## **Maslow for DSPs**

# **NEXTEAUTISM**

#### Self Actualization

- Integration in chosen communities people with and without disabilities
- Self-expression clothes and room decor reflect the individual
- Autonomy and self-advocacy
- Expressing choice incorporating hobbies and interests into daily life

#### **Esteem**

- Individualized goal setting annual goals reflect interests and needs rather than generalized
- · Focus on strength and ability
- Learning and personal growth opportunities - pursuit of employment, volunteering, and hobbies

## **Love & Belonging**

- Social connections with chosen peers
- Access to communities beyond day programs and facilities
- Opportunities to forge relationships letter writing, phone calls, meet-ups

### Safety

- Routine and predictability posted schedules and calendars
- Environment free of hazards
- Supervision as needed
- Visual supports pictural representation of activities
- Support staff knows and follows Annual and Behavior Plan

## **Physiological Support**

- · Well-balanced meals including ample hydration
- Feeding assistance access to adaptive cutlery/plates/cups
- · Stable housing/space
- Communication support assistive technology
- Sensory support noise canceling headphones

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Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) play an integral role in helping those they serve achieve self actualization.

Achieving each level of Maslows may look different depending on an individual's unique strengths and abilities.