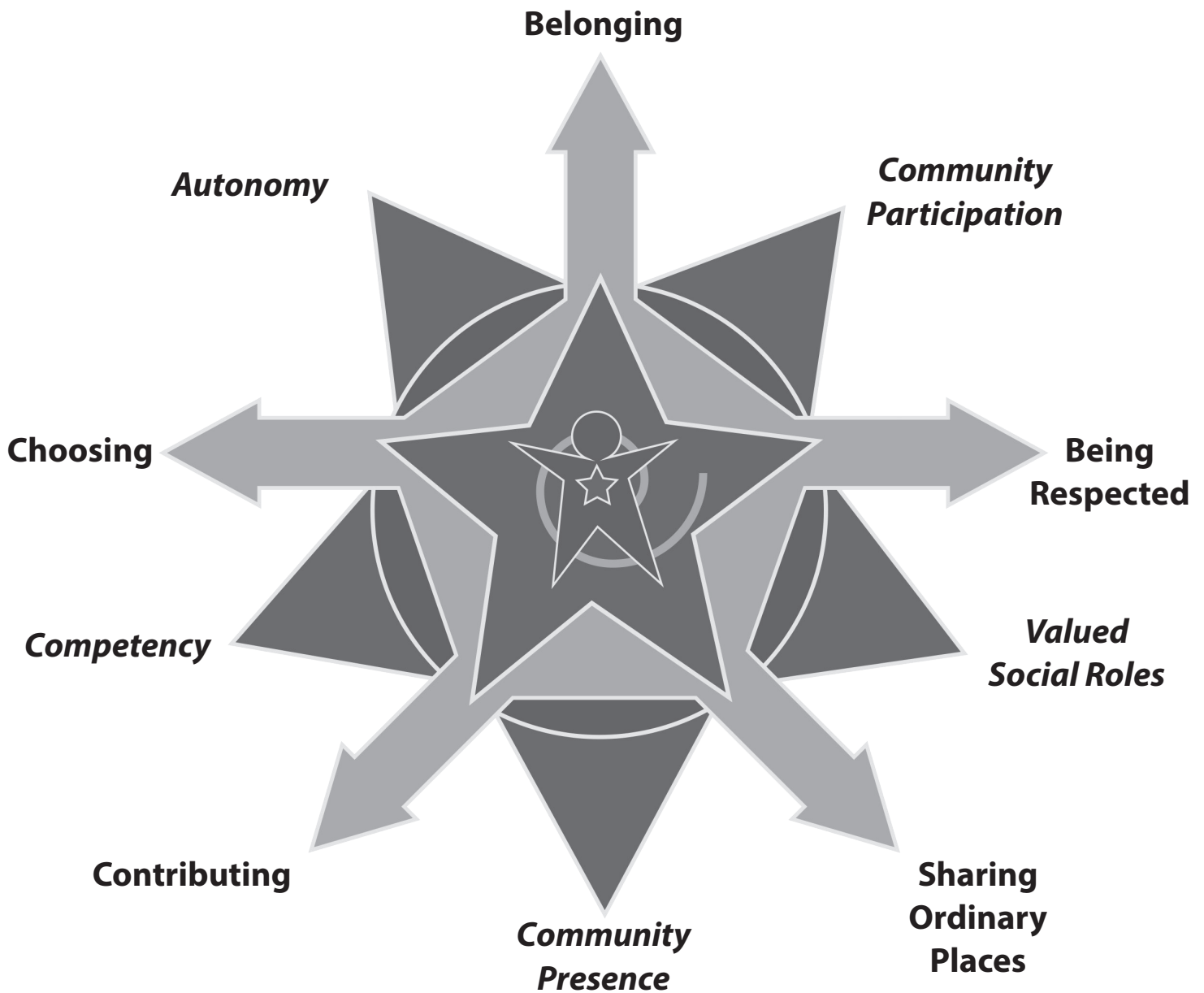


# Make a Difference

## Support Valued Experiences

### The Coloring Book



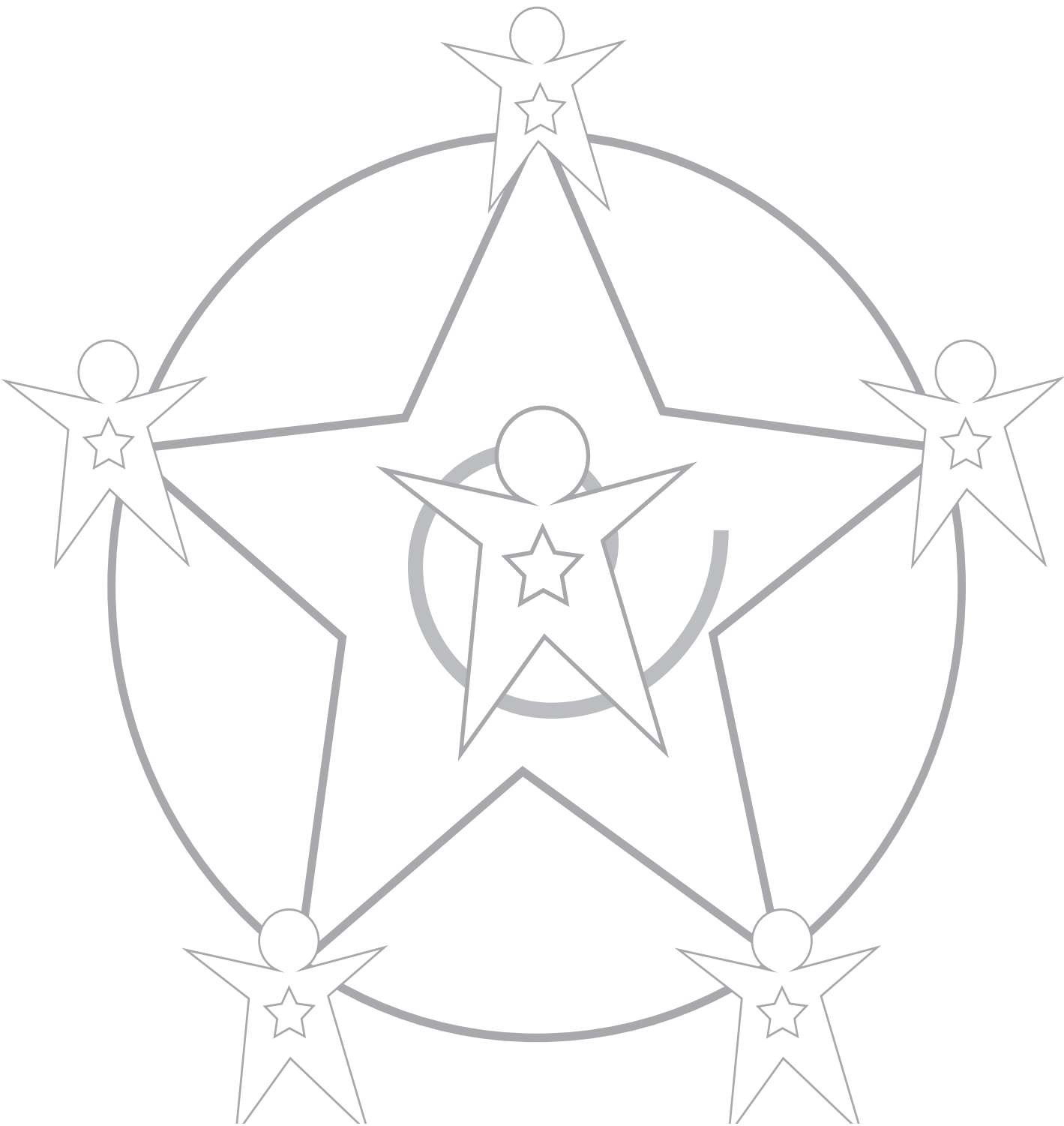


Every person has a higher purpose to guide their development & bring meaning to their life.

Every person has gifts that can make a difference to the common good.

Every place has possibilities to support better lives. These possibilities want to be born with every interested person's help.

Allies assist each other to make their gifts visible as together they help bring what wants to be born to life.

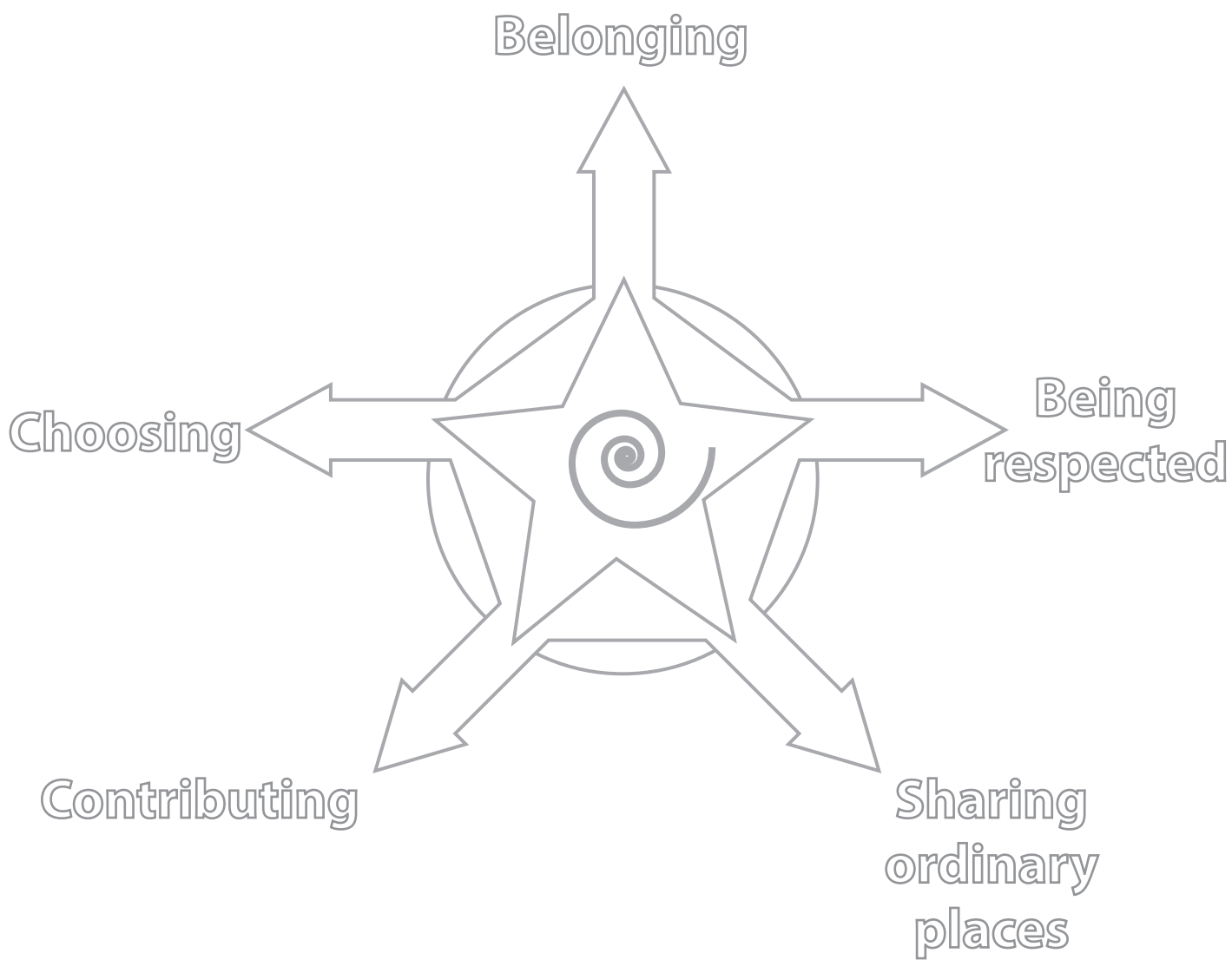




**Communities whose citizens offer one another rich opportunities for these valued experiences benefit from diverse gifts & offer opportunities for people to discover & move into their highest purpose.**

- **Belonging in a variety of good relationships & memberships.**
- **Being respected as whole persons whose highest purposes are worthy of attention & whose capacities & interests engage them in valued social roles.**
- **Sharing ordinary places & activities with fellow citizens, neighbors, classmates, & co-workers.**
- **Contributing by discovering, developing & giving their gifts to benefit others.**
- **Choosing what they want in order to live a good life.**

# Valued Experiences





**A healthy community commits itself to learning how to...**

**...promote interdependence by investing in social ties & associations that promote trust, encourage mutual support & energize collaboration.**

**...live inclusive stories by opening valued social roles to people who have been excluded.**

**...practice hospitality by finding effective ways to adapt to differences that will otherwise leave people out.**

**...see & support capacities by using what the community has to get more of what it really needs.**

**...resolve conflicts that show up when people who have been missing find their voice & challenge the ways power has been held & used.**

# A Healthy Community



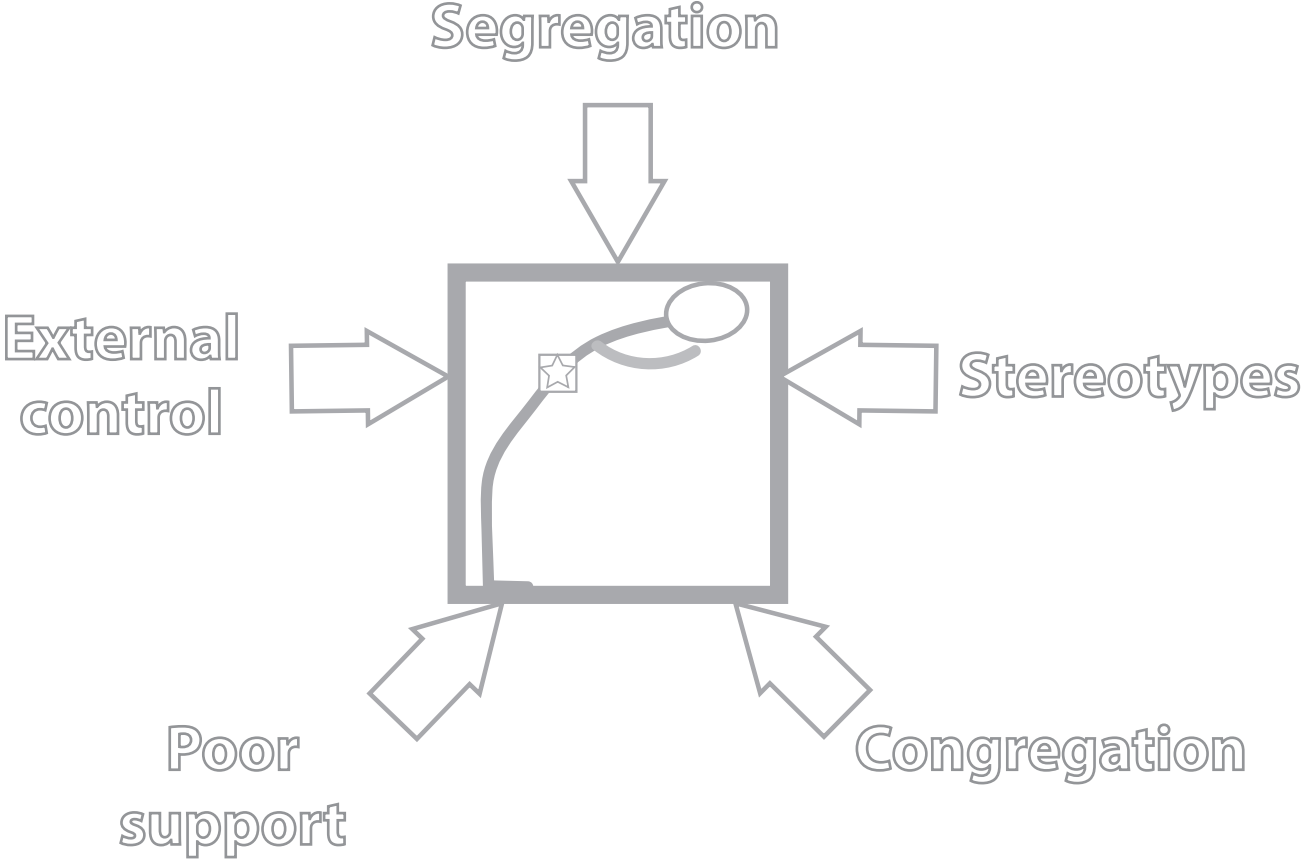


People who need accommodation or assistance to participate easily get trapped in practices that make their lives smaller & deprive their communities of their gifts.

- Pushed to the edge of community life. **Segregation.**
- Stuck in a narrow range of social roles that reinforce stories of incompetence & unacceptability. **Stereotypes.**
- Placed in separate “special” groups based on professionally applied labels. **Congregation.**
- Subject to unrealistically low expectations, managed as one-of-a-group, limited imagination & lack of will to invent better ways. **Poor support.**
- Deprived of chances to find their voice & develop the ability to choose. **External control.**

These practices are often taken to be *the way things should be* for people society sees as *one of them, not one of us*. It takes disciplined consciousness to notice these practices & intentional social invention to escape them.







**Service organizations support valued experiences & build healthy communities when they actively encourage service workers to intentionally join the people they assist to co-create better ways to...**

**... assist people to make & sustain connections, friendships & relationships; developing community participation.**

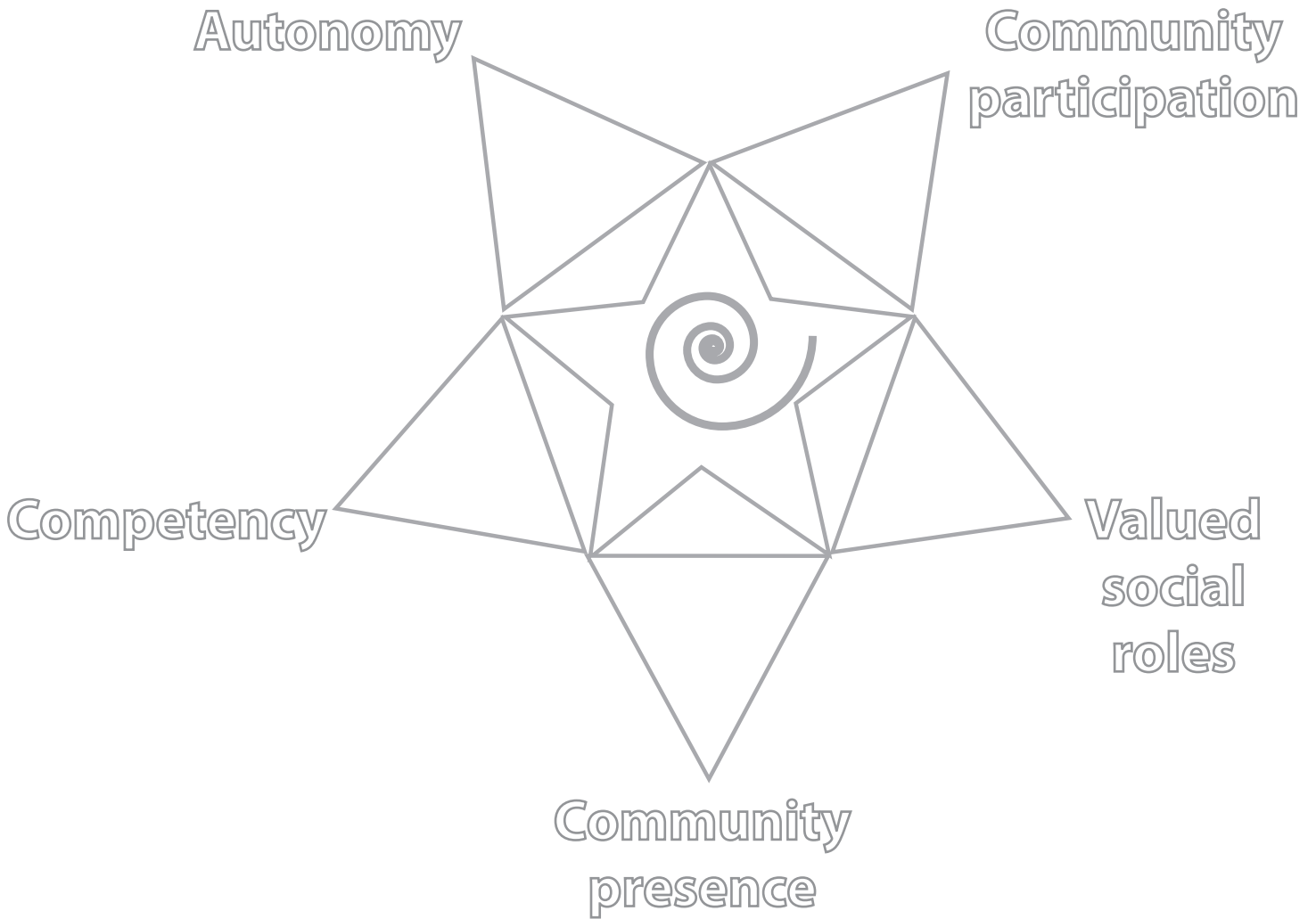
**...assist people to express their highest purpose by joining in taking action on what matters to them; developing valued social roles.**

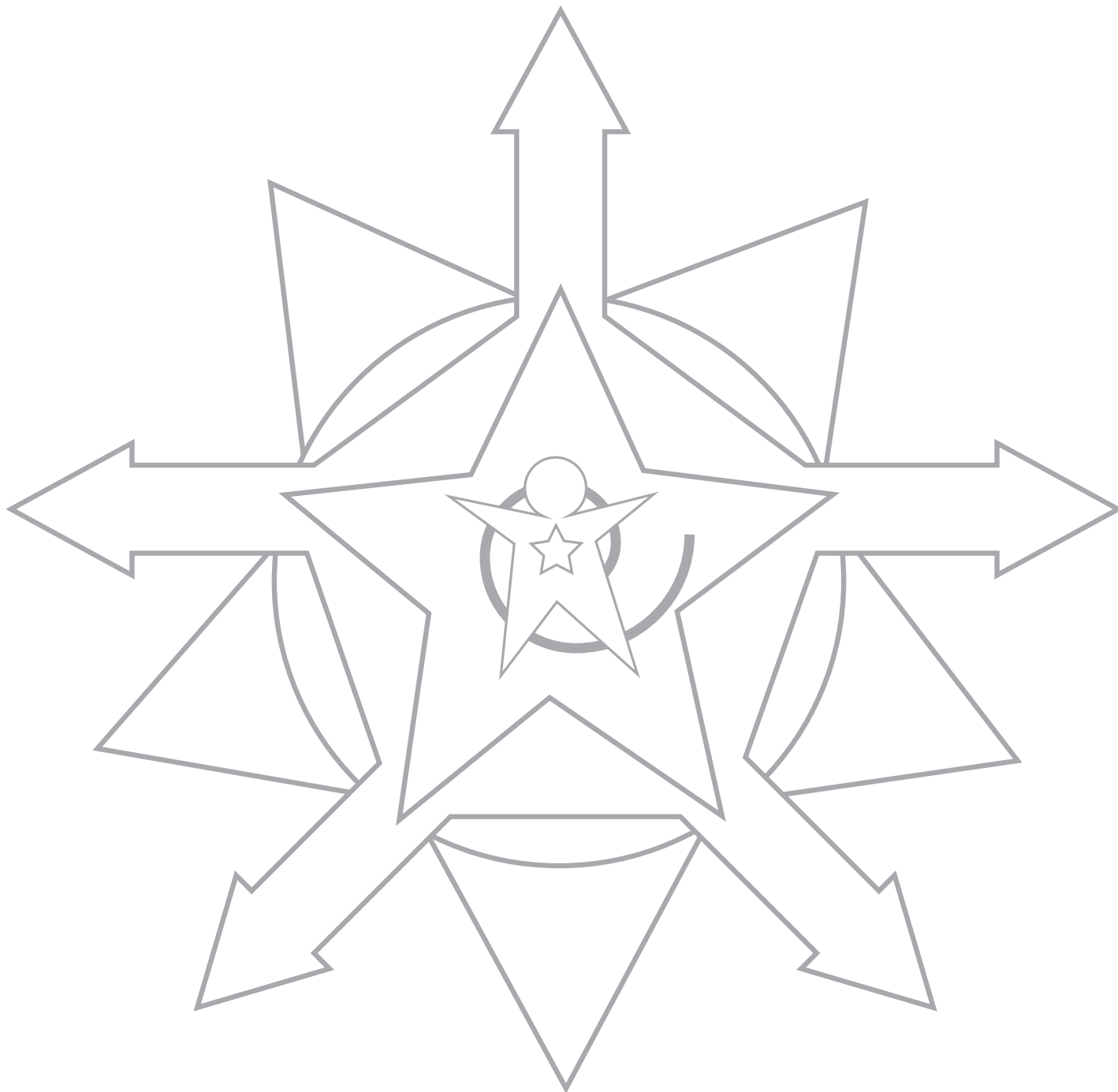
**...assist people to make the best of ordinary community activities; developing community presence.**

**...assist people to discover & develop their gifts & capacities: developing competency.**

**...assist people to find & use their voice to have effective control of their lives: promoting autonomy.**

# Accomplishments





Find a full color poster with additional explanation at [inclusion.com](http://inclusion.com)

Read about the process of social invention by which people with developmental disabilities, their families and allies co-create the assistance they need to move into their highest purpose in John O'Brien & Beth Mount (2015). *Pathfinders: People with developmental disabilities and their allies building communities that work better for everybody.* [inclusion.com](http://inclusion.com)

Read about developing the capacity of direct support workers to assist valued experiences in John O'Brien & Beth Mount (2005). *Make a difference: A guidebook for person-centered direct support.* [inclusion.com](http://inclusion.com).

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