

CENTER FOR DISABILITIES AND DEVELOPMENT

# Possibilities in Education and Training

*A quarterly publication of the Center for Disabilities and Development, Iowa's University Center for Excellence on Disabilities at the University of Iowa Children's Hospital, Iowa City, Iowa 52242-1011*

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## ***Iowa Celebrates ADA in Grand Style***

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Across Iowa, thousands of disability advocates and their supporters geared up this summer to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

"If it weren't for the ADA, I wouldn't be working," commented a participant in the Iowa City celebration held on July 24. This comment set the tone for the event, which included live music, exhibits, and remarks by State Representative Dave Loebsack and ADA lead sponsor US Senator Tom Harkin. Harkin took us down Memory Lane as he recounted the struggles of a young Iowa teenager which helped inspire him to work tirelessly for the ADA's passage. He went on to summarize the many strides our country has made since the ADA was signed in 1990, then reminded us of how much work is yet to be done.

Many of Iowa's Centers for Independent Living worked with city and county officials to recognize the ADA's anniversary. Mayors of Sioux City and Council Bluffs signed proclamations. Advocates in Sioux City teamed up with the city of Sioux City to host three events, including a call-in forum and celebration featuring Ms. Wheelchair Iowa. All events were held in council chambers, a true testament to the city's recognition of the importance of the ADA.

Minor league baseball teams from across Iowa stepped up to the plate by hosting ADA celebrations. Advocates in Sioux City and Cedar Rapids organized unity marches into the stadium prior to the start of the games. Celebrations in Davenport and Sioux City featured on-field recognition of youth with disabilities, ADA trivia, and ADA T-shirt tosses to fans. In Sioux City, Ms. Wheelchair Iowa threw out the first pitch, and in Davenport, Paralympic gold medalist Andy Yohe had the honor. The Quad Cities River

Bandits got into the spirit of things by donating over 200 tickets to athletes and cheer leaders with disabilities, arranging for a play by play announcer to describe the action for people with low vision, and inviting all guests celebrating the ADA's anniversary to gather for a rousing rendition of "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" in the seventh inning.

"Wow! I had no idea how cool it would be," said a Cedar Rapids participant as she described the unity march. "I'd always just gone to the game before, but I'll be doing the march again next year!"

Next year marks the ADA's 21st birthday, and organizers are already beginning to plan.

"Just seeing all those athletes covering the field from first base to third base made it all worth it," said Joe Lambert, Quad City Sled Hockey Association founder and parent of a young adult with a disability.

A quick response came from Bill Sweeney, Challenger Little League coach and parent of a child with a disability. "It sure did! When do we start planning for next year?"

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## ***New DVDs . . . in the Disability Resource Library***

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The Center for Disabilities and Development **Disability Resource Library:**  
*A lending library and health information center for Iowans*

To order materials from the Disability Resource Library, call **1-800-272-7713**

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**Temple Grandin.** *A Mick Jackson film; screenplay by Christopher Moner and William Merritt Johnson; directed by Mick Jackson. HBO Films, distributed by Warner Home Video, 2010. (109 min.)*

Winner of five 2010 Emmy Awards, including "Best Actress" (Claire Danes) and "Outstanding Made for Television Movie," *Temple Grandin* depicts the formative years of a young woman with autism who we know today as one of America's great success stories.

**Body & Soul: Diana & Kathy.** *Directed and produced by Alice Elliott and co-produced by Simone Pera. New Day Films, 2008. (40 min.)*

The story of the remarkable 42-year-long mutual support relationship between Diana Braun, who has Down Syndrome, and Kathy Conour, a woman with cerebral palsy. As roommates, friends, and partners in political activism, they bucked the system and insisted on living lives based on choice.

**Positively Autistic.** *Produced by Canadian Broadcast Corporation for The National (television program), distributed by CBC Learning, 2008. (21 min.)*

Is autism a disorder or just a difference? Since the early 1990s, an autistic rights movement has challenged the psychological view of autism as a disorder and is working to change how the world perceives people on the autism spectrum. In this documentary on the neurodiversity movement, meet some of the people at its forefront and share in their positives of living life as a person with autism.

**More than Horseplay.** *Written and directed by Sarah Barton. Fanlight Productions, 2008. (27 min.)*

An upbeat film about the benefits and the sheer pleasure of equestrian therapy for young people with physical disabilities.

**Strong Love.** *A film by Bonnie Burt. Bonnie Burt Productions, 2007. (56 min.)*

An engaging documentary about a world-class weight lifter and his childhood sweetheart who decide to marry. Jon and Holly, both of whom were born with Down syndrome, share the story of their first three years of marriage.

**Changing Identities: A Story of Traumatic Injury and Art.** *By Daniel Labbata, Picture Theory Productions, distributed by Fanlight Productions, 2007. (57 min.)*

In a moment, traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury or stroke can alter a life forever. One man in upstate New York has worked to change the face of recovery; his tool is art. In 1999, artist Bill Richards founded The Art Studio at the Northeast Center for Special Care, a neurorehabilitation complex. Because the method of The Art Studio is intrinsic to the individual, Richards believes every person has the ability to become an artist. "The goal is not art as therapy, but the creation of art for its own sake, and as a means for the artists to rediscover who they are or forge new identities."—Publisher.

**Accessible IEPs for All: Gathering the "Experts" Around the Table.** *Juliana Fabrocini, Matt Adler, and Laura San Giacomo. Paul H. Brookes Publishing, 2007. (45 min.)*

An inside look at a real IEP meeting for parents who are new to the evaluation and goal-setting process. True to the requirements of the 2004 Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act for individualized education programs.

**Are the Kids Alright?** *Produced and directed by Karen Bernstein and Ellen Spiro. Fanlight Productions, 2004. (57 min.)*

One in every ten American children is touched by mental illness, yet the resources to help them are spread far too thinly. This film takes a look at the situation for severely troubled adolescents and teens in Texas – though this could be "Any State" USA, such are the trying times for families, health professionals, counselors, advocates, courts, and correction facilities.

**P**ick battles big enough to matter,  
small enough to win.

*Jonathan Kozol*

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click on "Disability Resource Library"

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