




Overview

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## Parkland - Argentina Self-advocacy Initiative

Parkland CLASS is currently undertaking five self-advocacy projects in Argentina with its principle partners (ITINERIS, AMIA, AMAR, and Cottolengo Don Orione). These projects directly involve intellectually disabled adults and combine education, support, and mentoring to prepare participants to increase personal control over their lives and advance their status and involvement in self-advocacy, self-determination, and individual rights within their homes, institutional services, and communities.

The Parkland – Argentina Self-advocacy Initiative supports a paradigm change which will benefit intellectually disabled individuals. The new paradigm is congruent with the values and principles taught through the ITINERIS education program with the intended goals of impacting the lives of disabled individuals by:



- Establishing self-determination and choice, and the capacity to honour choices moving from simple to complex decisions;
- Recognizing individual's rights;
- Transferring control and empowerment from families and frontline staff to the individual;
- Promoting self-advocacy (managing full citizenship); and
- Increasing community participation and social acceptance.

Self-advocate project participants include individuals who reside in large institutions, or live with their parents and siblings in family homes. Parkland CLASS is convinced that the development and implementation of the Parkland - Argentina Self-advocacy Initiative is the next logical step in advancing the status of intellectually disabled adults in Argentina.