

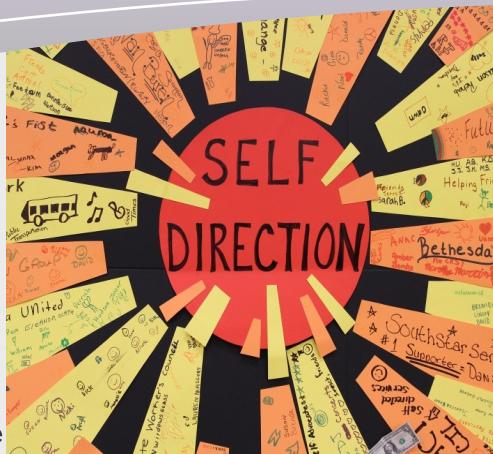
The Alliance News

22

July 2013



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 Rally a Success!

The Back to the Future Rally held June 13, 2013 at the Doubletree Hotel in Bloomington, Illinois was a success! The rally brought together 82 self-advocates and 42 support staff representing 20 agencies/organizations/self-advocacy groups. The day began with Kevin Casey, Director of DHS' Division of Developmental Disabilities sharing his thoughts on what self-advocates in Illinois can do to improve the system. Alliance staff then got the participants thinking about self-advocacy in an "outburst" inspired game. Everyone was a winner and received sunglasses because "the future's so bright, we gotta wear shades"! The two learning sessions for the day featured a workshop on Community Advocacy by Access Living, and a workshop on Healthy Relationships by the Illinois Imagines project. Self-advocacy groups brainstormed ideas for community advocacy events to share their chosen key message; the Alliance will support self-advocacy groups in planning their events.

Check out the Back to the Future photos on pages 4 and 5!

Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance

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Find us on Facebook at Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance

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Board of Directors' Mini-Retreat

On June 12, 2013, the members of The Alliance's Board of Directors participated in a mini-retreat. The time was filled with laughter and learning! During the mini-retreat, members of the Board and Alliance staff talked about self-advocacy and leadership, and shared what leadership skills they want to learn. The role of the Board of Directors and the officer positions were also discussed. We talked about how to prepare for Board meetings so that we can effectively discuss issues and guide the direction of The Alliance. Board members and staff also learned how to read financial reports.

The Board of Directors and the Alliance staff are excited about the future for self-advocates in Illinois!





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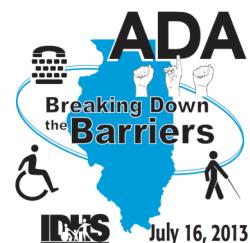
Innovative employment supports such as Aspire CareerLink are always important especially with the recent Dept of Justice agreement with the State of Rhode Island. Aspire is launching a cutting-edge work training enterprise – with help from our corporate partner OfficeMax.

Aspire CareerLink will utilize real-world work environments along with a specialized curriculum to prepare adults with disabilities for meaningful careers. **Aspire CareerLink** candidates will receive first-class job training provided in coordination with OfficeMax. The initial curriculum of the enterprise will focus on job skills for retail stores and supply chain. **Aspire CareerLink** is now accepting applications from candidates 22 years or older who have autism, an acquired disability, or another developmental disability or learning disability. For more information or to learn how to apply visit www.aspireofillinois.org/news/listings/AspireCareerLink.html.

ADA ~ Breaking Down the Barriers

July 16, 2013 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

James R. Thompson Center
100 West Randolph Street, Chicago
(Between Lake and Randolph & Clark and LaSalle Streets)



Join Us In Commemorating the 23rd anniversary of the Signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act at the event sponsored by the Illinois Department of Human Services in cooperation with numerous state agencies and councils. The event features interactive and informational workshops on ADA; job fair and employment workshop; arts and sports activities; ADA Help Table; exhibits from federal, state and local organizations; and entertainment by performers with disabilities. **This event is FREE and ACCESSIBLE!** For more information call 312-793-0034 (Voice), 888-614-2385 (TTY), or email at DHS.ADACelebration@illinois.gov.

Celebrating Americans with Disabilities Act

Wednesday, July 31, 2013 11am—2pm

South Side of Old State Capitol Plaza, Downtown Springfield, Illinois

Free Food and Fun for the Whole Family! Music provided by Hipbone Sam.

The Alliance News

Back to the Future Rally Rewind



"The single most important factor in improving the system in Illinois is self-advocates. A strong united self-advocate community is critical to moving forward."

~ Kevin Casey, Director of DHS' Division of Developmental Disabilities





The Alliance News

Back to the Future Rally Rewind



"The future's so bright, we gotta wear shades!"



Tom Wilson and Susan Aarup from Access Living presenting on Community Advocacy (left).

Teresa Tudor and Mary Hettel from the Illinois Imagines project presenting on Healthy Relationships (below left).

Shirley Paceley from the Illinois Imagines project presenting on Healthy Relationships (below right).





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Take Action

TAKE ACTION – Summer District Office Visits

Dear Going Home Stakeholders,



There is no better way to TAKE ACTION then to visit your state representative and senator at their district offices. Legislators want to hear from their constituents and will welcome your visit. Please schedule your meeting by August 30, 2013 to tell your legislators why they should **support community living and the Going Home Campaign.**

Enclosed you will find information to assist you and your membership during your visit including talking points, fact sheet and frequently asked questions (FAQ) that you can leave behind. This information is also available on our website. **Please forward to your network of advocates and encourage them to pass this information along.**

How to Take Action

1. Identify legislators - <http://votesmart.org/>
2. Set-up appointments
3. Visit legislators and leave behind a Fact Sheet and FAQ
4. Report back – <http://www.etouches.com/esurvey/goinghomelegrc>

Find Talking Points, Fact Sheet and FAQ at <http://goinghomeillinois.org/resource-center/>.

For more information, please feel free to call Michelle Arnold at 1.773.867.8564.

"How wonderful it is that no one has to wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."

~ Anne Frank



The Alliance News

This & That



Training . Publishing . Consulting

Enriching Workplaces and Reducing Employment Barriers

The True Livelihood newsletter is intended to support the work of people who are engaged in developing the careers, vocations, livelihoods, jobs and/or work of other individuals. It is our belief that everyone's work life can and should be molded and crafted to be the expression of our finest gifts and a source of great joy. Towards this end, we hope that the content of these newsletters will support you with both practical tools and inspirational ideas. Join to receive the newsletter at www.diversityworld.com/newsjoin.htm.

June 2013 Alliance Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

The Board of Directors met on June 12, 2013. Items of discussion included:

- Approval of minutes from 2.15.13 meeting
- Approval of minutes from 5.17.13 meeting
- Approval of financial report
- Local group updates
- Alliance staff to present at SUSO in November 2013
- Member Group Applications received from Self-Advocates of Lake County, CTF Tigers, Sertoma United, CAPS, ROHSA, and Futures Unlimited, Inc.
- Overview of Back to the Future event on 6.13.13
- Netia Carey will replace Eric Morenz as the representative of Change to Independence Altogether (CIA) on the Board of Directors

Trouble hearing on the phone?

Illinois has a **FREE** amplified phone program!

Come test the ITAC phones:

Thursday, July 11

5 pm - 7 pm



Knights of Columbus Hall
RR2, Carrollton, IL 62016

Call 618-208-1146
to schedule an appointment
or for more information

No age or income restrictions

www.itacny.org

Illinois Telecommunications Access Corporation

A Free program required and governed by Illinois law



Register for a free online training, "Understanding Microboards and Cooperatives", to be held on Monday, July 8 from 11:30am -12:30pm.
Pre-register at <http://www.anymeeting.com/PIID=E956D681894C3B>