

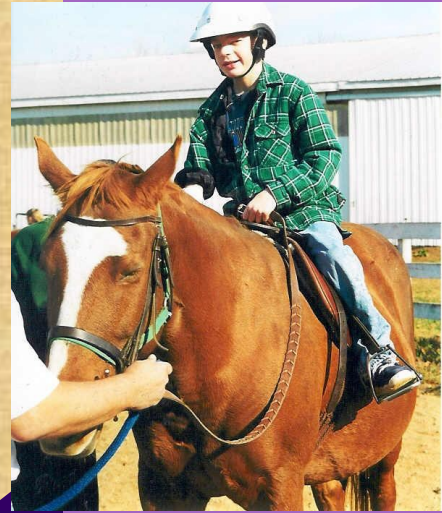


disAbility
CONNECTIONS, INC.

409 LINDEN AVENUE JACKSON MI 49203

PH (517) 782-6054 FAX (517) 782-3118

www.disabilityconnect.org



Supporting

people with disabilities

in their efforts to lead

Independent,

fulfilling, productive lives

Since 1925



Find us on:
facebook.

newsletter #8

We have been recognized for
Striving Toward...



disAbility
CONNECTIONS, INC.

*Access
for All!*

For more information, see the
"Access for All" checklist at
www.disabilityconnect.org
409 Linden Avenue • Jackson, MI
Ph. (517) 782-6054

disAbility Connections Launches "Access for All" Accessibility Project

By: Parrish L. Stahl

Next year will mark a quarter century since the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law on July 26, 1990. At that signing, President George H.W. Bush (a man who is now a wheelchair user) said, "...we're here to rejoice in and celebrate another "Independence Day," one that is long overdue. With today's signing of the landmark Americans for Disabilities Act,

every man, woman, and child with a disability can now pass through once-closed doors into a bright new era of equality, independence, and freedom".

Changes have come slowly, but things continue to evolve and get better. It is undeniable that this landmark civil rights legislation has changed lives giving us more opportunities for employment, accessible voting, recreation, public transportation and healthcare. Universal design and public accommodations are now common place and expected. Closed Captioning and software designed with accessibility features built in continue to help people access technology vital to being active members of communities. If you live long enough, you will be among the one in five Americans who have a disAbility.

In the spirit of believing that increased access changes lives, disAbility Connections is proud to launch the "Access for All" Project recognizing efforts towards accessibility. Completely accessible businesses or non-profits in any community are uncommon. The primary goal of this project is to recognize clear good faith efforts. We fully realize that most people want do the right thing. There are numerous businesses and non-profits that are striving to be accessible. The idea is to catch businesses, organizations and places doing good things in the area of accessibility.

The project does not make assertions that an entity complies completely with the ADA; simply that features are present that are friendly to people with disAbilities. Watch for these recognitions throughout our communities in the coming months as we look forward to celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The first striving for "Access for All" stickers will be awarded during the last week in July, 2014. We will be kicking off our campaign and awarding our first sticker to the Jackson District Library - Meijer Branch on Saturday, August 9th at 10 AM during their *Dedication and Family Fun Day celebration*. ■

DISABILITY CONNECTIONS PRESENTS:

Dining in the Dark

A JOURNEY OF
TASTE, SOUND
AND TOUCH;
SHEDDING
LIGHT ON THE
EXPERIENCES
OF THOSE WITH
LOW VISION.

FRIDAY
OCTOBER 24TH

Save the Date!

www.disabilityconnect.org

Hot Air Jubilee Thanks!

We would like to say thank you to everyone that helped us with parking at this year's Hot Air Jubilee.

We have the BEST volunteers at disAbility Connections, we worked hard but had lots of fun. Our 43 volunteers filled 51 time slots and we parked about 2800 cars. WOW!

This is the third year that we have worked at the Jubilee and it's a great way to have fun and help disAbility Connections raise some money. If you would like to join the fun, keep us in mind for next year!



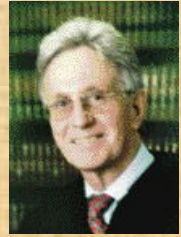
disAbility Connections Bids a Fond Farewell to Dear Friends

By: Parrish L. Stahl

HONORABLE, LYSLE G. HALL JR. passed away on Wednesday, June 18, 2014 at the age of 83. His tenure on the d.C. board began in 2007 and ended in 2013. He was born and raised in Jackson. Most of our community knows of his long and distinguished legal career.

He was instrumental in a complete revision of Michigan's drunken driving law.

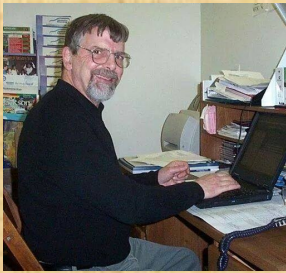
The act was signed into law by Governor John Engler in 1991.



In 1990, as a result of a serious automobile accident he became a person with a disability.

The same determination that drove his legendary legal career caused him to show incredible strength and never giving in to his physical challenges. Growing up around his home and dinner table I knew him as a man who cared about people with disabilities long before he acquired his own.

It was our great honor to call him a friend.



TOM SWAIN, passed away peacefully of natural causes on June 5, 2014. He was 64. He was a well-known local disability rights advocate, scientist and teacher. In the mid 1990's his awareness and personal experience with disability issues sparked a new career direction. In 2001, he organized and co-founded the Jackson Center for Independent Living (JCIL). Brenda Bobon, who worked closely with Swain says, "Tom taught us to work smarter, not harder. He mentored us and worked with us to not just identify problems, but develop solutions together".

He was a computer and space expert, beloved teacher, sportsman, outdoorsman and talented nature photographer. He served as Executive Director at JCIL until 2006 when, with his guidance, the merger with disAbility Connections took place; after which he served on the d.C. board until 2012.

His is a legacy of giving back and a shining example of a life well-lived. ■



Join other disAbility
Connections Customers for
Tai Chi
Thursdays, 2 to 3 PM – Join in now!

If you're looking for a way to reduce stress, consider tai chi (TIE-CHEE). Originally developed for self-defense, tai chi has evolved into a graceful form of exercise that's now used for stress reduction and a variety of other health conditions.

Often described as meditation in motion, tai chi promotes serenity through gentle, flowing movements.

- ◆ Cost \$1 per class (no fee for a personal assistant attending)

Please call disAbility Connections at
(517)782-6054 to register.

A vertical advertisement for a free community yoga class. It features the YMCA logo at the top, followed by the text "FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT® FOR HEALTHY LIVING FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY". Below this, the words "STRENGTH", "FLEXIBILITY", and "BALANCE" are stacked in large, bold letters. A woman in a pink tank top and black leggings is shown in a yoga pose. At the bottom, it says "FREE COMMUNITY YOGA", "Join us on Wednesdays at 6:30 a.m. for a free community yoga class. This class is taught by a certified instructor who wants to share the joy of Yoga with people who may have never tried Yoga before!", "Dress comfortable, bring your water bottle, and enjoy! Mats are provided.", "782-0537", and a small Facebook logo.



GOGO SUMMER CAMP 2014

A SUPER-DUPER GOOD TIME!

GOGOs is a social club for adults with disabilities who are living at home. If you are interested in more information or would like to become a GOGO, or to RSVP call Holly at (517) 998-3097



Camp McGregor was home to another great summer camp! Special thanks to all of our volunteers, the JCISD for sharing the camp with us, the Lion's Club for assisting with funds, The Critter Guy for bringing the fun reptiles, Jamie Merritt from Harmony Gardens, music man Kevin Keyes and the great GOGOs themselves for being such good friends to one another! It's great to be a GOGO!

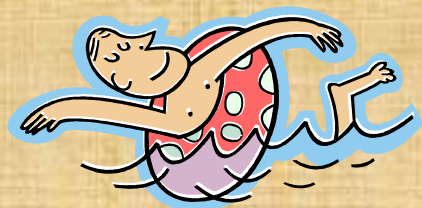


Congrats to Vika Jaska for taking home the 2014 GOGO Camp "Friendly ~ Mc Frienderson" Award!



TEAM works...

There were five teams at camp this year. The Sparty's, Black Tigers, Red-Hot Tamales, Yellow Birds and Royal Purples. Each group put on a skit that was recorded and shown at dinner, we will gather in September for another viewing. It was awesome!



Remember...

GOGO August event will be held at the Williams' home with a swim party and family pot-luck... Hot Dogs and lemonade will be provided! Hope to see you there

August 13th at 6:30—8 PM

Call Holly at 998-3097 to RSVP!



SAVE THE DATE!

WHAT:

The Jackson Community Providers will be hosting the Jackson Caregiver Retreat

WHEN:

Tuesday, November 4th 2014.
8 am -3 pm

WHERE:

First Church of the Nazarene,
3905 Clinton Rd., Jackson, MI

More info to come!

JACKSON PARKINSON SUPPORT GROUP

Affiliated with the Michigan Parkinson Foundation

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH

6:15-7:45 PM

Refreshments & Social time from 6:15-6:45 followed by speaker.
At disABILITY Connections 409 Linden Avenue
Jackson -behind Prospect St McDonald's

Speaker: Dr. Goudreau,
from the MSU Dept. of Neurology, Ophthalmology,
Pharmacology & Toxicology will speak on:

**"Common Urinary & GI tract Problems in
Parkinson's & hints to help**

Dr. Goudreau is a Jackson native and Lumen Christie graduate. Come and join the evening of fun and friendship as we seek to solve problems brought on by Parkinson's.

For Information Contact:

Carole Briggs 783-6527

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR ONLINE NEWSLETTER!

If you think someone else may benefit by receiving our online news, please send their email address to hollyp@disabilityconnect.org



Bike Program Gaining Traction

Written By: Brenda Bobon

We have 3 people signed up and riding with more to come!

Two participants have been to the Armory Bike Union and have had very positive experiences. Both are planning to get their own bikes!

There is a nominal cost to get involved. Call Brenda at (517) 998-3084 to schedule an appointment! The registration process takes less than one hour and you will leave with a membership card. You take that card over to the Armory Bike Union and jump on the Arts Walk Trail.

Consumers who have guardians should bring the guardian with them to sign our release form.

It's great to get out and enjoy the fresh air!

A Conversation with Glen Ashlock-

Assistive Technology and Contract Manager at the Region 2 Area Agency on Aging

By: Parrish L. Stahl

Tell us how AT evaluations have changed in 20 years?

Not much. The technology has improved but the evaluation process is mostly the same. There are now some software tools that help us measure and compare the accuracy and speed of someone using different input tools. This gives us hard data to share with the client and potential funding sources. It also allows the clinician to watch the person working without splitting their attention by trying to make measurements too. Watching a person use different tools helps us better understand their needs.

Who do you serve in your capacity?

I work with anyone with a disability who may benefit from assistive technology. We work with anyone, not just older adults.

Who funds evaluations and AT?

It depends on the person. Some insurance companies do such as No-fault or workers' comp, Michigan Rehabilitation Services, and other sources. The best thing to do if you are not sure is to give me a call so we can discuss the options.

Is AT always expensive?

No! It depends on the needs but it is often inexpensive. In the long term, return on investment can be huge.

Do you think that people that have experience with AT get to be better problem solvers overtime?

Many do. I have met some very creative people who figured out ways to do things I would never have come up with in a million years. Other people don't realize what they can do until someone has helped them the first time. After that they see how much potential they have and start thinking of new things to try.

How helpful are accessibility features built into modern computers?

There are many great features built-in that most people don't even know about. Things like magnifiers and keyboard setting are examples of free AT that really make a difference in whether someone can use their computer.

I know you are a world class athlete. How much do we owe sports participation for technology advances?

Well, I used to be... Now I am a world class spectator of my kids' sports which is even more fun. Serious athletes, able-bodied or people with disabilities are all about pushing limits. The wheelchairs we use now for everyday grew out of advances made in sports chairs. Technology from prosthetics used for sports is finding its way into equipment that is helping people be more independent in everyday life. That is not the goal, but it is a nice benefit.

What are the challenges as technology moves so fast?

Often the changes in software and phones and other devices move faster than the AT. The AT providers are always trying to catch up so people with disabilities don't get left behind. If product developers gave more thought to how everyone would use their devices up front, this wouldn't happen. If access "hooks" were built in from the start, it would be cheaper and easier. The number of people with disabilities is growing and we are a significant part of the market. When enough people make purchases based on accessible features, companies will take notice

Continued...

What's in the future that's exciting about AT?

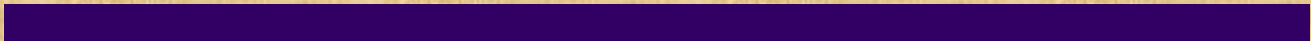
Everything! As technology becomes cheaper, faster, and more mobile, the options will continue to grow. Built-in connections between our home networks, phones and computers, and devices such as cars and appliances will make it easier to connect to the things we need to control.

Do you have any thoughts on driving and people accessing technology that would allow for more mobility?

I was recently talking to a friend who has worked for years on smart wheelchairs for people who are unable to drive independently. I asked why Google could make cars that can drive independently, but we still don't have chairs that can get around without a good driver. He said the technology is there but it is too expensive and big to mount on a chair for everyday use. But as more people use the Google technology it will get cheaper and smaller too. The wheelchair market seems big to us because we see users every day, but it is still a relatively small number of people who have these needs.

Contact Info:

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Website: www.r2aaa.net



We appreciate
volunteer
DESMOND HERBERT
for our beautiful
flower pots, grounds
and gardens!

SUMMER PICNIC FUN!

The participants of the Nursing Facility Transition Program enjoyed a summer picnic and day at Mc Courtie Park in Somerset. It was hosted by disAbility Connections and Region 2 Area Agency on Aging.





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2013 - 2014

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Special thanks to our weekly Volunteers!

John Conley, Jeff Guillemette, Desmond Herbert,
Chuck Dillon, Marilyn Johnson, Katrina Johns, Emily McGee,
Mindy Albert, Connie LaBombard

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Executive Director

JoAnn Lucas (517) 998-3094

Associate Director / Therapist

Staff

Lora Bigcraft (517) 998-3081

Resource Manager

Brenda Bobon (517) 998-3084

Independent Living Specialist

Tricia Bortell (517) 998-3096

Youth disAbility Guide

Carole Briggs (517) 998-3079

Respite Coordinator

Cindy Carlson (517) 998-3090

Development Specialist

Cyd Collins (517) 998-3085

Data Support /Accounts Receivable

Jim Cyphers (517) 998-3083

Independent Living Specialist

Angel Rhines- (517) 998-3091 Customer Relations Specialist

Jon Hart (517) 998-3092

Youth Training & Assessment Coordinator

Shawna Hayes (517) 998-3093

Youth disAbility Guide

Michael Hester - Facility Maintenance Support

David Klenk - (734) 677-1207 - Rehabilitation Coordinator

Alan Lewis - Equipment Cleaning

Kim Parker (517) 780 -7450 - Vocational Coordinator

Holly Peterson (517) 998-3097

Parent Education & Resource Coordinator, Newsletter, GoGos

Dan Ramey (517) 998-3086

Nursing Facility Transition / VA Supports Specialist

Parrish Stahl (517) 998-3089

P/R, Community Outreach

Dana Vance (517) 998-3087

VA Supports Coordination / Specialist

Carmon Yeloushan (517) 998-3080

Nursing Facility Transition Coordinator

Cathy Yori (517) 990-6813

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