

The Alliance News



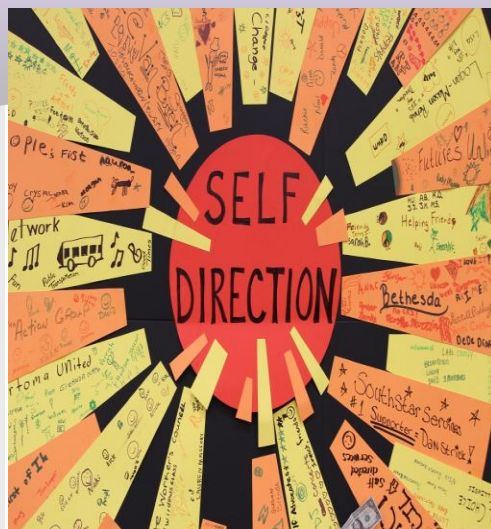
Vision

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



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SABE's Project VOTE Voter Experience Election Day Survey



Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE) Project Vote is interested in learning more about the voting experience of people with developmental disabilities the November 2014 election.

This information is very important to us so we can make sure voters with disabilities in our state are able to cast a private and independent ballot without any barriers. By knowing this, we can let the Secretary of State Office and Election Officials know your comments. It takes all of us working together to make sure all citizens in our state can cast a private and independent ballot.

You can complete an online survey by logging on to www.sabeusa.org.

Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance

PO Box 17704 Urbana, IL 61803 618.806.9431

Email: krescenebeck@gmail.com Website: www.selfadvocacyalliance.org

Find us on Facebook at Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance

Dear Alliance Self-Advocates and Supporters,

Five years ago, The Alliance was a scattered group of self-advocates. Now, we have grown into an organization of 19 groups with over 300 members! The Alliance is beginning to be a force for change in Illinois.



As I think about all that has happened since The Alliance started, I am filled with joy at the great moments you all made happen:

- The first group of self-advocates deciding on the name Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance, because they didn't want to start over, they wanted to bring all the pieces of self-advocacy together.
- The *It's My Life* campaign, where self-advocates danced to Bon Jovi, made decisions about how they wanted to spend their money for services, and got Lilia to promise to create self-directed services!
- Local groups making changes in their communities – like working on getting bus shelters, creating rights handbooks, making videos about labels, and holding self-advocacy fairs.
- All the trainings on leadership, public speaking, anti-bullying, and so many more.
- And who can forget the Speak Up, Speak Out Summits where Alliance board members shared the LIFE display, created a puzzle, played bingo, and dressed up as different workers. Of course, at Speak Up, Speak Out there was also lots of DANCING!

I am sharing these memories with you because I am leaving the staff of The Alliance. I still hope to see you at some of the events, but I won't get to be there for all these moments. My hope is that I will still get to see all the great things you are doing.

When we first started, our goal was to make state and local change. The Alliance now has the opportunity to take the next step with Operation Community Access. I hope that every self-advocate in the Alliance gets involved with this campaign in some way. Maybe you can give a speech or create a poster or talk with a friend about Operation Community Access. Maybe you can call your local newspaper or work with your friends to create an event about being in the community.

Whatever you do, remember that The Alliance is all about self-advocates speaking up for yourselves and each other. You DO have a voice, and you are the most important people in the whole system for people with disabilities!

I'm so excited to see what happens with The Alliance, and what great moments you all create together!

With love,

Jen

"The day is coming when people who have DD will have their rightful place in our society. I want to see that day. Maybe that idea is starting to take root..."

~ Stephen Carroll, Missouri Department of Mental Health/Division of DDD

Marcfirst Program Encourages People with Disabilities to Create, Sell Art

Paul Swiech, Pantagraph

January 22, 2015

Raphael Moore is creating independence one brush stroke at a time. Standing beside "Colors," his painting on display in the Jan Brandt Gallery, Moore described using a brush to apply green, yellow, orange and brown acrylic paint to canvas. Moore — who has moderate mental retardation and schizophrenia — described his work modestly on Wednesday. "I thought they were cool," he responded when asked why he chose his four colors. "It's just fun," he said when asked why he likes to paint.

But for Moore and 21 other people with developmental disabilities who are participating in the new Marc Making program, the opportunity to create, reproduce and sell art is more than fun. It's an opportunity for self-expression and income generation for a segment of the community that finds communication and employment difficult.

"It's been fun watching them grow" in self-confidence, said Becky Brennan, developmental training director at Marcfirst, which provides training and support for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Thirty pieces of art — paintings, drawings and sculptures — will be on display at the gallery, 1106 E. Bell St., Bloomington, Saturday through Feb. 6, beginning with an exhibition opening and artists' reception 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday.

Art had been done in developmental training for some time, Brennan said. When Stephanie Adomaitis, an artist, joined Marcfirst as vice president of development and marketing a year ago, she was impressed with the art being created and thought it should be appreciated beyond Marcfirst participants and staff. Twenty-two participants with disabilities agreed to allow their art to be displayed and sold as original works and reproduced for sale as prints and cards. A \$1,600 grant from Daybreak Rotary Club is covering reproduction costs, said Marcfirst CEO Laura Furlong.

Creating art soothes Moore, 30, of Normal. Brandt told Moore that she understands. "I'm an artist, too," she told Moore. "Sometimes you have to make stuff to make yourself happy. If something isn't lining up in my life, if I'm anxious, I need to get in my studio to create something. "I love your art," she told Moore. While Moore works at Target in Normal and lives in an apartment with Marcfirst staff support, many Marcfirst participants don't have jobs. Creating and selling art is an opportunity to build confidence and income.

Larry Brightwell, 24, of Bloomington, who has Down syndrome and moderate mental retardation, painted a cowboy and heated crayons so those colors dripped over the cowboy. He is looking for work but hopes to sell art in the meantime.

Adomaitis noted that the project already is building bridges between several segments of the community. "I think it's critical," Furlong said, "that we continue to build those bridges."

www.pantagraph.com/news/local/marcfirst-program-encourages-people-with-disabilities-to-create-sell-art/article_07d33d0c-9760-5f08-9c11-63513ad4744b.html



Hi Everyone!

I am so excited to get to work with the Alliance! As the advisor to the Ray of Hope Self Advocates I got to help with many of the Alliance projects and I understand how important it is for all of us to work together to make Illinois a better place to live for people with disabilities. I am looking forward to meeting many of you as we work with your groups around the state! If I don't get to meet you then I will get to meet you at Speak Up Speak Out!!

Leanne Roth
Organizational Coordinator

Two New Advocacy Resources on Quality Mall

"New Voices: Self-Advocacy by People with Disabilities"

This influential book explains how the self-advocacy movement was started by persons with developmental disabilities.

www.qualitymall.org/products/prod1.asp?prodid=48713

"Disability Rights Ohio Online Resource Center - Disability Topics"

This website has a lot of information about the legal rights of people who have disabilities.

www.qualitymall.org/products/prod1.asp?prodid=48795

Please register for The Alliance's February Webinar

Fully Alive: Discovering What Matters Most

Thursday, February 26, 2015 from 10 – 11am

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8551559801203972353>

As Timothy Shriver has stated in his book by this title "we are all totally vulnerable and valuable at the same time." This book is just a jumping off place for The Advocacy Center/CTFillinois to introduce ourselves and tell you more about what we are doing here in Charleston, IL. Hopefully after viewing our Webinar you will do two things: 1) read this wonderful book written by someone whose life's work with Special Olympics carries on the tradition of compassionate caring that was his mother's legacy and 2) appreciate and support groups like the Advocacy Center/CTFillinois.

In our Webinar we will introduce you to fifteen hardworking self-advocates who have been contributing valuable volunteer services to the Charleston Community. The individuals are uniquely qualified to present their own voices, their own philosophy of what it means to be "Fully Alive" and we feel certain that after you listen to them you will be inspired to "discover what matters most" to you!

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

To receive the webinar link via e-mail, please contact Krescene Beck at krescenebeck@gmail.com.

**COME AND JOIN US FOR
THE 2ND ANNUAL GET IT
DONE DAY!**

Persons of all ages with special needs and their families are invited to attend this free event.

Hosted by the Madison County Transition Planning Committee in conjunction with Lewis & Clark Community College

DATE: March 16, 2015

TIME: 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**LOCATION:
N.O. Nelson Campus
600 Troy Road
Edwardsville, IL. 62025**

Get It Done Vendor List:

- Beverly Farm Foundation
 - Catholic Charities
 - Challenge Unlimited Inc.
 - Community Living Options
 - Developmental Disability Services
 - D.R.S
 - Impact Inc.
 - Lewis & Clark Community College
 - Madison County STEP
 - Madison County Transition Planning Committee
 - New Opportunities
 - Sivia Law Firm
 - Social School
 - Trinity
 - UPC Heartland
 - William BeDell Family Support Unit
-Plus Many More

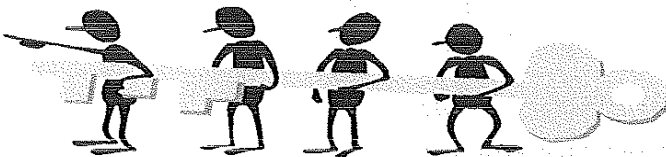
**GET IT
DONE DAY**

Come and meet the service providers. They will be available to answer questions and provide information to you. Families will be able to begin the process of working with service providers while at this event. Please bring your child's documents: Birth Certificate, State I.D., Social Security Number, Medicaid Number, documentation of disability/I.E.P., and any other documentation that may be needed to complete required paperwork.

Door Prizes will be awarded to attendees who hold a winning ticket !!!!!!!

This event is free to all attendees.

Working together



to GET IT DONE

CPDU's will be available to Educators.



Business Resource for People with Disabilities

According to the US Census Department, twice as many small businesses are started by disabled individuals than those started by non-disabled individuals. The big advantage to starting your own business is the ability to set your business up to accommodate your disabilities. While there are pros and cons to starting your own business, many disabled individuals are succeeding as entrepreneurs. The key to success in your own business is having a strong support system in place. There are many challenging decisions to be made and the more you surround yourself with a network of people and organizations that can help answer questions and guide you in the process, the more you increase your chances of successfully starting and maintaining your own business. Read more about this article at www.marcaria.com/articles/business-resource-for-people-with-disabilities.asp.

Abuse of People with Disabilities: A Silent Epidemic

Published on January 27, 2014

"We are all human beings and we all have a right to live our lives without abuse." Kecia and Molly call on persons with disabilities to work together, educate themselves and speak up to stop cycles of abuse -- be it financial, psychological, physical, sexual or domestic abuse.

Abuse of People with Disabilities: A Silent Epidemic is a public service video produced by the Board Resource Center (www.brcenter.org) to encourage people with disabilities to speak up about abuse. Molly Kennedy and Kecia Weller are well known peer advocates in California who are taking a stand to stop abuse. Please join them by sharing this video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=yhLsATwO0o4.

Check out a webinar featuring a self-advocacy PSA, "Abuse of People with Disabilities: A Silent Epidemic," by powerful self-advocates Kecia Weller and Molly Kennedy. Molly explains what abuse is and the different forms abuse can take, and tells victims how to report abuse. She explains the word "intimidation", and help victims understand that abuse is always unacceptable.

Learn more at www.thearc.org/nccjd/training/webinars/archive#silent-epidemic.

Riia Talve, international artist/speaker/activist/self-advocate, talks about her experience in school as a student with special needs. She stresses how important self-advocacy and self-determination is for us all.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=N0xQkSVTmDs

Visit Riia's blog at <http://riiatalve.blogspot.com/>. You can also find and "like" Riia on Facebook!





The Power of Empowerment: Using Illinois Imagines' Empowerment Guide

**Make plans to attend an Illinois Imagines 2015 Spring
Regional Meeting featuring the newest resource**



An empowerment group is a group of women with disabilities who support each other in preventing sexual assault and finding resources to help survivors of sexual assault. Members of empowerment groups work together to make changes in themselves and their communities. The Guide for Starting Empowerment Groups provides structure and content for a 23-session empowerment group for women with disabilities. Each session is described in detail including session plans, materials needed, a script for the facilitator to use, handouts for sessions, and forms to keep group notes and records.

A time to learn...a time to teach...a time to empower.

All participants will receive a copy of the Empowerment Guide.

Illinois Imagines Spring 2015 Regional Training Registration Form

You may attend any of locations that work best with your schedule. Mark date/location you will be attending and complete the registration below, forwarding to Susan Urquhart at Macon Resources, Inc. by fax at 217.875.8899 or return via e-mail to surquhart@maconresources.org. **Each person attending the training must register separately. Space is limited; please register no later than one week prior to the training you wish to attend.**

Thursday, March 12, 2015
9.30am – 12.30noon
UIC Auditorium
1640 W. Roosevelt Road
Chicago, IL

Friday, March 13, 2015
9.30am – 12.30pm
OSF Saint Anthony Foundation Room
5666 East State Street
Rockford, IL

Wednesday, March 25, 2015
11.30am – 3pm
Mosaic
220 Lafayette
Macomb, IL

Thursday, March 26, 2015
11.30am – 3pm
Savoy United Methodist Church
3002 W. Old Church Road
Champaign, IL

Friday, March 27, 2015
11.30am – 3pm
Community Resources Center
904 Martin Luther King
Centralia, IL

Name: _____ Self Advocate Staff

Illinois Imagines Team Represented (if applicable): _____

If Staff, Organization/Agency Represented: _____

Address: _____

Phone:(____) _____

Email: _____

Do you require accommodations during the meeting? Yes _____ No _____
(you will be contacted for details)



SAVE *THE* DATE

Advocacy Day

March 25, 2015

& equality
opportunity
improved
quality of life.

Illinois State Capitol
Rotunda
Springfield, Illinois

Speak up and speak out at our annual rally to show support for people with disabilities living in the community.

Going Home is an advocacy campaign dedicated to full inclusion and equality for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

For more information call 312-300-6870 or go to www.goinghomeillinois.org.

Let's work together for equality for people with disabilities!

Register online at www.goinghomeillinois.org. If you need assistance in registering, please contact Krescene Beck at krescenebeck@gmail.com.

The Alliance Staff Contact Information

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Krescene Beck, Program Coordinator
krescenebeck@gmail.com

Leanne Roth, Organizational Coordinator
leanneadvocacy@gmail.com

Be a Part of Advocacy in Action by attending your local Advisory Council Meeting**North Suburban**

To Be Announced
Community Alternatives Unlimited
8765 W. Higgins Road
Chicago, IL

North Central

Tuesday, February 3, 2015
10am
Freedom Hall (Morton Park District building)
349 W. Birchwood
Morton, IL

Northwest

Tuesday, March 10, 2015
4.30pm
Milestone Training Center
4504 Shepherd Trail
Rockford, IL

City of Chicago

Tuesday, February 10, 2015
10am
UIC's Institute on Disabilities and Human Development (Auditorium)
1640 W. Roosevelt Road
Chicago, IL

Central Region

Thursday, May 14, 2015
12.30pm
Centrum Building
319 East Madison
Springfield, IL

Southern Region

Wednesday, February 18, 2015
10.30am
SICCS
140 S. Locust
Centralia, IL

South Suburban

February 19, 2015
2pm
Suburban Access
900 Maplewood Avenue
Homewood, IL