

Tracy and Harvey

Two Educators on a Journey to Language



The world of language opened up when Tracy Thresher was introduced to Harvey Lavoy, a specialist in alternative and augmentative communication (ACC), including supportive typing.

"I have used many ways to communicate. In the beginning I used my behavior because it was the only tool I had...I am in a place now where I can share my real thoughts with you and be able to magnify my thoughts by using facilitated communication...I am also working on my speech all the time by incorporating it into my daily activities...It is my newest challenge. I need to be more independent if I wish to prove my intelligence to the people who think others influence my typing. These are my own independent thoughts and I will show the world by speaking and fading typing support."

"Thinking back on the years of no communication is very sad but it makes me stronger willed. I know I have the tenacity to push through hard times. That is the key to being successful. My professional life has developed because I have input into what I wish to be doing for work. I used to feel stuck in dead end jobs doing inventory at Kinney Drugs. I am not saying that others may not like it but I hated it."

Together Tracy and Harvey started out on a voyage of discovery and their shared commitment led to success. Tracy's persistence and Harvey's skills and his calmness helped.

Harvey, Tracy tells us, is " a man of calmness in the ocean of chaos; smoothing out the rough edges with his support. Watching his grace under fire of seekers of communication is how I have grown to relax in a crowd. I have become the educator I dreamt to be thanks to the unwavering support of Harvey...Our relationship is one of mutual respect and honesty. Having the guiding presumption of competence principle as our foundation is key. We have worked together to realize our passion to educate."

