

Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance

The Alliance News

Issue #92

December 2019



Happy Holidays and Happy New Year from the Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance, Inc.

Our Vision

Our vision is for self-advocates to work together to get the support we need and to live the life we want in the community.

Our Mission

Our mission is to speak up for ourselves and each other while working together to make changes in our communities and in Illinois.



Illinois Council on
**Developmental
Disabilities**

This newsletter was developed under an investment by the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities

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Self-Advocacy Spotlight!

My name is Joe Stanton and I am a self-advocate and member of LCAA (Livingston County Self-Advocates) self-advocacy group.



To me, self-advocacy is very important. I recently graduated from The Alliance's Ambassador Leadership Program. One of my gifts and talents is being a good singer. My dream is to meet Anthony Rizzo who plays first base for the Chicago Cubs.

Self-Advocate Interview: Jeri

"Self-advocacy means that I can speak up for myself if I don't like something. I spoke up and told a supervisor when I didn't like what was happening at work. I hope to one day be able to get some self reading glasses."

Self-Advocate Interview: Jessica

"To me, self-advocacy means helping people. I recently spoke up at the Speak Up and Speak Out Summit. I love to sing. My hope is to live with my brother Carl."

Self-Advocate Interview: Joe F.

"Self-advocacy is speaking out for yourself and for others. I speak up for myself. One of my talents is playing basketball."

Staff Interview: Davonne

"To me, self-advocacy sticking up for yourself and your wishes, and making your own decisions. I support self-advocacy by listening. If someone needs assistance with speaking up, I help them. I support them with everything they need."

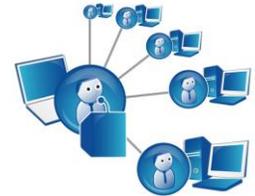
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Staff Interview: Heather

"Self-advocacy is inspiring. I support self-advocacy on a daily basis by supporting the needs of self-advocates."

Stay tuned for next month's Self-Advocacy Spotlight!

Recently Recorded Webinars



"Be the Leader of Your Healthcare Team"

Recorded Live on Tuesday, November 19, 2019

Members of the Community Choices Advocacy Initiatives Board will present a webinar that explores strategies for improving interactions between healthcare professionals and people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Learn about a tool these self-advocates developed that supports people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to have voice in their healthcare. View the recording at

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/recording/2298921986509136643?assets=true>

"Get Involved in the Holiday Celebrations"

Recorded Live on Thursday, December 5, 2019

Everyone wants to be included and feel comfortable during holiday celebrations. This is just as important for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities as anyone else. For some folks it's easy to become involved. Others may need some extra support and help to be involved and contribute to celebrations in meaningful ways. Developed and facilitated by Jen B, a self-advocate from Champaign-Urbana, the webinar will share options, learn from examples, and pose questions that will help other self-advocates and their supporters discover ways people with disabilities can contribute to celebrations in meaningful ways during the holidays. View the recording at

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/recording/2615804536523084291?assets=true>

Upcoming Webinar

“Individuals with Hearing Loss and Deaf Culture”

Tuesday, December 17, 2019 at 10am CDT

Register at

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/695312864391126539>

Hearing loss can be a big deal, no matter how much a person can or cannot hear. What are important things to know about individuals with hearing loss? Many individuals may not realize that some individuals with hearing loss identify with Deaf Culture. Let's learn about the different types of hearing loss, along with some basic about Deaf Culture. This presentation welcomes questions, so please feel free to BRING YOUR OWN QUESTIONS.

“I learned a long time ago the wisest thing I can do is be on my own side, be an **advocate** for myself and others like me.”

~ Maya Angelou

Welcome The Alliance's Newest Member Group... Center for Independent Futures Advocacy Club (Evanston)!



CIF Advocacy Club is 10 members strong and meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Their goals include education to the public about disability issues and history.

DSC (Champaign, IL) has a variety of community groups, two of which are Storytelling 101 and Zine-making. Both groups strive to provide creative outlets for people we support and to help build everyone's confidence as writers, editors, and readers. For more information on Storytelling 101 and Zine-making, please contact Casey Brege at CBrege@dsc-illinois



Below is the work of one of the excellent authors in the groups.

My Summer at The Lodge at Lake Bloomington's Timber Pointe Outdoor Center

~ Justin H.



My favorite summer memories were that of having the honor of meeting 2 famous people. The first honor I received was volunteering for country music icon Willie Nelson's personal chef named Bryan. One of the many new food experiences I had the opportunity to try was the Philly cheese steak sandwich. The sandwich is now one of my favorites. We spent that summer listening to the music of Jack Johnson (the curious George soundtrack).

The 2nd honor I got that year was having the honor to meet Senator Dan Brady. One morning while I was on duty in the dish room, Senator Dan Brady walks in and greets all of the kitchen staff (I am the first to have the honor of meeting him). Senator Brady is a really nice guy by the way. I also got the chance to meet him 2 other times since the camp meeting.

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Storytelling 101 and Zine-making Continued

Some other information about the lodge is that it holds 400 campers + staff & guests, and the kitchen staff provides meals 3 meals per day, 6 days per week from May to mid August. The camps start each Sunday evening, and leave each Saturday morning.

I volunteered in the kitchen for 7 out of 9 summers. We also had catered food for Camp Limberlost sponsored by the state Kiwanis club. The various restaurants from in town provided the meals that week to give us a much needed vacation.

Not bad for your average dish room volunteer!

Thank you to all the Storytelling 101 and Zine-making authors for sharing their works!

WE NEED YOU!
TO MAKE IT HAPPEN

Contribute to The Alliance newsletter each month. Share your ideas, hopes, dreams, success stories and challenges with The Alliance. You can submit an article, a poem, a piece of artwork, photography, write a column, or ask a question.

Let us know if you have any questions. Submit your content to info@selfadvocacyalliance.org.

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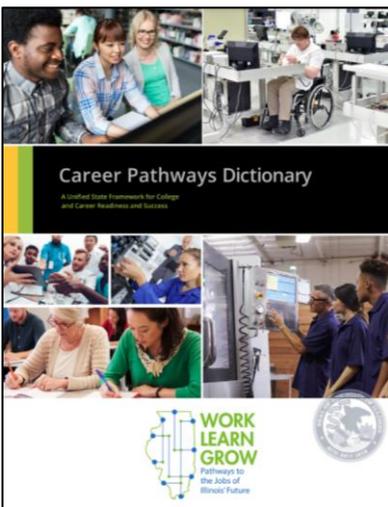
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On December 4, 2019, The Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance, Inc. (The Alliance) participated in an afternoon of discussion, collaboration, and insight with Partners of Refugees in Illinois Disability Employment (PRIDE) and organizations serving people with disabilities.

The program featured IDHS Secretary Grace B. Hou and IDHS' Director of the Division of Rehabilitation Services, Rahnee Patrick, who discussed the findings, conclusion, and success of phase one of a joint project between the University of Illinois-Chicago PRIDE and IDHS' Division of Rehabilitation Services.

The goal of this initiative is to develop, field test and disseminate employment training and capacity-building programs that will improve vocational rehabilitation and employment options for refugees with disabilities in Illinois.



In the State of Illinois, the public and private sector alike are conducting a broad number of efforts pertaining to education, workforce development, and economic development through a lens of career pathways. This College and career pathways approach envisions that Illinois residents will be enabled to progressively build toward college and career success through aligned education, training, and employment opportunities over their lifetime.

Check out the Career Pathways Dictionary at

<https://www.isbe.net/Documents/IL-Career-Pathways-Dictionary.PDF>



Welcome to Community Connections, where we share awareness, information, and celebrations relating to the disability community.

Famous People with Disabilities – January Spotlight



Annie Hopkins (1982 - 1945)

Annie was an advocate, entrepreneur, artist, and student, demonstrated what is possible when you love life. Annie created 3eLove in 2007 with her brother Stevie. 3eLove is social entrepreneurial experiment to change the perception of disability by promoting their unique symbol and social model of disability.

Annie's accomplishments in her academic, social, and family life were vast and will be remembered dearly, but her spirit and message can live on forever through the work she left for others to finish.

Disability Inclusion Awareness in January

World Braille Day - January 4

International Day of Acceptance - January 20

Disability Inclusion Awareness Ideas for January

- Learn more about Annie Hopkins and 3eLove at www.e3love.com
- Learn more about World Braille Day at <https://brailleworks.com/what-is-world-braille-day/>
- Learn more about International Day of Acceptance at www.dayofacceptance.com
- Create bulletin boards, give presentations, share information about 3eLove, World Braille Day, International Day of Acceptance with friends, co-workers, family members, support staff, community members, and allies.

Don't be afraid to "think outside of the box" and come up with your own Disability Inclusion Awareness Ideas for the month. Let The Alliance know what you did by emailing us at info@selfadvocacyalliance.org.