

# Possibilities

## in Education and Training



## Stay Strong

By Mike Hoenig, *Project Director, Conner Training Connection*



**Eric Mullins** lives in a nice home in Waterloo with three Housemates where he is served by REM Iowa. He moved there last October from the Woodward Resource Center (WRC) where he had lived for almost 12 years.

“I like it here because I have more freedom and more trust,” explains Eric. “I’m finding lots of fun things to do. My housemate and I have been out fishing and we had a picnic on the back porch. I love grilling out and we just tried some sausage called chorizo which was really good! I also do lots of yardwork, and I just joined a bowling league.”

Eric was quick to point out that not all of his time in Waterloo is spent on fun and games. “I have lots of job applications out,” Eric proudly explained to me and to Lori Lacarte, his Transition Specialist from Money Follows the Person (MFP), a program which provides one year of support to select Medicaid recipients who are transitioning from residential to community settings. “They (MFP Employment Services Manager SueAnn Morrow and Transition Specialist Jo Schumacher) helped me with my video resume. I sure hope I can get a job soon so I can be more independent!”

Like everyone else, Eric’s life has been impacted by COVID-19. “I’m really excited for my day program to open back up on July 1. I go there three days a week

and started volunteering with Meals on Wheels and the food bank. I’ve started training other people with disabilities to volunteer, and they look up to me.”

The move to Waterloo from Woodward hasn’t always been easy for Eric. “I had an active life there,” Eric explains. “I was president of the Client Council for five years. When I moved here, I lost all the jobs I had at Woodward. I had to wait a long time for my SSL, and then COVID hit. That caused a lot of stress!”

Several factors made the move easier for Eric. “Jo met me when I first moved in,” he said. “She helped me buy furniture and other things for the house to get me settled in. Two of my friends from Woodward moved in too. It was a lot easier to move in with friends than to move in with people I didn’t know. Now I’m making new friends, and everybody treats me with respect.”

Eric had some good advice for a friend who will be leaving Woodward soon. “You’ll have your ups and downs,” he told him, “But if you stay positive, things will get easier and you’ll get through it.”

As we began wrapping up the interview, Lori asked Eric for a final word. “People told me I’d never make it on the outside,” he told us. “They talk to me and learn that I’m doing well, feeling less stressed, and making new friends. I’m staying strong!”

It’s the opinion of this author that Eric’s inner strength, determination, and outgoing personality will take him far in his quest to reach his goals and enjoy a rich life in the community.

## Black Lives Matter

Mitch DeFauw, *Disability Resource Librarian*

The Disability Resource Library (DRL) and UI Health Care Center for Disabilities and Development stand in solidarity with Black Lives Matter and cultural acceptance. To promote these values, the DRL wishes to highlight the following items from its collection. During these problematic times, it can be difficult to explain to children about the events happening within our communities. It is our hope that these items may help adults and children alike better understand topics of racial acceptance and racial justice. All items listed are available for check out through the DRL.

The DRL is also committed to continually developing its collection in order to promote the acceptance of all minority populations. Should anyone have any book/film recommendations they feel would be a valuable addition to the library, please reach out to [mitchell-defauw@uiowa.edu](mailto:mitchell-defauw@uiowa.edu) for consideration. To find out more about the DRL, you can visit: <http://uichildrens.org/cdd/drl>, or search the online catalog at <http://uichildrens.org/drl-catalog>.

### Something Happened in Our Town: A Child's Story about Racial Injustice

by Marianne Celano, Maritetta Collins, Ann Hazzard, and Jennifer Zivoin (Illustrator)



Something Happened in Our Town follows two families – one White, one Black – as they discuss a

police shooting of a Black man in their community. The story aims to answer children's questions about such traumatic events, and to help children identify and counter racial injustice in their own lives.

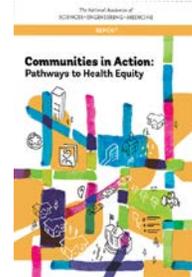
### The Big Umbrella

by Amy June Bates and Juniper Bates



By the door there is an umbrella. It is big. It is so big that when it starts to rain there is room for everyone underneath. It doesn't matter if you are tall. Or plaid. Or hairy. It doesn't matter how many legs you have. Don't worry that there won't be enough room under the umbrella. Because there will always be room.

### Communities in Action: Pathways to Health Equity by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.



In the United States, some populations suffer from far greater disparities in health than others. Those

disparities are caused not only by fundamental differences in health status across segments of the population, but also because of inequities in factors that impact health status, so-called determinants of health.

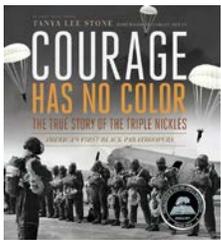
Only part of an individual's health status depends on his or her behavior and choice; community-wide problems like poverty, unemployment, poor education, inadequate housing, poor public transportation, interpersonal violence, and decaying neighborhoods also contribute to health inequities, as well as the historic and ongoing interplay of structures, policies, and norms that shape lives. When these factors are not optimal in a community, it does not mean they are intractable: such inequities can be mitigated by social policies that can shape health in powerful ways.

Communities in Action: Pathways to Health Equity seeks to delineate the causes of and the solutions to health inequities in

the United States. This report focuses on what communities can do to promote health equity, what actions are needed by the many and varied stakeholders that are part of communities or support them, as well as the root causes and structural barriers that need to be overcome

**Courage Has No Color: The True Story of the Triple Nickles, America's First Black Paratroopers**

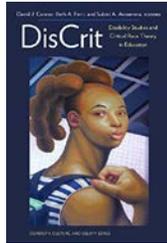
by Tanya Lee Stone



World War II is raging, and thousands of American soldiers are fighting overseas against the injustices brought on by Hitler. Back on the home front, the injustice of discrimination against African Americans plays out as much on Main Street as in the military. Enlisted black men are segregated from white soldiers and regularly relegated to service duties. At Fort Benning, Georgia, First Sergeant Walter Morris's men serve as guards at The Parachute School, while the white soldiers prepare to be paratroopers. Morris knows that for his men to be treated like soldiers, they have to train and act like them, but would the military elite and politicians recognize the potential of these men as well as their passion for serving their country?

**DisCrit: Disability Studies and Critical Race Theory in Education**

Edited by David J. Connor, Beth A. Ferri, and Subini A. Annamma



This groundbreaking volume brings together major figures in Disability Studies in Education (DSE) and Critical Race Theory (CRT) to explore some of today's most important issues in education. Scholars examine the achievement/opportunity gaps from both historical and contemporary perspectives, as well as the overrepresentation of minority students in special education and the school-to-prison pipeline. Chapters also address school reform and the impact on students based on race, class, and dis/ability and the capacity of law and policy to include (and exclude). Readers will discover how some students are included (and excluded) within schools and society, why some citizens are afforded expanded (or limited) opportunities in life, and who moves up in the world and who is trapped at the "bottom of the well."

**Multicultural Perspectives on Adults with Developmental Disabilities by Films for the Humanities & Sciences (DVD)**

Community-based caregiving is a vital mode of support for older adults with developmental disabilities. This insightful and uplifting program examines

how, within Hispanic, African-American, and Asian-American cultural contexts, the needs of high-functioning members of this population are being met through the empowering assistance of their families and through healthcare and employment programs that promote self-determination.

**March**

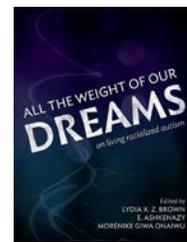
by John Lewis, Andrew Aydin, and Nate Powell (Artist)



March is a vivid first-hand account of John Lewis' lifelong struggle for civil and human rights, meditating in the modern age on the distance traveled since the days of Jim Crow and segregation. Rooted in Lewis' personal story, it also reflects on the highs and lows of the broader civil rights movement.

**All the Weight of Our Dreams: On Living Racialized Autism**

by Autism Women's Network



Delve into poetry, essays, short fiction, photography, paintings, and drawings in the first-ever anthology entirely by autistic people of color, featuring 61 writers and artists from seven countries. The work here represents the lives, politics, and artistic expressions of Black, Brown, Latinx, Indigenous, Mixed-Race, and other racialized and people of color from many autistic communities, often speaking out sharply on issues of marginality, intersectionality, and liberation.

*Possibilities in Education and Training* is a quarterly publication of University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital Center for Disabilities and Development, Iowa's University Center for Excellence on Developmental Disabilities. It is an outreach initiative of the Conner Training Connection, a program funded by the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) to support the transition of individuals with disabilities from congregate to community-based settings.

Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible.

-Francis of Assisi

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