



Susan's Story

My Job as a Self-Advocate by Susan Aichroth

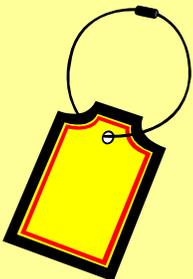
As a self-advocate, I look out for other people with disabilities. My job is to help people look at reality. Reality means how things really are, the truth. It is that we all have very special gifts and a lot of people do not know that this. My job to help them look at themselves. I believe that if you put your mind to something you can achieve your goal.



I know that it is hard for people with disabilities to speak up and that is where I come in to help. Because if you do not speak up, people at the meetings will not listen to you and give you any respect.

So you see it is up to **you**.

I see some teachers, guardians, parents and case managers don't see reality either. They believe a person with a disability isn't capable of doing this or that. I say it is not right to label people with disabilities because they can not help it.



I know what it feels like to be labeled, because I was at Brandon Training School. Now I'm living with blood family in Shelburne, Vermont and I like it a lot there.

I believe that if you put your mind to something you can achieve your goal.

I take the bus to the home base office on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Sometimes it is hard to speak up and my



job is to help people with that because I know how it feels because I have a hard time too. With the right support, it becomes easy to do.

I know because I have been there and back. If you would like something done you have to do it yourself because if you do not, it'll not get done. A lot of people label me because of my disabilities and that is not fair.

With the right support, it becomes easy to do.



Have people always believed in Susan?

And you?

Do people believe in you?
What makes you think so?



Has Susan had it easy?

And you?

How have things gone for you?