



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



Back to the Future 2013

Thursday, June 13, 2013

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

Doubletree Hotel 10 Brickyard Drive Bloomington, Illinois

See Page 9 for more information!

Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance
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Email: info@selfadvocacyalliance.org Website: www.selfadvocacyalliance.org
Find us on Facebook at Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance



The Alliance News

Going Home Rally Pictures





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The Alliance News

Going Home Rally

On April 10, 2013 in Springfield, Illinois I attended the Going Home Rally. It was an advocacy rally dedicated to support self-advocates moving from state institution to a community choice. There were a lot of self-advocates and support workers who came to this rally to support this; even Governor Quinn came to the rally ~ that was very exciting. We had shirts and food and a lot of people speaking up for the same thing and wanted to make something happen. Self-advocates went to see their legislators to share what they believed in and a lot of them were heard. At the end of the rally we had chanting and spreading the word of "going home". It was a very good day. I am proud of the self-advocates and glad that I attended the rally. Have a good May.

Terah Green
State Action Coordinator

P.S. You can check out some of the media coverage of the Going Home Rally by visiting the websites below:

www.sj-r.com/breaking/x1545200300/Advocates-for-disabled-rally-for-group-homes<http://www.sj-r.com/breaking/x1641163576/Quinn-Closing-Illinois-institutions-right-things><http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kbvq0dsVkew>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kbvq0dsVkew>

www.wandtv.com/story/21936660/quinn-meets-with-developmentally-disabled-wednesday

**"If you have come to help me, you are wasting your time.
If you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine,
then let us work together."**

Words used by Lilla Watson, Aboriginal elder, activist and educator from Queensland, Australia

The Alliance Staff Contact Information

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Speaking Up and Speaking Out



Going Home Illinois - Jennifer, Rachael and Dinah

Check out the video of Jennifer, Rachael and Dinah sharing what "going home" means to them:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=gXMTv8uIi5o

A group self-advocates at Macon Resources, Inc. in Decatur, IL made a video titled "I Am Not My Disability" that premiered at the Decatur Take Back The Night event on April 11, 2013.

Check it out at
http://youtu.be/hZpC_yCE_NQ

The Going Home Campaign supports Governor Pat Quinn's (D-Illinois) Rebalancing Initiative which offers people with disabilities the opportunity to live in a community of choice vs. living in a state institution. You may also visit www.goinghomeillinois.org to learn more.

ADVOCACY ONLINE

Self-Advocacy Online, a website that provides practical, entertaining, and accessible information to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

www.selfadvocacyonline.org

The Research and Training Center on Community Living at the University of Minnesota, in partnership with The Arc, is adding new content to the website every month. Here are the key areas of the site:

Find Self-Advocacy Groups: an interactive map showing groups across the U.S. We need people to use this website and update their contact information.

View stories from Self-Advocates: a video storywall showcasing dozens of self-advocates speaking on topical areas.

Learn about Self-Advocacy: a series of media-rich lessons on key topics in self-advocacy.

Research for All: important research in our field translated into clear language and made even more accessible through data visualization and narration.



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Arc Conference Rewind

This year's annual Arc of IL convention in Lisle was informative, fun and full of new faces. Megan Norlin, (Local Group Coordinator), and I did a presentation first thing in the morning called "Putting the 'U' in Community. We talked about ideas local groups can be doing in their communities:

Partnering with schools and universities to create disability awareness activities and programs

Educate each other and the community about the history of disability

Give disability awareness trainings to local businesses in your community.

We also talked about www.jjlist.com, a community driven review website where people review businesses and services based on their disability awareness. Interestingly, most of the people in the room had HEARD about JJ's List but only ONE person had actually created a review about a business in their community. I was surprised by this and made everyone promise to do a review when they got home. To be sure everyone knew how to get on the site, we walked through the process and I told success stories of reviews that led to positive changes in the community.



We also talked about some of the other amazing products and services that JJ's List offers like their SPILLS (Safe and Productive Internet, Life and Literacy Skills) Curriculum as well as their disability awareness training program.



Besides JJ's List, we talked about **3E Love** and the International Symbol of Disability Acceptance. Have you seen it? 3E Love, LLC., is a social entrepreneurial experiment aimed at changing the perception of disability. The company was started by siblings Annie & Stevie Hopkins in 2007 with the intent of promoting their unique symbol and social model of disability. The company's trademarked International Symbol of Acceptance (wheelchair heart logo) is the drive behind it's social mission to provide the

tools for others to **embrace** diversity, **educate** society, and **empower** each other to love life.

The symbol is an attitude and a lifestyle. A symbol for people with any disability or impairment, it represents the person, not society's perception of him or her. It challenges those of us with disabilities to break through the boxes, stereotypes, labels and limited expectations that have been forced on us since birth.



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Arc Conference Rewind

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To me personally, the symbol is a huge source of empowerment. When I wear my 3E Love gear, I have a little more pep in my step. It's my way of saying to the world, "I don't have to fit in, I am proud to be me." Though I have my share of really bad days, my disability has opened a lot of doors for me and provided me with opportunities and life lessons that make me the unique little lady you see today.

The purpose of 3E Love's symbol is not to discount the terrible aspects of disability and illness but to put that aside from time to time and enjoy each day we are given. At a time in our history where we are still fighting for equal rights and opportunities in a state that falls way below in national rankings, this is a global opportunity for us to network and create REAL, lasting societal change. 3E Love has sold tens of thousands of products to customers in all 50 states and over 20 countries in the world!

Join the movement. Be empowered.

Check out the latest products at: <http://www.3elove.com/> and learn more about Annie and Stevie Hopkins. Their story is inspiring and hard to forget!

Also, WRITE REVIEWS on [www.ijslist.com!](http://www.ijslist.com/)

Thanks for tuning in!

Tara Wickey
Community Organizer

Introducing Handicap! This

Handicap This! is a true story that started in 2001 and continues to this day. Mike Berkson and Tim Wambach combat ignorance, teach awareness, and motivate by example cruisin' in a wheelchair! If you would like to know more about the mission of Handicap This! visit the website at

<http://handicaphthis.com/>





The Alliance News

Back To The Future Event



Thursday, June 13, 2013

10am – 2.30pm

(registration begins at 9.15am)

Doubletree Hotel

10 Brickyard Drive

Bloomington, Illinois

Back to The Future 2013

We're getting back to the basics so that we can strengthen our future! Back to the Future 2013 highlights community advocacy and organizing around employment and transportation, and healthy relationships. The day will feature a variety of activities including:

Music

Interactive Activities

Panel Discussions

Sharing of Ideas and Successes

Planning for the Future

EVENT DETAILS:

This event is free, and lunch is included.

Please register by completing the Registration Form. Registrations are limited to ten (10) attendees from each agency/self-advocacy group, and must be in by

Tuesday, June 5, 2013 so that lunches can be ordered and accommodations prepared.

The Alliance will reimburse mileage for self-advocate transportation.

If you need to arrive in Bloomington the day before the rally due to transportation arrangements and are in need of hotel accommodations, please contact Krescene Beck by using the information below.

For more information, please contact Krescene Beck at 618.806.9431 or krescenebeck@gmail.com.



The Alliance News

Back to the Future Event Registration

Thursday, June 13, 2013

Doubletree Hotel

10 Brickyard Drive

Bloomington, IL

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

Space Is Limited. Each agency/self-advocacy group will be limited to a total of 10 (ten) participants (self-advocates and support staff combined) attending.

Number attending: Self-Advocates _____ Support People _____ TOTAL _____

Agency/Self-Advocacy Group Name _____

Names of Self-Advocates (please print clearly): _____

Names of Support People (please print clearly):

Contact Person

Name _____ Phone _____

E-mail _____

Accommodation Requests

___ Sign language interpreter

___ 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 _____

If you need accessible transportation while in Bloomington, please contact BNPTS (Bloomington Normal Public Transit Systems) at 1.309.828.7511 or www.connect-transit.com/SpecialServices.aspx

Please register by Tuesday, June 5, 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