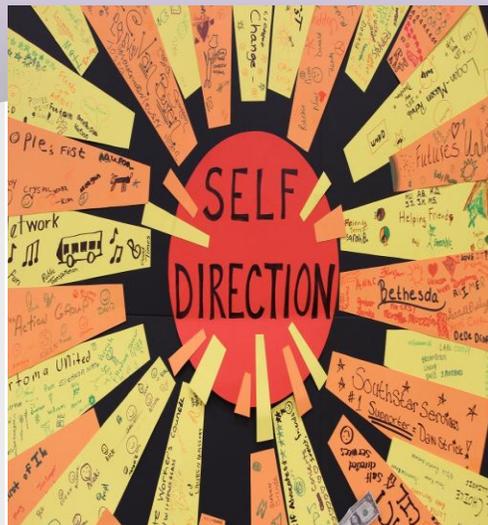


# The Alliance News



### In This Issue

<b>Learning Opportunities</b>	<b>Pages 2, 4</b>
<b>Advisor's Corner</b>	<b>Page 3</b>
<b>Voting Helpline</b>	<b>Page 5</b>
<b>Advocacy Opportunity</b>	<b>Page 6</b>

## 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

Gov. Bruce Rauner and all the legislators should support self-advocates with developmental disabilities in learning about their choices and helping make those choices happen.

Choice is vital to self-advocacy. People with developmental and other disabilities have the right to choose where and how they want to live. Some people choose to live in an apartment and have staff help them to be independent. Other people choose to work in the community at a restaurant. Some people choose to have a pet or to live closer to family and friends. Every person is different, but all people want to live a good life doing what they want where they want.

Five years ago, the Alliance began as a scattered group of self-advocates with developmental and other disabilities around Illinois. We have grown into an organization of 19 groups with more than 300 members and an outreach to hundreds more. Alliance groups and allies work together to make life better in our communities and to make services better in our state.

The Alliance supports people with developmental or other disabilities in Illinois choosing how they want to live. We expect Rauner and all the legislators to do the same.

Adam Cooper, Board of Directors President  
The Alliance

 BELLEVILLE NEWS-DEMOCRAT

Letter to the Editor published 5.26.15

Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance

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Find us on Facebook at Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance

## Disability Rights in a Changing World

www.rootedinrights.org



Rooted in Rights is a multi-channel platform for people with disabilities, self-advocates and their friends, families and allies. We tell the stories of the continuing fight for equal rights for people with disabilities, locally and internationally.

On this site, you'll find news from around the web as well as original op-eds, videos, graphics, educational resources and more.

To create a more equal society, we need to be rooted in rights.

**The future belongs  
to those who believe  
in the beauty of their dreams.**

~ Eleanor Roosevelt



Missed The Alliance's Dare to Dream webinar on Wednesday, June 24, 2015? No worries...we can send you the recording!

Just e-mail Krescene Beck at [krescenebeck@gmail.com](mailto:krescenebeck@gmail.com), and put Dare to Dream webinar in the subject line.

Soon I will have a dream completed. I am moving to a university town. I will be able to take the public bus all over the downtown. I will be able to ride the bus to doctor appointments and to the library from where I will be living.

In life some time it is hard to let go of your friends but in life you must take the next steps to succeed in life. I am 33 now and still have a bright future around me. I will be pushing myself to become more successful in life.

I would like to thank Tara for showing me a downtown Big Ten school. I also heard from Megan and Jason about their stories of dreams as well. Jennifer's story about working in a university town and the It's My Life project in Lake County, Illinois was inspiring. Always a big thank to Krescene for her hard work.

Your friend,  
David W., self-advocate  
Self-Advocates of Lake County

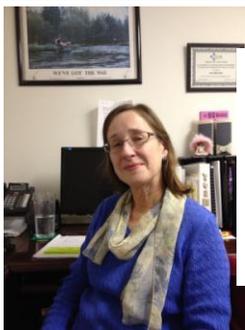
## The Alliance Staff Contact Information

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Missy Kichline

**Meet the advisors for  
The Network:  
Missy Kichline & Wendy Settles!**



Wendy Settles

### **Tell us a little about The Network**

The Network is located in Alton, Illinois. It began after another self-advocacy group lost funding, and we didn't want to stop moving forward. The Network has been speaking up and speaking out for more than 15 years. Our mission statement is "The Network is a civic, social, and self-advocacy group committed to rights, opportunities, and choice for people with disabilities".

### **How long have you been an advisor and what is your role?**

**Wendy:** I've been an advisor for about a year. I assist the group as needed with whatever they need to help the meeting move along and the group moving forward.

**Missy:** I've been an advisor for 8 years. My role as an advisor is to keep myself in an advisory role. Sometimes that is easy and sometimes it is not. I assist the group in moving forward. I provide support when asked. I'm not afraid to say to the group, "I can't do it all...this is YOUR self-advocacy group".

### **What has been The Network's biggest accomplishment?**

**Wendy:** Since I've been an advisor, The Network played a big role in getting the local transit system's hours extended and service expanded. Transportation, especially accessible transportation, is a huge issue for people with disabilities. Before the expansion, there wasn't a lot of weekend service and the busses quit running early in the day; there were many days and hours that people didn't have accessible transportation.

**Missy:** In 2013, The Network received CCDI's (Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities in Illinois') Barb Pritchard Award in recognition of assisting people with disabilities to achieve their leadership and advocacy goals.

### **What is the biggest obstacle you experience as an advisor?**

**Wendy:** My biggest obstacle is probably trying not to get too involved and not overstepping my role.

**Missy:** Staying in my lane! I have to remember that my role is an advisor, not the leader.

### **What is The Network currently working on?**

**Wendy:** The Network is currently working on registration for The Alliance's annual rally in July.

**Missy:** The Network is planning a one-day conference for self-advocates and allies in 2016.

### **Any words of advice for an advisor of a self-advocacy group?**

**Wendy:** Keep an open mind and be a good support system without being overbearing.

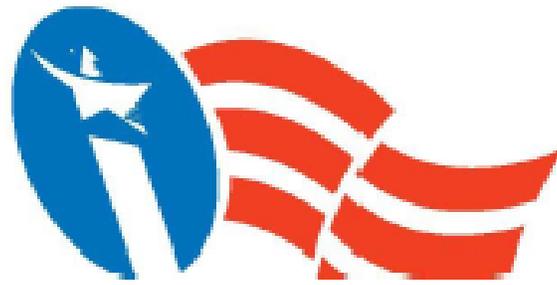
**Missy:** You don't have to fix every problem because:

1. It doesn't pertain to what the self-advocacy group's mission or vision, or
2. It's not fixable, or
3. Learning occurs within the struggle to figure out a solution to a problem.

### **What are 3 words that describe self-advocacy?**

**Wendy:** Independence. Communication. Tenacity or never giving up.

**Missy:** Freedom. Honor. Respect...and the respect is equalized, true, and genuine.



# **VOTERS WITH DISABILITIES HELPLINE**

On Tuesday, July 7, 2015, which is the 18<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Special Primary Election, Equip for Equality will have advocates available by telephone to answer questions about any voting problem you may experience.

**Call: 1.800.537.2632**

**TTY: 1.800.610.2779**

**Email: [Voting@equipforequality.org](mailto:Voting@equipforequality.org)**

**6 am to 7 pm**

Equip for Equality is an independent nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing the human and civil rights of children and adults with disabilities in Illinois.





**PEOPLE WITH ALL  
DISABILITIES  
WELCOME!**

**WE WILL COVER  
RELATIONSHIPS,  
SEXUALITY AND  
IDENTIFYING AND  
REPORTING SEXUAL  
VIOLENCE.**

**PERMISSION SLIP  
REQUIRED FOR  
THOSE WITH  
GUARDIANS.**

**TO BE HELD AT  
IMPACT'S EAST  
ROOM. MOST  
WEDNESDAYS IN  
JULY FROM 1-3 P.M.**

# HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP CLASSES

Presented by



The East Room

2751 E. Broadway  
Alton IL 62002

July 1st, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15th and 29<sup>th</sup>.  
To RSVP or for questions:  
call Wendy @ 618-474-6801

**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, July 7, 2015  
10am  
Freedom Hall (Morton Park District building)  
349 W. Birchwood  
Morton, IL

**Northwest**

Tuesday, July 14, 2015  
4.30pm  
Milestone Training Center  
4504 Shepherd Trail  
Rockford, IL

**City of Chicago**

Tuesday, August 11, 2015  
UIC's Institute on Disabilities and Human Development (Auditorium)  
1640 W. Roosevelt Road  
Chicago, IL

**Central Region**

Thursday, August 13, 2015  
12.30pm  
Centrum Building  
319 East Madison  
Springfield, IL

**Southern Region**

Wednesday, August 19, 2015  
10.30am  
140 S. Locust  
Centralia, IL

**South Suburban**

Thursday, August 20, 2015  
2pm  
Suburban Access  
900 Maplewood Avenue  
Homewood, IL