



# ADA TODAY



## Newsletter

Volume 2 Issue 11

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### Happy Anniversary ADA!

Last month we celebrated the twenty-second anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). On July 26, 1990, President George H.W. Bush signed the Act into law. It was on that day that America became the first and only country to adopt a comprehensive civil rights declaration for people with disabilities. This landmark decision was a moment in history, designed to provide universal accessibility in employment, public service, public accommodations, and telecommunications for Americans with disabilities.

"Yet, despite the gains we have made, independence and freedom from discrimination remain out of reach for too many individuals with disabilities. That is why my Administration continues to build on the legacy set forth by the ADA. Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, insurance companies can no longer deny coverage to children with disabilities because of pre-existing conditions, medical history, or genetic information -- a provision that will be extended to all Americans in 2014. We have fought to protect and strengthen Medicare and Medicaid by improving benefits and opposing proposals that would shift costs to seniors and persons with disabilities. And earlier this year, we established the Administration for Community Living at the Department of Health and Human Services to help ensure people with disabilities have the support they need to live with respect and dignity in their communities, and to be fully included in our national life," (Barack Obama, President of the U.S. July 26, 2012).

### [Presidential Proclamation on the 22nd Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\)](#)

*Since our earliest days, America has measured its progress not only by the growth of our borders and the breadth of our economy, but also by how far we reach toward fully realizing the fundamental rights, protections, and freedoms afforded to each of us by our Nation's founding documents. For generations, many Americans with disabilities lived as second-class citizens who were denied those most basic opportunities...Today, we mark the 22nd anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) -- a historic piece of civil rights legislation that affirmed Americans with disabilities are Americans first...*

--Barack Obama, President of the United States of America, July 26, 2012

## **DC Office of Disability Rights (ODR), DC Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC), and DC Commission on Persons with Disabilities (DCCPD) Recognize the 22<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**

This year, the DC Office of Disability Rights (ODR), the DC Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC), and the DC Commission on Persons with Disabilities (DCCPD) join to recognize the 22<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

In recognition of the Act's 22<sup>nd</sup> anniversary, our respective organizations reflect on our commitment to work together to ensure that persons with disabilities in the District of Columbia have the opportunity to live, work, and play in an inclusive, accessible environment where their rights are appreciated and protected.

"ODR prizes our partnership with the DC Commission on Persons with Disabilities and the Developmental Disabilities Council as we work together to protect the rights and enrich the lives of the District's disability community," said Director Derek Orr.

Dr. Denise Decker from the DC Commission adds, "The DC Commission on People with Disabilities in partnership with ODR and DDC is honored to celebrate the 22<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act that enhances the quality of life for people with disabilities in and around the District of Columbia and indeed throughout the nation."

"As we celebrate the ADA's 22nd anniversary, the disability community takes pride in our civil rights law that promotes equality, accessibility, and community integration," says Mat McCollough, Executive Director of the DDC.

Signed into law by President George H.W. Bush on July 26, 1990, the ADA is the most comprehensive federal law that protects qualified individuals with disabilities from discrimination and requires that they be given equal access and opportunity.

### **Upcoming Events**

#### **KIDS ENJOY EXERCISE NOW (KEEN) has Enrollment Now Open**

KEEN Greater DC, a volunteer-led nonprofit organization providing one-to-one recreational opportunities to children and teens with developmental and physical disabilities in the District of Columbia, is now enrolling new kids for its programs: <http://youtu.be/jblkzvTN22U>. For details, go to [www.keengreaterdc.org](http://www.keengreaterdc.org). For enrollment [http://www.keengreaterdc.org/published/parentinfo/new\\_athlete\\_enrollment.html](http://www.keengreaterdc.org/published/parentinfo/new_athlete_enrollment.html)

#### **Sept. 8th from 7 - 9 p.m.: First Annual Fall Classic Toy Drive!**

Mad Rose Tavern (3100 Clarendon Blvd, Arlington, VA 22201) will be hosting Dreams for Kids DC again to garner support and collect toys for our annual Holiday event, [HOLIDAY FOR HOPE!](#) (Click the link to see an incredible video from 2011's event created by Tom Prather and Blue Wave Media). Thanks to our board member Greg Turner for turning his birthday into a fundraiser for us! We hope all our 21+ volunteers and family members can come join us for a festive kick off to the fall giving season! We are encouraging guests to bring new sports equipment -- footballs, soccer balls, basketballs etc. (think Target, CVS, Dicks) to empower at risk youth and those with disabilities and encourage teamwork. All guests that donate a \*new\* sports toy, or make a suggested \$10 donation at the door will receive a koozie and wrist band for drink specials (1/2 price drafts, \$5 rail liquor drinks, \$2 domestic bottles). We will also be selling raffle tickets throughout the night (1/\$5 or 3/\$10) and raffling off sports tickets, memorabilia and autographed items to benefit the Dreams For Kids Holiday For Hope event. More information can be found here: <http://dfkfallclassictoydrive.eventbrite.com/>

### **Sept. 22nd from 1 - 4 p.m.: Family Charity Concert**

\$20 for pre-purchased tickets and \$25 at door--ticket proceeds go back to Dreams for Kids DC! [Jammin Java](#) in Vienna, VA will be hosting Dreams for Kids DC to hold our first ever family charity concert! All of our bands will be donating their equipment and time, and we will have a special performance by our good friend Ray Heisler and Dreamleader Micaela Gonzalez. Ray has overcome his own disability to produce music and release two albums--exemplifying the DFK mission! Please come out and support Ray, Micaela, and all the other bands that will be playing that day! Details and tickets here: [GET YOUR JAMMIN JAVA CONCERT TICKETS HERE!](#)

### ***Friday, August 24 - Sunday, August 26 ~ Friday, September 14 - Sunday, September 16 ~ Friday, September 21-Sunday, September 23***

The HSC Health Care System Health Services for Children with Special Needs, Inc. (HSCSN) Ages 8-25 years with special needs. DC residents only. Melwood Recreation Center Camp Accomplish ~ 9035 Ironsides Road, Nanjemoy, MD 20662 transportation and scholarships provided. On-call nurses, certified health educators and respiratory therapist on site. For more information, contact: **Cecil Doggette**, Director, Family and Community Development call: 202-580-6485 or 202-835-2770 email: [cdoggette@hscsn.org](mailto:cdoggette@hscsn.org). This program is funded by the DC Department of Health.

### **Sept. 2012: EXTREME RECESS: SOCCER w/ DC UNITED**

We are nailing down our date with DC United and will email you as soon as we are confirmed!! Please keep checking <http://dreamsforkidsdcevents.eventbrite.com/> to check when it goes up! We are hoping to send out an email by next Monday with the details! We will be opening it to 75 children and will need 75 volunteers to partner with these awesome children!

## **Federal News**

### **JAN E-News <http://askjan.org/ENews/2012/ENews-V10-I3.htm>**

The JAN E-News is a quarterly online newsletter. Its purpose is to keep subscribers informed about low-cost and innovative accommodation approaches; the latest trends in assistive technologies; announcements of upcoming JAN presentations, media events, trainings, and Webcasts; and legislative and policy updates promoting the employment success of people with disabilities. An e-mail announcement is sent to an opt-in list when a new issue is available. Please use the links at the end of this document to subscribe or unsubscribe.

E-News topics include:

1. **ADA or ADAAA, You Say "Potato," I Say "Patato"**
2. **HIV/AIDS and Employment**
3. **Back to School**
4. **A Look at Job Accommodations for the Court System**
5. **August is National Breastfeeding Month**
6. **National Disability Employment Awareness Month 2012: A Strong Workforce is an Inclusive Workforce: What Can YOU Do?**
7. **Share the Campaign for Disability Employment's (CDE) "What can YOU do?" Video Contest Winning Videos**
8. **JAN Releases New Resources**
9. **E-vents**
10. **JAN Exhibit and Training Schedule**

## 11. Subscribe to JAN Newsletter

### [Webinar on Support Services for People Who Have a Disability & Are Ready to Work - August 22](#)

The next Work Incentive Seminar Event webinar will be held on **August 22, 2012** from 3 - 4:30 p.m. Eastern Time. This webinar is for people who receive Social Security Disability benefits and want to learn how the [Ticket to Work](#) program can help them make more money through work and become financially independent. You'll also learn about other [work incentives](#) that can help you return to work. [Register](#) online or call **1-866-968-7842 (V)** or **1-866-833-2967 (TTY/TDD)**.

### [Labor Department Announces Grant to Create Center for Increasing Employment of People with Disabilities - Application Deadline August 31](#)

The U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy has announced the availability of funding to establish the National Center on Leadership for the Employment and Advancement of People with Disabilities. The Center will focus on increasing employment opportunities by identifying and promoting job retention and return-to-work strategies for individuals with disabilities. [Application](#) deadline is **August 31, 2012**.

### [Bureau of Labor Statistics Releases July Employment Numbers](#)

The U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics has reported that the total number of unemployed persons (12.8 million) and the unemployment rate (8.3 percent) were essentially unchanged in July. [Disability employment statistics](#) for July show an unemployment rate of 13.6 percent (compared to 16.8 percent a year ago) for people with disabilities. The percentage of people with disabilities in the labor force was 20.7 percent, while the percentage of people with no disability in the labor force was 70 percent.

*For Information about ODR's Newsletter call 202-724-5055 or visit the web at [odr.dc.gov](http://odr.dc.gov).*



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#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the District Office of Disability Rights (ODR) is to ensure that the programs, services, benefits, activities and facilities operated or funded by the District of Columbia are fully accessible to, and useable by people with disabilities. ODR is committed to inclusion, community-based services, and self-determination for people with disabilities. ODR is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the City's obligations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as well as other disability rights laws.