

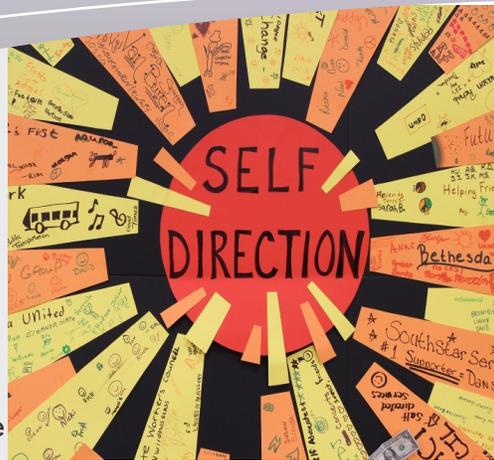
# The Alliance News

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Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance



## 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

### GOING HOME RALLY

**Wednesday, March 26, 2014**

**Illinois State Capitol      Springfield, Illinois**



Living in the community offers people with disabilities the opportunity to be productive and social, live close to family and friends and enjoy an overall improved quality of life. Anyone can live in the community with supports and services. In 2012, Governor Quinn introduced the Rebalancing of the Developmental Disability System to offer people with disabilities the opportunity to live in a community of their choice.

Make plans to join with other self-advocates, family members, supporters and allies to share the message of Going Home with legislators.

**Watch for more information on the Going Home Rally in upcoming issues of The Alliance newsletter.**

Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance  
PO Box 17704    Urbana, IL 61803    618.806.9431  
Email: [info@selfadvocacyalliance.org](mailto:info@selfadvocacyalliance.org)    Website: [www.selfadvocacyalliance.org](http://www.selfadvocacyalliance.org)  
Find us on Facebook at Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance



# The Alliance News

## Advocacy Information

### special needs wrap up



Join Sivia Business & Legal Services, P.C., SEEC, Beverly Farm Foundation, Autism & Our Kids, The Legacy Collaboration, and IMPACT for a comprehensive seminar series for families with special needs children. Learn about critical issues facing individuals with special needs from experienced experts. You'll receive a step-by-step guide to Special Needs Planning from childhood into adulthood, and meet invaluable contacts that can assist you, and your child, on your journey.

#### When

February 1, 2014

#### Where

IMPACT East Meeting Room  
2735 East Broadway  
Alton, IL 62002

#### Cost

\$5 per person

#### Register

[www.sivialaw.com/specialneeds](http://www.sivialaw.com/specialneeds)

#### Topics

- Organizing School Documents & Beginning a Care Notebook
- Housing Options & Transition
- Employment Transition & Issues
- Life Planning: Guardianship & Special Needs Trusts
- Microboards & Co-ops
- Youth Advocacy & IMPACT Available Services

#### Presenters

- Karen Palmer, SEEC
- Deb Goodman, IMPACT
- Cody Buttry-Hinkle, Beverly Farm Foundation
- Ashley Day, Sivia Business & Legal Services
- Kathryn Hymel, The Legacy Collaboration
- Penny Salvato, Autism & Our Kids

#### Sponsors



## Autism & Our Kids - A.O.K.

- FREE planning guide
- Learn from special needs experts

- Meet other special needs families
- Receive a comprehensive resource guide



# The Alliance News

## Self-Advocacy Highlights

Vocational Voices, part of Ada S. McKinley in Chicago, has been doing SO MUCH even though their group only formed 6 months ago. It all started when the agency ran out of art supplies. They took it upon themselves to come together and write a letter to the Executive Director of the organization. They received a letter back with a yearly budget for art supplies! From there, Vocational Voices was born!

Their facilitator Angela showed the advocates a cool video on the ABC's of self-advocacy and helps them get their ideas and projects in order. The group has learned how to explain what their disabilities are and has talked about self-advocacy in depth. To them, self-advocacy means:

- Standing up for myself
- Coping with my challenges
- Getting around and not being afraid of those in my community
- Being independent
- Getting a job



To top it all off, Vocational Voices worked on making Christmas cards for those overseas AND collected food for a local food pantry. The Alliance is thrilled to welcome them to the self-advocacy family!

~ Tara Wickey, Community Organizer

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Hey everyone! Jennifer Knapp and I recently went to the Community Residential Providers' Group meeting to share information about The Alliance and talk with members about starting or enhancing self advocacy at their agencies. Community Residential Providers' Group keeps members informed regarding legislative, political and regulatory issues and changes which impact on community residential programs. They provide educational opportunities, support and the sharing of information regarding operating practices and program innovation among member agencies. Jennifer and I heard lots of great things that the self-advocates are doing!

~ Terah Green, State Action Coordinator



# The Alliance News

## Self-Advocacy Highlights

The Ray of Hope Self Advocates (ROHSA) at SouthSTAR Services in Chicago Heights were incredibly busy this holiday season! Here is what they were up to:

- Singing Christmas Carols at a local nursing home & at a McDonalds open mic night
- Planning a bake sale for January. The money will be used for SUSO and to help those who cannot afford to come to their "Self Advocates Night Out!"
- Their Helping Hands Division collected clothes for a local homeless shelter as well as food and other items for a participant of SouthstSTAR who had a house fire. When asked what inspired this decision, Veronica told me that the idea came to her one night. She looked down and thought to herself, "What do I have hands for if not to help and serve?"
- The group has advocates participating on the Going Home Campaign, the Ligas Advisory committee as well as the Waiver Work Committee.

Way to go ROHSA!!!

~ Tara Wickey, Community Organizer



### **Path to Transformation Waiver 1115 Webinar Tuesday, January 7, 2014 at 1pm**

Join The Alliance for the Path to Transformation Waiver Webinar on Tuesday, January 7, 2014 at 1pm. Your input will be directed to Health Management Associates, the consulting company Illinois has hired to write the waiver.

Register for the webinar by logging on to

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2746202168846918657>.

You may also e-mail Krescene Beck at [krescenebeck@gmail.com](mailto:krescenebeck@gmail.com) for the direct link.





# The Alliance News

## December Webinar Highlights

### Looking to the Future Webinar Highlights

Happy New Year self-advocates, and welcome to 2014! Our December webinar was all about looking to the future and hearing from you about what matters to you.

**WE ASKED:**

What are you passionate about?

**YOU SAID:**

Having a community job.  
Speaking up for myself.  
Travelling.  
Making music and dancing.  
Visiting with family and Christmas.  
People listening to us.  
Doing new things with staff.

**WE ASKED:**

What do you want your community to know about you?

**YOU SAID:**

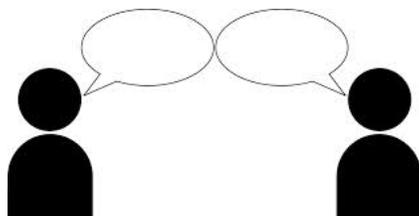
I want people to see me smile.  
We want people to know we work.  
We work hard.  
We volunteer.  
We help others by collecting food for the pantry.  
We want to work in the community.  
We are athletic and active in Special Olympics.  
We can take the bus to go shopping.  
I respect my neighbors by not playing my music loud.

**WE ASKED:**

What do you want the state of Illinois to know about you?

**YOU SAID:**

We need more support of transportation.  
We are happy with our DT programs.  
We appreciate the money they give us for our services.  
We have gifts and talents that we share with others.  
Keep our programs going (like self-advocacy groups).  
Support people where they want to live.



**Continued on next page**



# The Alliance News

## December Webinar Highlights

### WE ASKED:

What do you want to world to know about you?

### YOU SAID:

We are happy.

We want the world to be safe and clean.

We have our own gifts and talents to share with others.

We help other people with Angel tree gifts, Operation Christmas Card, and bingo for people in nursing homes.

I want people to know more about me, and that I make music and care about people, and that people love me.

Why did we ask you these questions on the webinar? Well, a new year means a new beginning, and we want to make sure we start this new year right! We plan to take these ideas with us to the Arc Conference in April and to our meetings with DHS DDD Director Kevin Casey. I'm sure some of these will end up in future trainings and at our annual event in June, too. Thank you for speaking up. If you didn't get a chance to come to the webinar, don't worry. There will be others, and until then, you can always contact us. No idea is too small. For now though, keep up the great work!

~ Megan Norlin, Local Group Coordinator

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### Money Matter\$ Videos

The Money Matter\$ 3-part video series provides an overview of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD); insights into communication methods and creating an inclusive learning environment; and presents a basic budgeting curriculum to assist financial literacy practitioners and educators in strengthening the money management skills of young adults with ASD.

<http://moneymanagement.unt.edu/money-matters>





# The Alliance News

**Coming Up**

**Be a Part of Advocacy in Action by attending the NW Region Advisory Council (NWR-AC) Meeting**

Tuesday, January 14, 2014

4:30 - 6:00pm

Milestone Training Center (MTC)

4504 Shepherd Trail in Rockford, Illinois



<http://weft.org/on-the-air/programs/disability-beat/>

Tune in on Monday, February 10, 2014 from 5.30 - 6pm to hear self-advocates of Personal Power Players from Piatt County Mental Health in Monticello speak on self-advocacy and The Alliance! Disability Beat is about and for people with all types of disabilities with a slant toward social justice, community supports, inclusion, accessibility, freedom and choice. It airs every Monday evening from 5.30 - 6pm.

**Be a Part of Advocacy in Action by attending the Central Region Advisory Council Meeting**

Thursday, February 13, 2014

12.30pm

Centrum Building

319 East Madison, 4N

Springfield, IL

**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