During Fiscal Year 2011-12 we enjoyed many opportunities of ‘setting the stage’ across our eight counties. During this past year we have been intentional in setting the stage for our priority in developing the next generation of leaders and volunteers for Disability Network Southwest Michigan and/or the Disability Rights Movement. We piloted the Advocacy Academy, which provided an opportunity for young adults 16-29 to learn new skills that transfer to the workplace and the community, in Kalamazoo County. We also worked with community partners, including Michigan Rehabilitation Services and Intermediate School Districts across our eight counties, in an effort to provide independent living services to a larger number of young adults with disabilities.

We have also expanded our efforts in working with each of our four Area Agencies on Aging in developing ‘Emerging Aging and Disability Resource Consortiums’ in collaboration with many other community human service providers that will enhance access for adults of any income and age to get information on a full range of community support choices. During the past year we also increased the number of veterans receiving valuable Independent Living Peer Support services in our relationship with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

These examples and many more, including our new member-exclusive publication, “The Disability Digest”, are setting the stage in our efforts to continually extend disability related information to others throughout our eight counties. All of these examples of providing new opportunities in services and educational presentations and workshops would not have been possible without the generous gifts of our donors and the dedication of our staff, volunteers and Board of Directors during this time of expanding needs.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

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IN 2011 – 2012...

- 6,000 people served in 8 counties
- 3,400 Information & Referral requests answered
- 1,336 people with disabilities received independent living supports
- 13 ramps built in Kalamazoo County
- 52 veterans with disabilities received independent living supports
- 60 people with disabilities were transitioned out of nursing facilities and into community based living.
- This saved Michigan taxpayers over $3,000,000
- 320 people received Social Security Benefits counseling
- We participated in 31 informational booths in the community
- We participated in 91 workshops or presentations in the community with 1,225 people taking part
About our services, please visit our website at

Southwest Michigan appreciates what you or generous donations, Disability Network

Thank you donors

Wendy Braun
Brian Injury Association
Tim Brady & Susan Pritchard
Timothy & Janet Boivin
Sven & Connie Bohm
Lloyd Bloomer
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Michael & Jacqueline Corak
Cindy & Theresa Courtade
Brenda Cuddeback
Cumulus Broadcasting.

Every effort has been made to
ensure accuracy. Please contact
our office in the event of an error.

* Members

2012 Membership year

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Our service area includes Barry, Berrien, Calhoun, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph and Van Buren Counties

Art Director: Christopher Ink, Design, Katie Hall, The Design Center, Frostic School of Art, Western Michigan University.