

How the Kennedys Linked Family to Mission

A statement of philosophy and values can emerge from family circumstances and lead to a Mission. When Ambassador Joseph P. Kennedy, Sr., established a foundation to honor his son, Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr., a heroic U.S. Army Air Corps pilot who died in World War II, he asked his daughter, Eunice, to find direction for the foundation. After lengthy research and consideration of family feelings toward her sister, Rose Mary who had mental retardation, Eunice Kennedy recommended basing foundation activities on concern for persons with mental retardation. Today, the foundation publishes this Values Statement.

The Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr., Foundation believes that persons with mental retardation have the ability to live, learn, work, recreate, and worship like everyone else. We recognize that people with mental retardation may need assistance to do these things. We believe that families of people with mental retardation, especially families of children with mental retardation, benefit from support and information to successfully include their family member with mental retardation in the everyday activities of their community. The foundation works to improve the lives of people with mental retardation and to prevent the causes of mental retardation.