

DISCOVERY!

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What is our ultimate mission?





THE GOOD LIFE!!!



Family
Home
Health
Intimacy
Friends
Work
Contributing
Belonging
Having a say



Mallory

- **Profound intellectual disability**
- **Quadriplegic**
- **Epileptic**
- **Nonverbal**
- **Visually impaired**
- **Tires easily**
- **Incontinent**
- **Unaware**
- **Doesn't tolerate temperature extremes**
- **Cries often and loudly**

Partnership Agreements

Discussion of
values and
assumptions



Partnership Agreements

Clarification of
roles



Partnership Agreements

Negotiation of
expectations



Partnership Agreements

Address of
uncertainties
and **anxieties**



To discover . . .



- Be the first to find or observe
- **Perceive the attraction** of a subject for the first time
- Be the first to **recognize potential**

WHY ADD DISCOVERY TO OUR TOOLS?



**We are accustomed to
noticing what is
“wrong” with people**

**We over-rely
on
diagnostic
information**



**We know people as
clients but few other
contexts**

**Most people can't
possibly know the
options**

**We underestimate
people's potential**

**Most parties involved
have low expectations**

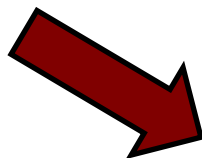
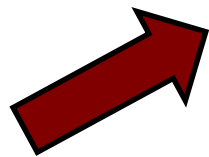
WHAT IS DISCOVERY?

**Getting to know people
in a different way**

**Revealing the most
relevant information for
ambitious planning**

**Engaging in
systematic
and
intentional
in-depth
activities**





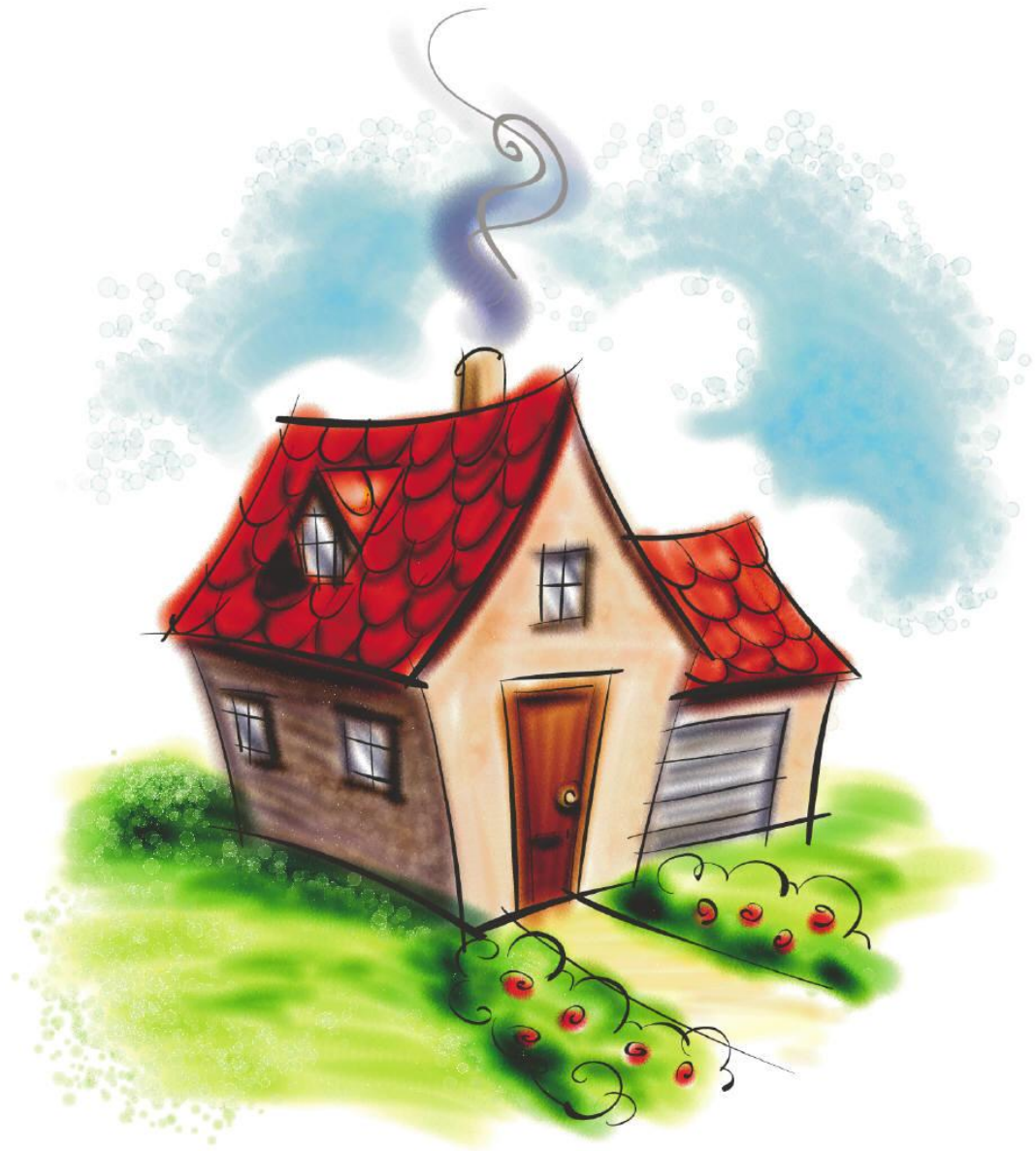


**Focusing on
the positive**

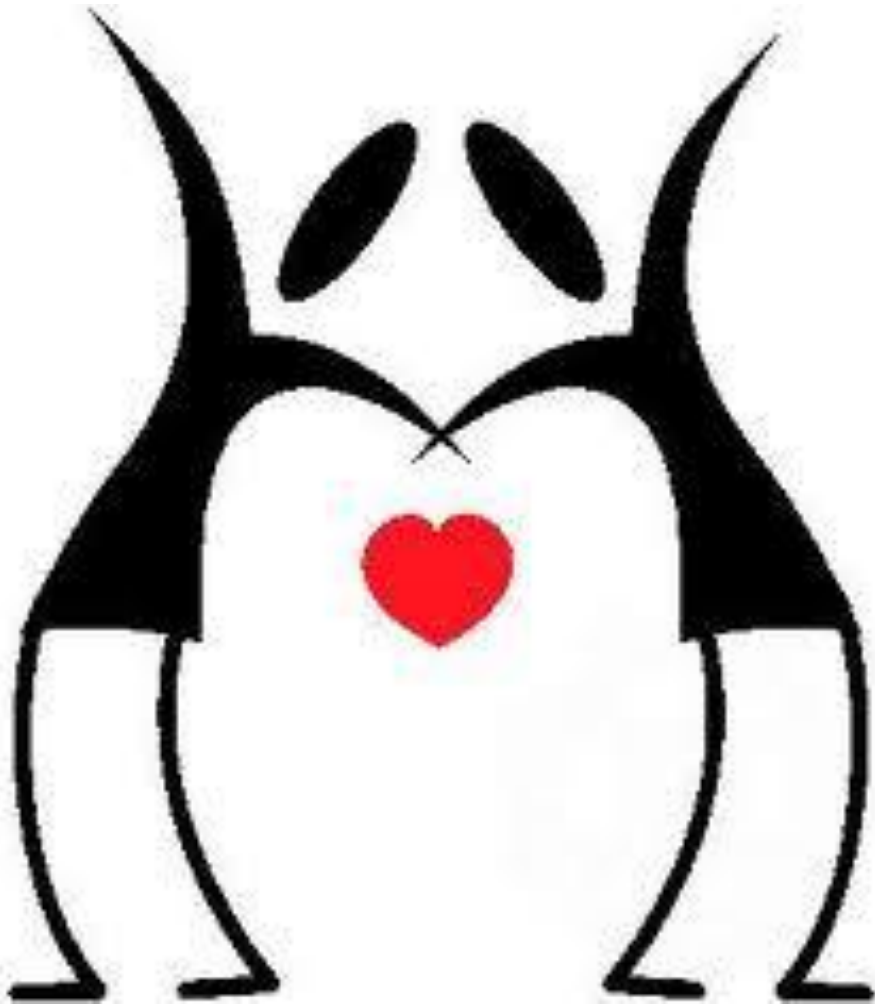
**Translating information
into fitting possibilities**

**Discovery recognises a
person's difficulties in
the context of desired
roles**

HOME



RELATIONSHIPS



ROLES

“I am a _____”



From activities to roles

ACTIVITY

Going to church

Working

Swimming

Cooking

Taking a class

Painting

ROLE

Church member

Employee

Swimmer

Cook

Student

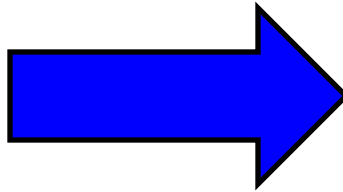
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DEFICIENCY

Focus on how people are **different**

A thorough description of what a person **CAN'T do**

Diagnose **current abilities**



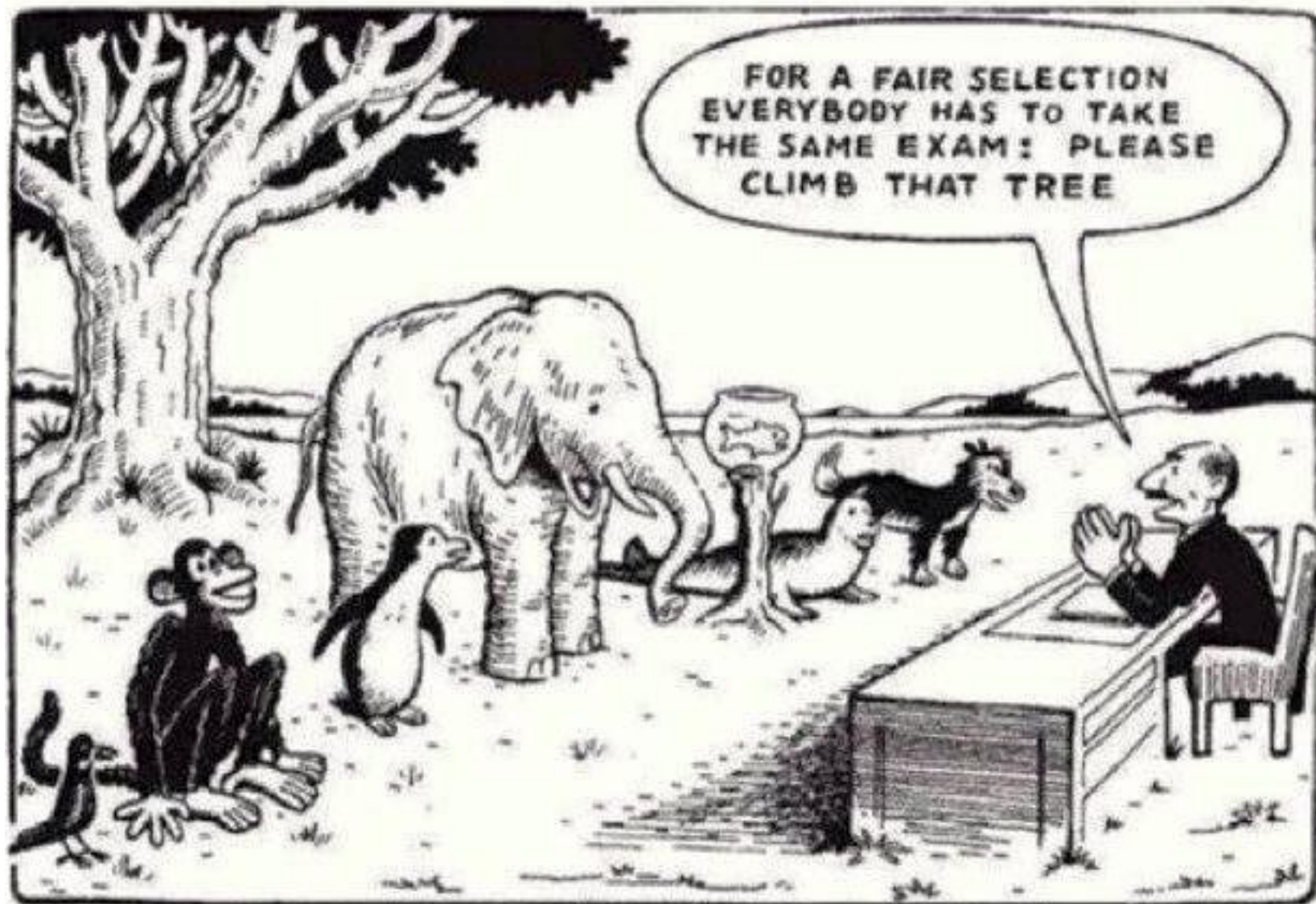
CAPACITY

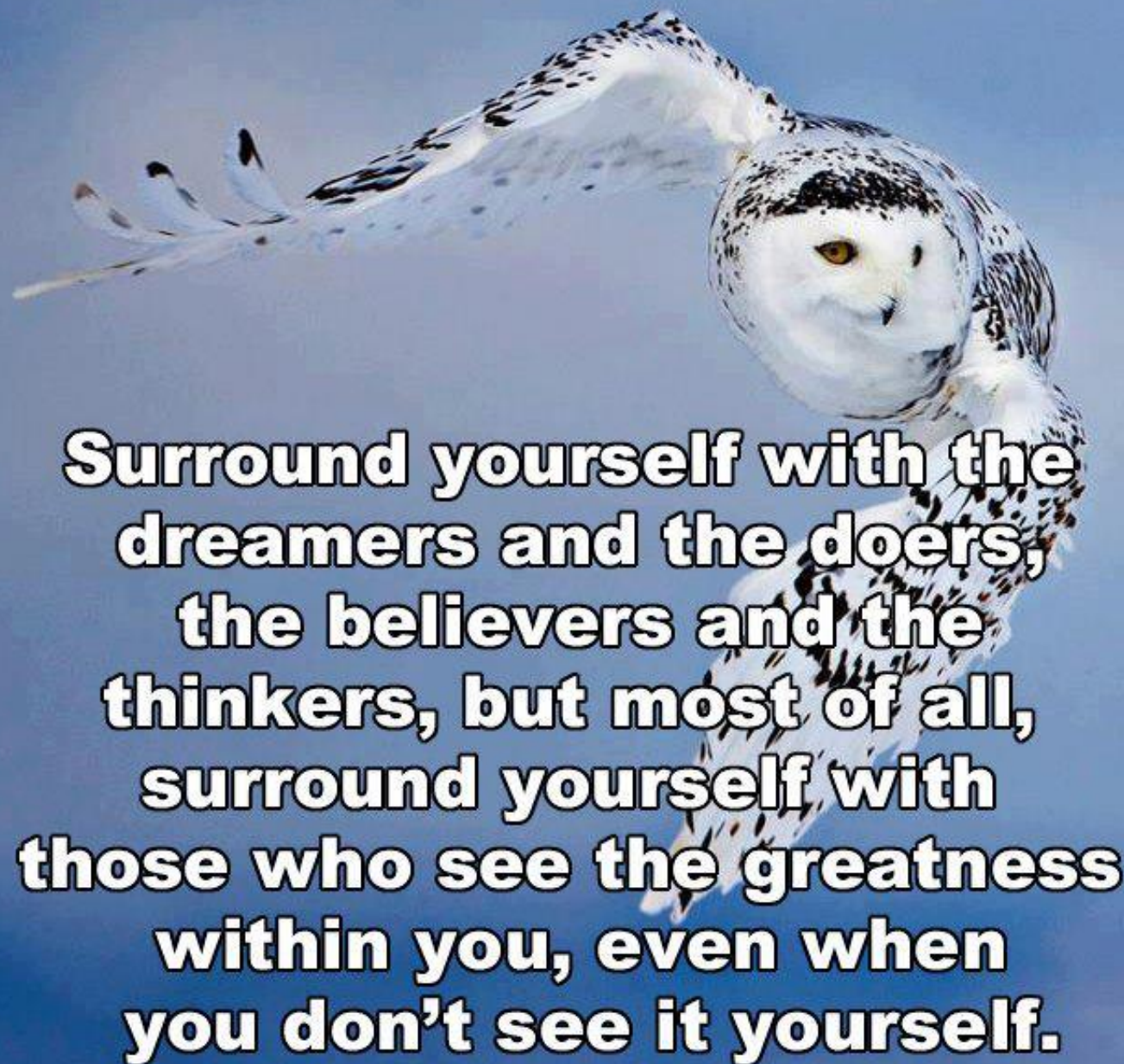
Find what people might have in **common** w/others

Appreciate what a person **CAN do**; what they have to offer others

Imagine what might be **possible if well supported**

FOR A FAIR SELECTION
EVERYBODY HAS TO TAKE
THE SAME EXAM: PLEASE
CLIMB THAT TREE





**Surround yourself with the
dreamers and the doers,
the believers and the
thinkers, but most of all,
surround yourself with
those who see the greatness
within you, even when
you don't see it yourself.**

ASSETS



What the person has to offer others, contribute to community

Reciprocal, mutual relationships

Vivid description/image of specific abilities

Assets - skills

Physical abilities/tasks mastered: (Do well, learn to do, partial participation)

- Enter numbers in Excel spreadsheet
- Sort items by color
- Make a great Shepherd's pie
- Lift 30 pounds
- Drive a car
- Iron clothing
- File in alphabetical order
- Change oil in a car



Assets - knowledge

Information known by person

- Reptiles
- Irish history
- Elvis Presley
- Movie trivia
- Catholic traditions
- Weather
- Sports facts
- Value of antiques
- Species of plants



Assets - personality

**Traits that are engaging, inspiring,
likeable, impressive**

- Generous
- Hard-working
- Gentle
- Fun or funny
- Can keep a secret
- Peace-maker
- Determined
- Interesting



Assets – lived experience

Potential contribution based on personal life experiences

- Survived cancer or learned to manage diabetes
- Grew up in the Jewish tradition
- Success with weight watchers, stopped smoking
- Survived institutionalisation
- 20 yrs at St. Patrick's Day parade
- Uncle to a lot of nieces and nephews
- Lived in same home place for 40 years



Assets – resources

Resources or belongings a person has they could share

- **Transportation**
- **Computer, printer, internet**
- **A place to offer hospitality**
- **A sewing machine**
- **Flowers in the garden**
- **Tools**
- **A camera**
- **Storage space**



Assets – connections

Assets available thru the person's personal networks

- Parent's work colleagues have business contacts
- Neighbor knows a lot about vintage cars
- Sister is a competent photographer
- Aunt/Uncle own a put
- Extended family has conscious acquaintances
- Best friend belongs to drama club



INTERESTS

- What the person prefers or wants
- Can't simply rely on "What would you like to do?"
- Often requires exploration, translating what is already known into possibilities
- Distinct from assets
- Passion that are held by the p



INTERESTS

- Consider what person engages in without being expected to
- Given the person's strongest assets, are there areas of interest that should be explored?
- Looking for interests typical for age, gender, and culture that are most highly valued



CONDITIONS for success

Performing

- Physical work, precise tasks, afternoons, alarm clock

Learning

- Modeling, repeated practice, visual

Setting/environment

- Indoors, well-lit spaces, clean

People

- Men, soft-spoken, intimate group



CONDITIONS for success

Ritual/routine

- Sufficient time for long shower, p
call with mom at 8 pm

Good support

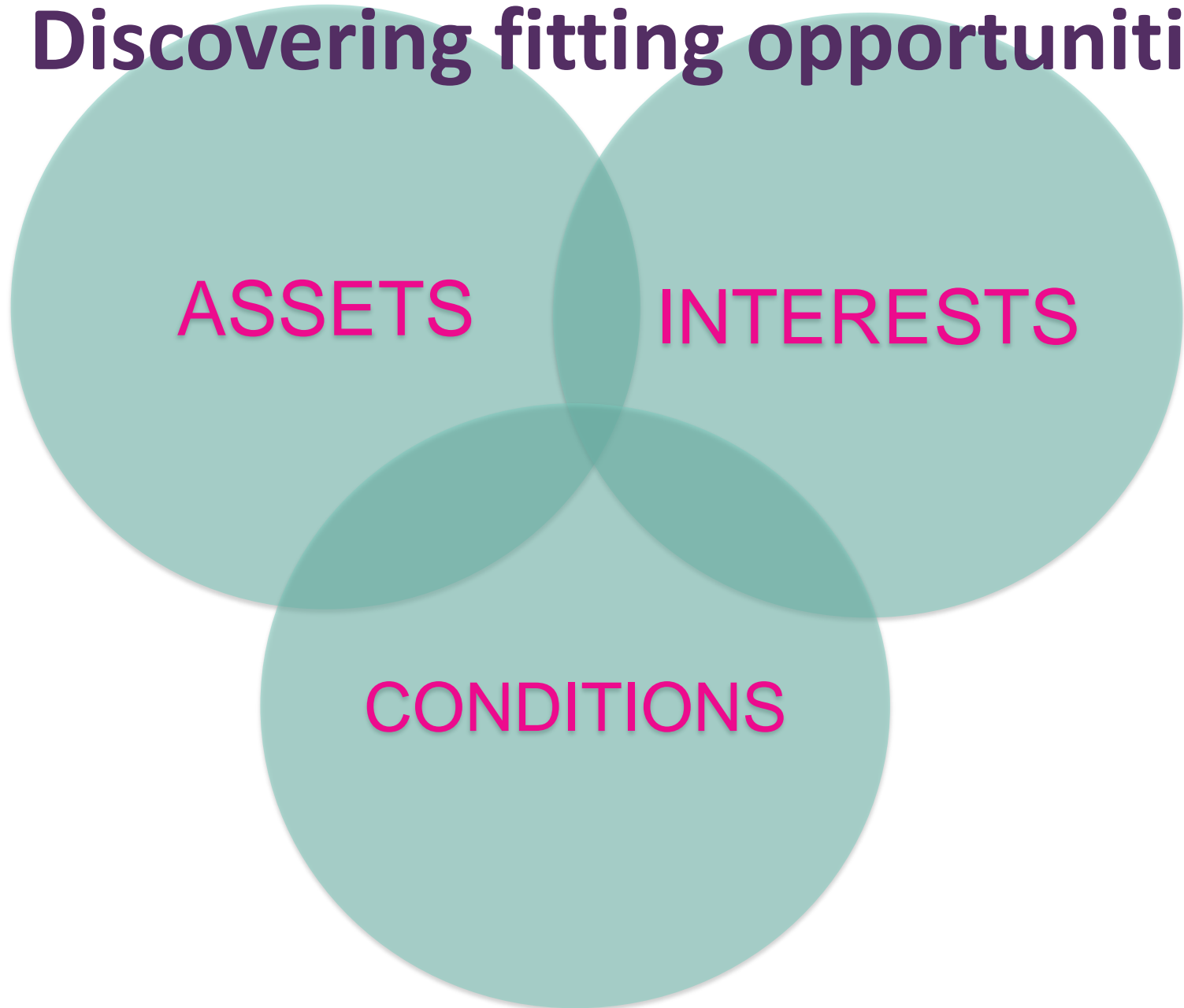
- Encouraging comments, proactive planning,
behind-the-scenes, good with technology

Conditions to be avoided

- Hot temperatures; novel situations



Discovering fitting opportunities



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The same Mallory ... but different!

ASSETS

- Moves head 90 degrees right
- Answer either/or questions
- Laughs/cries appropriately
- Know lot of people
- Computer, internet, printer
- Contagious smile!
- Nice apartment & flower garden
- Peaceful, country home setting
- Access to horses
- Owns an accessible van
- Has inspiring stories to share
- Willingness to listen

- Loves being read to
- Enjoys young children
- Cares about access/fairness
- Loves animals, being outdoors
- Pretty, feminine things
- Academic family culture
- Adores chocolate,
prefers beer to wine
- Shopping is favorite past-time
- Ellen DeGeneres show
- Traveling adventures
- Looking at photos/magazines
- Fondness for grandparents

**The same Mallory
... but different!**

INTERESTS

The same Mallory ... but different!

CONDITIONS

- Energy in two hr spurts
- Okay to show joy &/or sorrow
- Computer technology
- Intimate social groups
- Late mornings/afternoons best
- Relaxed, casual pace
- Supporters who know her well
- Plan/prepare for contribution
- Accessible settings
- Flexible expectations
- Thoughtful assistance with representation

Teacher/Employee
Friends of the Ballet Fundraiser
Elana's Friend
Church Member
Red Cross Volunteer
“Flower Visitor” at church
Scrapbook Group member

Skills needed in discovery

- ☐ **Intentionality**
- ☐ **Observation**
- ☐ **Curiosity**
- ☐ **Detail-orientation**
- ☐ **Discernment**
- ☐ **Translation**
- ☐ **Positivity**
- ☐ **Thoroughness**

*People who say it cannot be done should not
interrupt those who are doing it.*

George Bernard Shaw

