



Moving On sets lights and cameras on people with disabilities bringing their relationships, opinions, successes, tools for independence, and above all good stories into focus.

The SMILE System of Supports
LiveWorkPlay, Ottawa
Originally broadcast on Sunday, March 11, 2001
(12:00 pm on CBC and 2:00 pm on TVO)

Footage for this show was taken during a full day of shooting on location at LWP headquarters and in Caroline Matte's home environment. The following is a description of the show.



Caroline playing her keyboard

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[Joanne Smith, Host]

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Smiles come naturally when people are part of a welcoming community or feeling good about themselves. SMILE stands for Skills & More for Independent Living and Employment. It's an outreach program that welcomes people who have a developmental disability and helps them dream up and work towards their goals. Ultimately, SMILE is a daily client-driven system of supports targeting a wide variety of individualized community living objectives.

The program has brought a smile to the face of one participant, Caroline.

[Scene: Caroline Matte's apartment, she is playing her keyboard]

Caroline joined the SMILE program after becoming very isolated after school. "When I was in school. I was being teased a lot," she says, "since school, even now, I take things seriously, and sometimes I'm over sensitive, and fear being teased in a bad way. I felt so lonely I didn't want to come out. I was scared to get out. I wouldn't even go to parties. I wouldn't even join anything."

[Co-Founder & CEO Keenan Wellar, at SMILE headquarters]

Keenan is a director of the SMILE program. He remembers how he experienced Caroline when she first joined. He says, "Caroline came to us a very quiet person. A person who, I think its safe to say, did not like herself very much, was all about pleasing others, and no thought about her own needs, and its been a long struggle."

[Joanne Smith, Host]

SMILE isn't like regular classes. It's designed specifically to meet the desires of each person. Caroline is learning about computers, managing money, shopping, and cooking, and using the telephone.

Most importantly, Caroline is learning how to raise her self-esteem.

[Caroline Matte, at SMILE headquarters]

She says, "I couldn't do certain things like others could. I was in special classes and then I came here. And I don't know what I'd do without this place because it's really been helpful."

[Co-Founder & CDO Julie Kingstone at SMILE headquarters]

Julie Kingstone works for the SMILE program. She meets with Caroline two days a week for about an hour. She says that some people might call her time with Caroline counseling, but she calls it "facilitating, and co-constructing with Caroline." Together they talk about what kind of goals Caroline has and how she might go about fulfilling those goals.

SMILE has focussed on helping Caroline to utilize her own talents. One of those talents is being artistic.

[Caroline Matte, with artwork]

"I drew since I was young. And nobody showed me how to do this; I just like really did it on my own. It's a pastime. I enjoy it," says Caroline, "sometimes I feel tangled up or want a release and to be out more with the community."

[Julie Kingstone]

Being out and active with the community is what Caroline has told Julie she wants. She says, "I think there's been a change in the way she views herself. And [she's] playing a more active participant of life, rather than sitting and letting life and the world go by."

[Keenan Wellar]

Keenan couldn't agree more. He says, "I think Caroline's future is really limitless, because we've discovered there's a really vibrant person inside this quiet shell."

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