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| **October 2018** |

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| **National Disability Employment Awareness Month** |
| As October comes to a close we want to take a moment to look back at all of the great events we had this month in honor or National Disability Employment Awareness Month which celebrates the contributions of residents with Disabilities in the workforce and our recommitment to breaking down barriers and providing resources and training for people with disabilities to access employment and achieve success in the workplace.**The Pre-Expo Resume Readiness Training**

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| NDEAM posterODR and the Commission on Persons with Disabilities offered its first pre-expo Resume Readiness Training on Thursday, October 18th. Experts from the Department of Employment Services, the Department of Human Resources, and the Office of Disability Employment Policy provided training on resume and cover letter development, interviewing skills, and discussion on returning to work and staying at work while receiving benefits. The event was complete with the WOW bus which is an accessible van that has computers that are free for the community to use.Looking for assistance with job skill training, resume development, and interview prep? Visit the DC Department of Human Resources for free training classes, [dchr.dc.gov/page/dchr-offers-free-job-skills-training-dc-residents](https://dchr.dc.gov/page/dchr-offers-free-job-skills-training-dc-residents) |

**The 11th Annual Mayor's Disability and Diversity Expo**

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| All of the 2018 Expo AmbassadorsThis is ODR's 11th year putting on the Mayor's Disability and Diversity Expo which took place on Tuesday, October 23rd. It was an all day event filled with break-out sessions, exhibitors, and graduation ceremonies.We had a great turn out with hundreds of local students, teachers, support providers, community members, government agencies, and community organizations!This year marks a lot of firsts for us, including the ADA Certification Graduation Ceremony where twelve ADA Coordinators from District Government Agencies graduated after completing required courses on disability rights, laws, and policies.This year we also had our first cohort of Expo Ambassadors, all of whom are individuals with disabilities who've successfully accessed a District Government Program. The Ambassadors provide first-hand knowledge to others on the processes they went through to access these programs.Thanks again to our sponsor United HealthCare and to our Planning Committee The DC Commission on Persons with Disabilities, The Developmental Disabilities Council. The Department of Human Resources, The Department on Disability Services, The Department of Health Care Finance, and The DC Office on Aging.We look forward to seeing you all next year!Check out some of the pictures and video from the Expo on our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/disabilityrights/](https://www.facebook.com/disabilityrights/) |

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| **Disability Mentoring Days**

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| Disability Mentoring Day logoODR in partnership with the Developmental Disabilities Council paired job seekers, college, and high school students, and graduates with disabilities with participating Federal and District Government agencies and DC metropolitan businesses. This year ODR will host three students on October 30th. Disability Mentoring Days enables job-seekers and students with disabilities to visit Government agencies or business that matches their interests for one-on-one time with volunteer mentors. It provides an opportunity to underscore the connection between school and work, evaluate personal goals, learn about career opportunities in the District and develop mentoring relationships with government and business leaders. To learn more about  Disability Mentoring Days visit the Americans Association of People with Disabilities' (AAPD) website, as they are the national sponsor of the event and we partner with AAPD to coordinate the Disability Mentoring Days activities in DC. [www.AAPD.COM](http://www.aapd.com/) |

**Bureau of Labor Statistics**

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| **ODR was invited by the Bureau of Labor Statistics** to participate in their first ever roundtable discussion in honor of National Disability Employment Awareness Month. On Thursday, October 11th we discussed with their staff about effective communication and provided a sensitivity training on etiquette and the do's and dont's. There were other agencies participating and each one was assigned a different area of discussion including hidden disabilities and using assistive technology. |  | Bureau of Labor Statistics logo |

**Mayor Bowser's Proclamation**

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| Screen shot of Proclamation**Mayor Bowser proclaims October as Disability Employment Awareness Month** and recognizes the importance of individuals with disabilities in our workforce.To access the full Proclamation by Mayor Bowser please visit, [odr.dc.gov/NDEAM](https://odr.dc.gov/NDEAM) |

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| **Congratulations...**

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| Congratulations to Starbucks on their first ever "signing store" that opened right here in DC on Tuesday, October 23rd, just in time for Gallaudet University's Home Coming!Starbucks chose to place this particular store on H Street NE due to its close proximity to Gallaudet University, the only liberal arts University for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in the world. All of the staff are fluent in American Sign Language and the murals on the walls were created by Deaf artists including the mugs that Starbucks sells at this location.Learn more, [news.starbucks.com/news/eight-things-to-know-about-the-new-starbucks-signing-store](https://news.starbucks.com/news/eight-things-to-know-about-the-new-starbucks-signing-store) |  | Starbucks spelled in ASL |

**Upcoming Events** |
| **Family Ties of DC**

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| Yellow stick figures hold hands**Family Ties of DC** is a new parent to parent program in DC to connect parents who have a child(ren) with a disability will be matched with a parent of a child with a disability who has been on their parenting journey for intentional emotional and informational support. In order to make a connection with a parent, the need is shared to find a match with the appropriate parent who can support the need through information, knowledge, and shared experiences.**Two Dates and Times:****DATE:** Saturday, October 27, 10:00 AM to Noon**LOCATION:** Quality Trust for Individuals with Disabilities, 4301 Connecticut Ave NW Suite 310 **RSVP through the following link for the 27th** [**https://conta.cc/2J3zYba**](https://conta.cc/2J3zYba) **DATE:** Wednesday October 31, 10:00 AM to Noon **LOCATION:** 441 4th Street NW, Rm. 1117 **Please RSVP through the following link for the 31st:** [**https://conta.cc/2Ahzvzi**](https://conta.cc/2Ahzvzi)  If you have any questions or concerns, please contact 202-459-4002 or rwhite@dcqualitytrust.org. Para asistencia en Español, por favor, llame ó al Sr. Ariza 202-459-4000. |

**Hearing Loss Association of America - DC Chapter Meeting**

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| HLAA LogoJoin the Hearing Loss Association of America - DC Chapter as they welcome Katherine Bouton, who will discuss her new book, SMART HEARING: Strategies, Skills, and Resources for Living Better with Hearing Loss. See book cover on the next page. She will also discuss the many changes taking place in hearing healthcare, including the imminent arrival of over the counter hearing aids. **When:** Saturday, November 3 at 2:00pm**Location:** DC Public Library at Tenleytown, 4450 Wisconsin Ave NWFor further information contact hladcchapter@gmail.com  |

**Discovering Deaf Worlds Gala**

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| ODR's Director, Mathew McCollough, will be speaking on behalf of Mayor Bowser at the Discovering Deaf Worlds (DDW) Annual Fall Gala on Saturday, November 3rd at the Sphinx Club.DDW is dedicated to advancing the self-determination of signing Deaf communities through local capacity building in developing countries. All of DDW's projects aim to improve standards of Deaf education, communication accessibility, employment opportunities and human rights.To learn more about Discovering Deaf Worlds visit, [www.discoveringdeafworlds.org/](http://www.discoveringdeafworlds.org/) |  | DDW logo |

**Olmstead Corner**ODR and the Department on Disability Services met with the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to discuss the potential for more integrated programming for adults who come to DPR facilities during the day through the home and community based waiver in correlation with the Olmstead Plan priority, Addressing Wellness and Quality of Life. The agencies are working to establish a training program around disability sensitivity and person-centered thinking for daytime recreation center staff and are assisting DPR in coordinating with Special Olympics, DC to coordinate inclusive adult sports leagues for all adults. The next planning meeting is set for early December 2018.Learn more about the District's Olmstead Plan at, [odr.dc.gov/page/olmstead](https://odr.dc.gov/page/olmstead) |
| For Information about ODR’s Newsletter call (202)724-5055 or visit the web at odr.dc.gov.441 4th Street NW, Suite 729 North, Washington DC 20001, Phone: (202)724-5055Fax: (202)727-9484. E-mail: ODR.Complaints@dc.gov**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. |