

The Community Imperative

“All people have fundamental moral and constitutional rights.”

In 1979, the Center on Human Policy, under the leadership of Burton Blatt, issued *The Community Imperative*, a declaration supporting the right of all people with disabilities to community living. *The Community Imperative* was written to counter opposition to deinstitutionalization and community inclusion by well-organized groups. Today, years later, inclusion remains controversial in some states and localities. At the same time, many people with disabilities are not receiving the supports they need to live successfully in the community.

This video, provided in both VHS and DVD formats, is a documentary of a conference held in Oakland, California in 2002 to revisit the values underlying *The Community Imperative*. It features segments of presentations by and interviews with:

- Ben Adams
- Dion Aroner
- Art Bolton
- David Braddock
- Hank Bersani
- Ben Boisot
- Michelle Boisot
- Terry Boisot
- Mary Cerreto
- Bill Coffelt
- June Downing
- Steve Eidelman
- Mary Falvey
- Thomas Gilhool
- Ellen Goldblatt
- Ed Goldman
- Richard Jacobs
- Deborah Kaplan
- Randy Kitch
- Scott Klassen
- Charlie Lakin
- Patricia Mejia
- Hector Mendez
- David Miller
- Pat Napolliello
- Tom Neary
- John O'Brien
- Kim Olson
- Mark Polit
- Prema Polit
- Santi Rogers
- Ruth Shelton
- Bonnie Shoultz
- Patty McGill Smith
- Jeff Strully
- Steve Taylor
- Cheryl Marie Wade
- Scott Wildman

It also includes clips of historical leaders Burton Blatt, Gunnar Dybwad, and Ed Roberts. Narrated by Martin Sheen, the video recounts the history of disability rights and describes the challenges to community inclusion today.

The video and the DVD both contain two versions of “*The Community Imperative*.” The first version on each is 42 minutes and is oriented toward a national audience. The second is a 52 minute California version that includes an award ceremony honoring California leaders and additional information on that state.

Background materials on *The Community Imperative* and related educational materials are also included.

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