HAPPY 85TH BIRTHDAY disAbility Connections 1925~2010

Written by: Monica Moser

What an exciting time it is for disAbility Connections, it is our own anniversary having gotten our start in 1925 - and it is the 20th anniversary of the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act). This is all a very rich history... one with many moments to pride ourselves on. We have made great strides in our own communities and all over our country. So, come along for the ride in this newsletter as we take you through our history and that of the ADA.

With the cooperation of the Boy Scouts, the local Community Chest, the Jackson County Medical Society and the Rotary Club of Jackson, the Society sponsored the annual adaptive summer camp sessions through 1968.

Orthopedic clinics for children with physical disabilities were held with support of the Rotary Clubs and the State Crippled Children's Commission

The history of disAbility Connections goes back to 1916 when the then one-year -old Rotary Club of Jackson launched a club project by helping a child with a disability living in Jackson County. This project continued to grow and in 1924, the first clinic was held at which two hundred children with disabilities were examined. In 1925, the Jackson County Society for

Crippled Children was incorporated as a nonprofit with Rotarians serving as officers of the corporation.

To help raise funds for the Society, the first Easter Seals sale was inaugurated in 1934 and an annual sale has been held ever since. This event is now called the Rotary Ruler Days and annually raises about \$10,000 a year with the help of the three local Rotary Clubs.

> Dr. Ted Schmidt, Mary Heglund and Alfreda McGuire started the first Crippled Children's Summer Camp in 1945 at Wolf Lake.



In 1952 a vehicle was purchased to take children to school programs and medical appointments.

and Foote Hospital with Dr. Richard Deming being the first Jackson physician to be certified by the State Commission to run the clinics.

The Society remained an affiliate of Easter Seals until 1978.

At that time, the Board of Directors voted to disaffiliate from the state and national Easter Seals Society so that all donated funds would stay in Jackson County to serve Jackson residents with disabilities. At that time the Society also began serving adults with disabilities as well as children with a new name~ Handicapped Children & Adults Society of Jackson County.

In 1993, the Society created the Handicapped Children & Adults Foundation of Jackson County to provide a permanent base of funding to ensure the longevity of the Society. (continued on next page)

dis:Ability Connections Inc. 09—10 Board of Directors

<u>Officers:</u>

President Philip Moilanen First Vice President Andy Kalahar Immediate Past President Dave Fleming Treasurer Julie Brawner Chair of Joint Marketing Mike Way Chair of Services Dawn Holland Secretary JoAnn Lucas

<u>Directors</u>

Mike Barczak Michael Baughman Jim Beiswanger **Barb Collins Cindy Conant** Freddie Dancy Jim Egan Lloyd Ganton Lysle Hall Jerry Jenkins George Page Ann Partridge Chester Radabaugh Thomas Swain Kave Whitcher **Brad Williams**

DC Foundation

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<u>Board Officers</u> President

Charles Nelson Vice President Jason Valente Immediate Past President Brian Drummond Treasurer Jerry Jenkins

<u> Trustees</u>

Sarah Ermatinger Lloyd Ganton Lysle Hall Karyn Rice Timothy Thayer

Executive Director Monica Moser Associate Director / Secretary JoAnn Lucas In November 1999, the Jackson County Society for Handicapped Children & Adults and United Cerebral Palsy Association of Jackson merged to form a new nonprofit called disAbility Connections, Inc. Because of this merger, the Handicapped Children & Adults Foundation also changed its name to the disAbility Connections Foundation of Jackson County.

As our programs and services doubled over the past few years, so did our need for space. Mr. A.P. Cook (a Rotarian) came to our rescue and donated his building at 409 Linden Avenue. We successfully completed a \$752,000.00 capital campaign raising the funds for the building renovation and 2,400 square foot addition. Thanks to the donated architecture services of Dave Fleming (another Rotarian), we have a technology center, a universal design kitchen and an accessible multi-purpose room for support groups, workshops and meetings.

On October 1, 2005 we merged with the Jackson Center for Independent Living. With the help of a \$126,023 grant from Michigan Rehabilitation Services, we were able to expand our services to include peer support, independent living skills training and individual and systems advocacy.

Our financial support comes from our friends in the local community by way of individual donations, bequests and memorials, business contributions, foundation grants, The Rotary Clubs of Jackson and other service clubs and fundraising events. Without the support of our community and local partners, we would not have the ability to impact individuals in their pursuit of independence.

Today we continue to do things with people with disabilities and their families to empower them to be active members of our community ~ Like having the skills and resources to live independently in our community, to work and pay taxes, to go to church and connect with others, to volunteer and give back; whatever it is that is important for an individual. We try to focus on things that other organizations are not doing and things that our community needs.

This can only be possible with a group of cool, dedicated, dynamic people. We are staff members, board members and volunteers. We are social workers, advocates, people with disabilities, ramp-builders, question answerers, Rotarians, artists, public transportation advocates and the list goes on. We are people who try to help people. We help people to be successful in making life connections and choices that lead to independence.

We would like you to join us in celebration, this summer as we commemorate our 85th Anniversary in the Jackson Community. We are celebrating with cake and balloons ... we were at the HRC community picnic on Saturday July 19th, at Camp McGregor for the Lyle Torrant student and family picnic, and we were at Bucky Harris Park on Monday, July 26th at 12:30 to celebrate our anniversary and the 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Next, join us on Sunday, August 8th at the Jackson County Fairgrounds for the Jackson Symphony Orchestra concert at 7:30 pm. And finally, join us on Thursday, October 28th for our 14th annual disAbility Awareness Dinner!



Americans with Disabilities Act 20th Anniversary



Written by: Parrish Stahl

I remember vividly as a college student in the late 1980's hearing about the efforts of the leaders of the civil rights movement for people with disabilities working on what would become the Americans with Disabilities Act. This article could get extremely technical and talk about the various pieces of legislation that led up to the ADA - what is more effective is to talk about why the momentum built in the first place.

With that being said, a little history is imperative to unraveling where the ADA came from. The ADA didn't just appear on July 26, 1990 at the signing ceremony at the White House. Nor did it begin in 1988 when the first ADA was introduced in Congress. There where some momentous steps that led up to



the historic signing. We owe a huge debt to other movements. The 1964 Civil Rights Act

prohibited employment discrimination by the private sector against women and racial and ethnic minorities, and banned discrimination against minorities in public accommodations. It is important to understand that before the ADA, no federal law prohibited private sector discrimination against people with disabilities, absent a federal grant or contract. Momentous legislation like the Rehabilitation Act Section 504 from 1973 paved the way, Section 504 in simple terms banned discrimination on the basis of disability by recipients of federal funds and was



modeled after previous laws which banned race, ethnic origin and sex based discrimination by federal fund recipients. For the first time, the exclusion and segregation of people with disabilities was viewed as discrimination. Before then the thought was that the problems faced by people with disabilities, such as unemployment and lack of education, were inevitable



consequences of the physical or mental limitations imposed by the disability itself. Section 504 showed congress recognition that the

inferior social and economic status of people with disabilities was not a consequence of the disability itself, but instead was a result of societal barriers and prejudices.

The ADA has been described as the Emancipation Proclamation for the disability community.

An individual with a disability is a person who:

• Has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities;

• Has a record of such an impairment; or is regarded as having such an impairment.

Ok, I know enough with the history lesson. The real breakthroughs in the past twenty years have been attitudinal. The ADA is not the end of a movement but should always be seen as a continuation. There are still people out there that consider the ADA an un-funded mandate. disAbility Connections continues to be a beacon and sets an example of how to gently persuade our community to do the right thing.

The ADA is only a tool. People are the mechanics that perform miracles with tools.



Rotary Club helps handicapped child from Vandercook Lake	1922 Rotary Club conducts survey of handicapped children in county
1st "Crippled Children's" clinic was held, 200 children attended 1924	Rotarians were assigned children to
State Rotary & Crippled Children Society start State CC Program 1927	transport to Dr. appointments 1925 Jackson County Crippled Children's Society was formed
to assist children 1934	1932 Rotary holds 1st Children's Christmas Party
Vehicle purchased to transport Children to appointments/school 1952	(still going in 2010) 1945 Dr. Ted Schmidt, Mary Heglund,
Ruth Gorley hired as 1st Director, board meetings held in her kitchen 1955	Alfreda McGuire & Boy Scouts organize 1st crippled children's camp
1960 1st Rotary Ruler Days (still going strong!)	1959Helping Friends Together Club 1st meeting held at Boos Rec Center (group disbands in 2009)Image: Club 1st meeting held at Boos Rec Center (group disbands in 2009)
Dr. Deming chose to keep his clinics at Crippled Children's Society	Society moves to 1216 Greenwood, Rotary underwrites 3 years of expenses at \$9124.59
Image: CC Society disaffiliates with Easter Seals. Name change to Jackson County Society 1972 Image: County Society disaffiliates with Easter Seals. Name change to Jackson County Society 1978	1971Richard Reidel voted 1st Non-Rotarian president to CC Society.1976CC Society moves to barrier free building at 219 W Prospect
for Handicapped Children & Adults Karen Prater hired as 1990 UCP / HCA director	1984 - 1990 HCA directors: Betsy Youngdahl and Becky Filip 1993 Societ
Respite Program added to HCA 1994 1st Annual <i>disAbility Awareness Dinner</i> 1996	Society partners on Ramp Building Project with Rotary and Kiwanis (with over 100 ramps built by 2009)
HCA & UCP merge to form disAbility Connections	1999 <i>PERC</i> Parent Education & Resource Center Project opens partnering UCP/ Early On
disAbility Connections Celebrates 2000 Sth Anniversary at Boos Center 2001 Monica Moser hired 2001 disAbility Connections disAbility Connections end of the sector of DC disAbility Connections end of the sector of DC disAbility Connections merger with Center for 2005	2000 Capital Campaign kicks off raising \$152.000 towards new building at 409 Linden Avenue Housing DC, PERC & Tech Center
Independent Living (CIL) 2008 1st Go-Go's	2006 Nursing home / hospital transition program begins 2010 disAbility Connections
Summer Camp	celebrates 85th Anniversary!



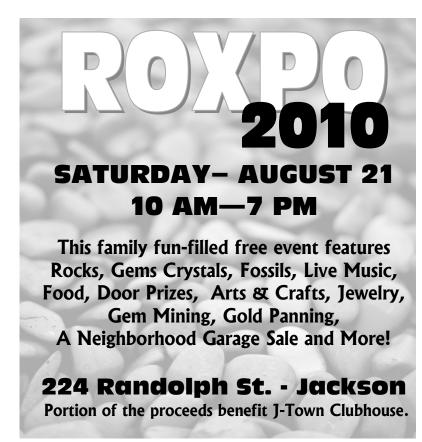
DATE: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25th, 10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. (Lunch Provided)

LOCATION: disAbility Connections, 409 Linden Ave., Jackson, MI 49203 Register by September, 17th - WORKSHOP IS FREE! Contact Cathy or Jeanna, Jackson County Parent Mentors

Who should attend: Families of children with disabilities

(including: AD(H)D, autism spectrum disorder, cerebral palsy, cognitive impairment, epilepsy, emotional impairment, fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, hearing impairment, health impairment, learning disability, speech/language impairment, behavior issues, vision impairment, or other disability) Also: educators and service providers, community members and organizations.

Workshops are free and open to the public. Coordinated by Michigan Alliance for Families, (800) 552-4821 <u>www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org</u> Funded by Michigan Department of Education and U.S.Department of Education





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Email: john@grassrootsofmichiganllc.com

ROTARY RULER DAYS 2010 marks its 50th Year!

Written by: Holly Peterson

Bless our Rotarians! When we think about the history of disAbility Connections, we can't do that without them...from 1916 when they

first "helped a handicapped child in Vandercook Lake" to the ongoing commitment that the local Rotary Clubs make to disAbility Connections. It comes in the form of volunteers, plaque) to see what individual can bring in the most in their jug. This years leading contender turned out to be our own DC office volunteer and first time collector, Elissa Konkol, followed by Rod Riggs, Owen Newell, Butch Hassenwinkle and dC staffer ,Lora Bigcraft in 5th place!



Staffers- Carmon and Monica turn their collection containers over to Bobby to be counted!

funds, board members, ramp building and the annual ROTARY RULER DAYS.

This year marked the 50th vear that Rotarians and other volunteers stood on street corners, in front of local business' and also dig into their own pockets to fill the milk jugs and hand out rulers to those making a donation to provide services through disAbility Connections. Besides the jugs full of change that the volunteers bring in, the local Noon Rotary Club had committed \$5000 bringing the total to \$9500 raised over the 2 days of May 7th and 8th.

There is always a friendly competition (where you earn your name engraved on a Other volunteers included; Matt Augustine Christine Welliver Dave Fleming Judy Reynolds Terri Papierski Ed Greene Kathryn Keersmaker Bill Kiel Dan Ramey Katherine Ring Al Herman Manya Otis Jerry Jenkins R.Z. Rosenfeld Philip Moilanen Cynthia Conant George Potter Kirk Hoffman James Grose Jim Egan Andy Kalahar Rob Reizner Jack DeBoe

Donna Cartmell Glenda Ripley Henry Grayson Carmon Yeloushan Chet Radabaugh **Carole Briggs** Holly Peterson Monica Moser A.P. Cook **Robert Henning** Roger Roty Nancy Wagner Jonathon Greene Kaye Whitcher Dawn Kenroy Perry Stahl Carolyn Matteson Mick Baughman Ron Coleman Dawn Holland Julie Brawner Bernie Reizner



Some gathered to collect, others were stationed at disAbility Connections counting all of that change and feeding the volunteers.

Providing the food and serving were Donna Petersen, Marge Robinson, Bobbie Graham and Dodie Botsford.

Thanks to these local businesses for lending us their doorsteps to collect: Sam's Club Jackson Crossing Mall Downtown Post Office Polly's (all 4 locations) Kuhl's Bell Tower Consumers Energy

Our special thanks goes to those of you who made a donation!

Jackson has Proud History of Grass Roots Efforts to Help People with disabilities

Written By Parrish L. Stahl

This summer at disAbility Connections as we celebrate our 85th anniversary and the 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, we have had an opportunity to look back at disAbility Connections storied history and the history of our community as a whole. It is important to look back to understand why we do what we do. Our organization has been many things to many people but as we worked our way through tattered boxes of photos and yellowed newspaper stories we were all filled with tremendous pride that our predecessors, much like us saw needs and tried to fill them. The battles have almost always been uphill but slow steady progress and the talent and passion of volunteers then as now have change at least our corner of the world.

When we look at all those smiling faces from decades ago, we need to continually ask ourselves, would they be satisfied with where we have steered this ship? More often than not, the answer is a resounding yes. We owe it to those that came before us to continue their work as well as ours. This work will be looked at by future generations; let's make them proud.

Our organization is not alone in grass roots efforts to help people with disabilities in our community. Less than 60 years ago no child with Cerebral Palsy (CP) even went to school in Jackson. In 1952 a group of parents started a one-room school in a church basement with 10 children. That school received no state aid, even though the school systems were paid to educate these children. In the 50s. local records indicated 176 children in Jackson with C.P. These 10 families fully funded a teacher, a physical therapist and provided transportation. The community soon got involved, the women of Temple Beth Israel began driving students for families. The Hope School started in 1956, which eventually became the Lyle Torrant Center in the 70s.

You see momentum had to build, and history teaches us efforts have to start somewhere. Even if our efforts sometimes seem insignificant, we are always moving forward, blazing trails and simply doing the right thing. Others will follow us because it feels great to change the world or at least our small piece of it.



but not the law.

PERC launches new project with Early On

The Parent Education & Resource Center at disAbility Connections is working collaboratively with



Early On to provide in-home visits to children enrolled in Early On. The **TOY TALK-ERS** Project will take toys into family's homes and work with parents on how important play and toys are to a child's development.

Three **TOY TALKERS** have been hired to begin home visits soon. They are also Early On parents; Amy Culverhouse, Josie Allen and Jeanna TenBrink. This is a key part of the project ...it is *parents providing supports* to other parents.

TOY TALKERS will take toys into the family home that focus on the child's age range, and teach parents about how to promote skills such as fine motor, gross motor and language in a fun and interactive way.

After home visits, families can always check toys out from the Toy Lending Library located at PERC.

Funding for the TOY TALKERS project was from the Great Start Collaborative, JCISD and Early On.■

Get Up Safely when you fall..



- Roll to your side turn your head in the direction you are trying to roll then move shoulder, arms, hips, and finally leg over
- Move onto your hands and knees - start with lifting your upper body, slowly getting to your hands and knees
- Hold onto a sturdy surface (chair) to steady yourself

• Facing the chair, ease yourself up using the chair for balance

> **Slowly turn your** body into a sit

If you Can't get up...

If you are injured or feel severe pain, don't try to get up as you may risk further trauma. Instead, it is important to try to make yourself heard in any way possible.

- Try to get attentionyell or bang on something
- Get comfortablegrab a cushion, pillow or rolled up clothing to put under your head, legs, arms
- Try to keep warmgrab a towel, rug or tablecloth
- Try to keep moving-Move position to avoid getting pressure sores Move joints to avoid stiffness and help circulation Roll away from damp area if your bladder "lets go."

Always tell your Doctor or health professional about your fall and to get specifics to assist YOU if you fall.



FLOWERS AND RELATIONSHIPS **ARE BLOOMING!**



Students from Nancy Wright's Hearing Impaired Classroom at McCullough Academy helped DC volunteer and master gardener, Desmond Herbert, with the spring plantings. Mr. Herbert was assisted by his own daughters (also master gardeners), who taught the students all about soil preparation, mulching,

proper planting and plant care.

After all of their hard work, Mr. Herbert rewarded the kids with refreshments and stamps from his personal stamp collection. He has promised the kids that he will continue to visit them in the classroom with more "stamp" lessons.

This was one of those events that is hard to decide who had the best time!

Very special thanks go to Mr. Herbert and his daughters, the students of Mrs. Wright's classroom, Dodie Botsford for the home made "spool cookies' and to Polly's for the donation of the flowers for the garden beds.



Games/Crafts Day

at disAbility Connections First and Second Friday of Every Month 409 Linden Avenue - Jackson (snacks provided)

Friday, August 6, 2010 1 pm to 4 pm Featured Craft: TBA

Friday, August 13, 2010 1 pm to 4 pm Featured Craft: found art project

Friday, September 3, 2010 1 pm to 4 pm Featured Craft: sweater wreath

Friday, September 10, 2010 1pm to 4pm Featured Craft: mixed media

> FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: at (517)782-6054 - Brenda Bobon Ext. 242



Tickets are on sale

for the 1st Annual Angelman Syndrome Simply Devine Angels Soiree!

in Jackson on August 20, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. for a cocktail reception followed by dinner. dancing and both live and silent auctions. The evening will be filled with music and fun. SINGER, AUTHOR, AMERICAN **IDOL SONGWRITER** REGIE HAMM WILL BE IN ATTENDANCE AND PERFORMING HIS HIT "THE TIME OF MY LIFE" All proceeds will go to the FAST Foundation (Foundation for Angelman Syndrome Therapeutics -501(c)(3) to aid research and support in the quest for a cure.) For more information contact Debbie Brockie at (517) 745-7967 or email her at mbrockie29@comcast.net

How to Get Your Credit Score *for Free* Online

Step 1 - Seek a reliable website. AnnualCreditReport.com offers you a free annual credit report from all three credit bureaus, which will include your credit scores.

Step 2 - Make sure the site is secure. You will need to send your Social Security number, your mother's maiden name, your driver's-license number, and other pertinent personal information over the web.

Step 3 - Send your information and get your credit report. Print the entire thing so you can read through it completely. Repeat within one year or less.

Read more: *How to Get My Credit* Score for Free | eHow.com http:// www.ehow.com ■

Don't BUG ME!

Written by: Holly Peterson

It's summer time...I know this because the mosquito's are *crazy* bugging me us on the patio! My daughter is a magnet for those little pests, and it bothers me to spray her with many of the "bug sprays."

I recently received one of those mass emails from a friend touting the miracle that "Bounce" fabric

softener was... I thought for certain that this was a brilliant marketing ploy (on their part)



stating all of its magical qualities; from mosquito repellent to a dust cloth to a static remover for your computer and tv screens...well, we tried it and so far - so good. Just hang a Bounce sheet from your pocket or belt loop. It is reusable too. I am not sure if other brands will work.

Years ago, I always planted Citronella plants in my garden and just grabbed a few leaves and rubbed my arms and legs with them before heading out to mow.



Many folks swear by *Skin So Soft* by Avon. Staffer Parrish Stahl likes the *citronella wrist bands* (he picks them up at the dollar store).

If you DO get bit, and want to control the itch...some say rub it with meat tenderizer, others use their fingernail to make an "X" over the spot...The Petersons; we swear by the *slice of an onion rub onto the spot* method...this works for bee stings too. Smelly you say...well I am sure a Bounce sheet would mask that odor! ■

disAbility Connections

Staff & Extensions

Monica Moser - 222 Executive Director

JoAnn Lucas - 225 Associate Director

Brenda Bobon - 242 Independent Living Counselor

> **Dodie Botsford – 243** Administrative Assistant & Volunteer Coordinator

Carole Briggs - 242 Respite Coordinator

> Jo Corder - 228 Tech Coordinator

Jim Cyphers - 224 Independent Living Specialist

Lora Bigcraft - 236 *Resource Coordinator*

Bobbie Graham - 227 Bookkeeper

Cathy Heins - 238 *Michigan Alliance for Families - Parent Mentor*

> **Don Keith** - 232 Maintenance

Holly Peterson - 223 PERC Coordinator, Newsletter, Go-Go's

Dan Ramey - 240 Nursing Home & Hospital Transition

Parrish Stahl - 239 *P/R, Community Outreach*

Jeanna TenBrink - 238 Michigan Alliance for Families - Parent Mentor

Carmon Yeloushan - 231 Nursing Home & Hospital Transition Coordinator

Thanks to our Weekly Volunteers

Herb Botsford • John Conley Alice DeVries • Chuck Dillon Gary Eckert • Karen Grace Allen Hathaway • Andrew Heins Desmond Herbert • Elissa Konkol Jerry Miller • Sherrie Rogers Pat and Mike Shipley Jerry Walmsley



Place label here

Current Resident or

Current Desident on

Irunna di41 of for for the J4th Aursday, Cotober 28th at Gene Danier Center dinesday, Cotober 28th at Gene Vanis Bangaet Center

Sponsorships, Program Advertising and Tickets are available

Dans Bowman is a double amputee who lost his legs in an accident during a training as a First Class Sergeant with the U.S. Army Special Forces parachute team. He astounded the nation with his drive, determination and will to succeed returning mine months later, turning tragedy into a triumph when he became the first double amputee to re-enlist in the United States Army. Bowman re-enlisted in the United States Army airborne style, re-enlisted in the United States Army airborne style, making his dream a reality. This achievement is just one example of Bowman's many successes under



adverse circumstances!