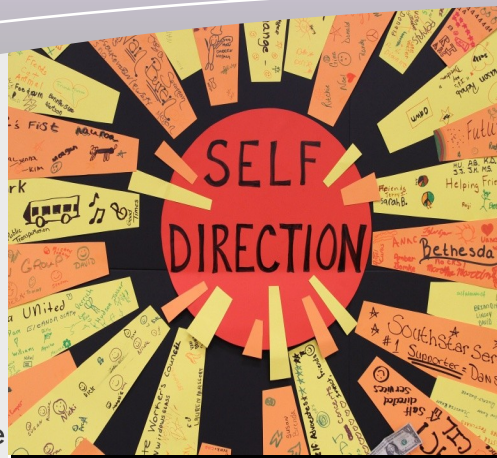




Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance



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## Vision

Our vision is for self-advocates to work together to get the support we need to live the life we want in the community.

## Mission

Our mission is to speak up for ourselves and each other while working together to make changes in our communities and in Illinois.

The Alliance is proud to be an Initiative of the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities

## Save the Date!!!!

### The Alliance's Annual Gathering is scheduled for

**Thursday, June 13, 2013**

**10am – 2.30pm (registration begins at 9.15am)**

**Doubletree Hotel**

**10 Brickyard Drive**

**Bloomington, Illinois**

The Alliance is busy working on the topics and agenda for the day... watch upcoming for information and registration in upcoming newsletters!



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Find us on Facebook at Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance



# The Alliance News

## Welcome Freedom Riders!

### Welcome Freedom Riders!!!

The Alliance is excited to welcome the Freedom Riders, who join us from the Chicago suburb of Evanston, IL. The Freedom Riders formed in 2009 when self-advocate Robin Browne and advisor Tara Wickey thought it was important to educate other self advocates about the history of disability and the importance of self-advocacy. Over time, the group of advocates from Center for Independent Futures gained more members and a new mission and vision was formed.



The Freedom Riders uphold a vision for all people with disabilities to live full lives with equal rights and opportunities and a mission to actively participate in the disability rights movement. The group has worked on various educational projects such as a history of disability presentation, exploring our own disabilities, the history of special education and disability in the media and film. The Freedom Riders are excited to meet other self advocates around the state and attend Alliance events.



*For people with intellectual and developmental disabilities*

### Consumer Involvement Fund Program – Consumer Stipends Funded by the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities

The Arc of Illinois administers The Consumer Involvement Fund Program and distributes consumer stipends to enable people with developmental disabilities and their family members to attend conferences of their choice that are directly related to developmental disability issues. For an application form, please visit [www.thearcofil.org/consumer-stipend-project](http://www.thearcofil.org/consumer-stipend-project).

### The Alliance Staff Contact Information

**Terah Green, State Action Coordinator**  
terahgreen@ymail.com

**Megan Norlin, Local Group Coordinator**  
hottwheelz702@yahoo.com

**Tara Wickey, Community Organizer**  
tara.advocacy@gmail.com

**Krescene Beck, Program Coordinator**  
krescenebeck@gmail.com

**Jennifer Knapp, Organizational Consultant**  
jen.advocacy@gmail.com



# The Alliance News

## Employment 1st Legislation

### Employment First Update: Support HB 2591

~ Megan Norlin, Local Group Coordinator

Happy April everyone! As you know, today, April 1<sup>st</sup> marks the beginning of a new chapter for The Alliance. We've got a lot of exciting changes coming our way, both in The Alliance and in the state, and I am so excited to be witnessing it with you! I'm sure some of you have heard of the Employment First legislation that is now making its way through congress. As you know, The Alliance has been fighting for better employment opportunities for people with disabilities. We all must stand together if we wish to make that dream come true.

The Bill's number is HB 2591 (HB just stands for "House Bill"). HB 2591 is The Employment First Act. If this Act becomes a law it will require competitive employment to be the first option explored for people with disabilities who are old enough to work. This means that if a person with a disability is interested getting a job, a minimum-waged community-based job must be the first option explored. This law does not require all employers to hire every disabled person who applies for a job, but it does require agencies to take work together to make sure that people receive all the supports needed to make this possible. Under this bill, agencies must also be ready and willing to share information with each other. Now, I'm sure some of you are wondering who will be watching over the implementation of this new law. Thankfully, an entire task force has been developed solely for this purpose. It is called the Employment and Economic Opportunity for Persons with Disabilities Task Force, or EEOPWD. This task force is also responsible for establishing measurable goals and objectives for the State of Illinois, so that the law's progress can be properly monitored.

Remember that HB 2591 is not quite a law yet. To help make it one, write to your legislators and ask them to support it. Here is a link to help you the find your local legislators:

[www.elections.il.gov/districtlocator/districtofficialsearchbyaddress.aspx](http://www.elections.il.gov/districtlocator/districtofficialsearchbyaddress.aspx) Remember to be as specific as you can. Ask them to support HB 2591, and explain why it is important to you. Ask more than once if you can. It will only let them know how important this bill is.

That's all for now. If you and your groups would like to track the progress of this bill, you can do so here: <http://openstates.org/il/bills/98th/HB2591/#votes>. We'll do our best to keep you posted.

Keep Speaking Up!



# The Alliance News

## Learning Opportunities



**KREIDER SERVICES**

People Reaching Their Fullest Potential

April 18, 2013

6 - 8pm

"What Do I Do Tomorrow? 5 Keys to Supporting a Person with Autism"

Free Parent/Caregiver Presentation

April 19, 2013

8.30am – 4pm

"Critical Supports for the Person with Autism" Workshop

\$50/person (includes lunch)

Alyson Beytien, Autism Consultant, is a popular speaker, parent/teacher trainer and mother of three sons with Autism. She is a consultant/trainer throughout the U.S. and Canada on educating and supporting individuals with Autism. Alyson is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) and has a Masters degree in Education specializing in Autism Spectrum Disorders from the University of Kansas. Alyson is the Behavior Specialist for the Mercy Autism Center in Dubuque, IA where she is involved in assessment, intervention and training. She is the author of "Autism Every Day" which received the 2012 Literary Work of the Year for the Autism Society of America. When she isn't writing behavior plans, she plays in dirt and hoards quilt fabric.

For more information, please contact Janet O'Donnell, Family Resource Coordinator, at [odonnellj@kreiderservices.org](mailto:odonnellj@kreiderservices.org) or phone 815-288-6691 ext 240.

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### **Autism/Special Needs Institute of America**

The goal of ASNIOA is simple: to increase awareness and educate the public about how to best help persons with disabilities. The ASNIOA family is comprised of nationally-recognized experts in disabilities along with friends, families, and persons affected by disabilities. We aim to educate about these conditions as knowledge equals understanding, acceptance, and success for all.

ASNIOA is having an Autism/Special Needs Conference in April in two locations: Rock Island and O'Fallon. Visit <http://asnioa.org/events.html> to learn more.



# The Alliance News

## Learning Opportunities



### Mortgage and Home Loan Help Guide for the Disabled

This guide has been created to help individuals living with disabilities, and their family members, in the process of buying a home of their own. Here you can learn more about the five important steps in buying a home and about financial assistance programs that are available if you want to buy a home.

After reading this guide to home ownership for people living with disabilities, you will know more about:

- The advantages and disadvantages of buying a home
- The most important steps in the home-buying process
- Common terms related to home-buying
- How to get started in your quest to purchase a home
- Financial assistance geared toward enabling you living with disabilities to buy your own homes

[www.mortgageloan.com/disabilities/](http://www.mortgageloan.com/disabilities/)

Bullying is in the news and in your life. Chances are you were a victim or had to witness some else get bully at some point in your life.

Come and learn with others at **Bullying and What To Do**

Saturday, May 18, 2013

10:00am to 2:00 pm

Westin Hotel

6100 N River Road

Rosemont IL

Registration is \$10 and includes lunch and parking. For more information, please contact Candace McFadden at (773) 978 6180 (phone) or [Candace.mcfadden@att.net](mailto:Candace.mcfadden@att.net). Space is limited so please register early!



**People First  
of Illinois**



# The Alliance News

## Disability Resources

### **National Disability Institute**

The mission of NDI is to build healthy financial futures for Americans with disabilities through employment initiatives, technical housing assistance, financial education and many other resources. NDI also has a wide partnership network of local, public, private, state and federal banks, investment businesses and organizations. [www.ndi-inc.org](http://www.ndi-inc.org)

### **NCB Capital Impact**

NCB Capital Impact is a coordinator for cooperative work in primarily addressing the problems that are associated with poverty in the United States. Together with non-profit organizations, investors and other partnership NCB Capital Impact has made possible for U.S citizens in need of financial, practical, social or other assistance.

NCB Capital Impact in partnership with the National Disability Institute strives to increase social and economic independence amongst individuals with a disability. The goal of this partnership is to establish economic freedom for American with disabilities. [www.ncbcapitalimpact.org](http://www.ncbcapitalimpact.org)

### **AAPD - American Association for People with Disabilities**

AAPD is considered to be the biggest national cross-disability member organization in America, AAPD works in partnership with other disability organizations and with own resources to ensure economic, social and political security for all Americans with disabilities. AAPD sees to improve the current situation for U.S citizens with disabilities and works to make economic benefits and resources accessible to people with disabilities. As the largest disability members organization AAPD has established reliable partnerships and offer great resources. [www.aapd-dc.org](http://www.aapd-dc.org)

### **National Organization on Disability**

Based on partnerships with non-disability organizations and several NOD programs this national organization is an established authority in supporting the American and International community of people with disabilities. With a goal to create awareness and understanding for persons living with disabilities NOD is running programs and partnerships to improve housing, accessibility, religion, employment and much more. [www.nod.org](http://www.nod.org)



# The Alliance News

## Going Home Rally Day



### GOING HOME RALLY

**An advocacy rally dedicated to support self-advocates moving from state institutions to a community of choice.**

**Wednesday, April 10, 2013**

**11am – 2:30pm (begin gathering at 10:30am)**

**Illinois State Capitol at the Lincoln Statue (outside at 2<sup>nd</sup> Street)  
Springfield, IL**

Be a part of self-advocacy in action! Join with others as you speak up and speak out in support of self-advocates across Illinois who live in state institutions and want to experience life in a community of their choice. Following the Going Home Rally, self-advocates will visit with their elected officials to share information and ask for support of Going Home for self-advocates living in state institutions

For more information on Going Home, please visit [www.goinghomeillinois.org](http://www.goinghomeillinois.org). Find and "like" Going Home on Facebook at Going Home: A Full Life in the Community.

#### EVENT DETAILS:

- This event is **free**, and **a box lunch is included**.
- Sign language interpreters and PA's will provide accommodations.
- Please register by completing the Registration Form. Registrations must be in by Thursday, March 28, 2013 so that lunches can be ordered, and materials and accommodations prepared.
- The Alliance will reimburse mileage for self-advocate transportation.
- The Alliance will reimburse up to \$20 (with valid receipts) for supplies for homemade signs to show support at the rally.

For more information, please contact Krescene Beck, Project Director of The Alliance, at 618.806.9431 or [krescenebeck@gmail.com](mailto:krescenebeck@gmail.com).



# The Alliance News

## Going Home Rally Registration

### GOING HOME RALLY REGISTRATION FORM

Wednesday, April 10, 2013

Illinois State Capitol at the Lincoln Statue (outside at 2<sup>nd</sup> Street)

11am – 2:30pm (gathering begins at 10.30am)

**Agency/Self-Advocacy Group Name** \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending: Self-Advocates \_\_\_\_\_ Support People \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

Names of Self-Advocates (please print clearly and include t-shirt sizes for each): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Names of Support People (please print clearly and include t-shirt sizes for each): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Contact Person

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Agency/Group Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

### Accommodation Requests

\_\_\_\_ Dietary requirements – please specify (ie, Gluten Free, Dental Soft, No Styrofoam, etc.).

**NOTE: Any physician-prescribed dietary requirements will be accommodated; food preferences will not be honored.** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Other requests – please specify \_\_\_\_\_

**Please register by Thursday, March 28, 2013 by mail, email, or fax to:**

Krescene Beck Mail: 6754 Middlegate Lane, Glen Carbon, IL 62034

Email: krescenebeck@gmail.com

Fax: 217.875.8899