

July 2019

The LINK

A publication of Disability Network Southwest Michigan



Annual ADA Anniversary Celebration set for July 26



NEW THIS YEAR:

RSVP online
at: bit.ly/dnswm2019ada
or call Kristen at
269-345-1516 x119
to be entered in
a drawing for a
\$25 Amazon gift card!
(must be present to win)

Join us for our annual community-wide celebration on the anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This year marks the 29th anniversary of the ADA. We will hold a celebration on Friday, July 26 at our Kalamazoo office located at 517 E. Crosstown Parkway, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. This free event includes lunch prepared on an outdoor grill by EMA Catering and ice cream from Treat Street. Lunch will start at 11:30 and the presentation and awards ceremony starts at noon.

The ADA anniversary celebration has become an annual tradition at Disability Network as we

gather with our customers, community partners, neighbors and elected officials to celebrate the passage of this important civil rights legislation. The ADA protects people with disabilities from being discriminated against and provides for equal access to public spaces.

The signing of the ADA has had a powerful impact on people with disabilities and was an important victory in the Disability Rights Movement. "We are thrilled to host a community celebration of this monumental civil rights law. The ADA has revolutionized the way we think about creating communities. It

opened unprecedented doors of opportunity, inclusion and access for everyone," said Joel W. Cooper, our President and CEO.

For more information about our ADA celebration event, visit our website (www.dnswm.org). If you have questions, contact Kristen Potts at pottsk@dnswm.org or (269) 345-1516 x119. This event is free and open to the public.

Thank you to Kalamazoo Valley Community College for allowing us to use their parking lot just behind our building on Dutton Street for this event. Look for the ADA event parking signs.

517 E. Crosstown Parkway
Kalamazoo, MI 49001
(269) 345-1516

www.dnswm.org

2900 Lakeview Avenue
St. Joseph, MI 49085
(269) 985-0111

WORKSHOPS

Ableism workshop series coming this fall

a·ble·ism

/ˈæbəˌlɪzəm/

noun

In it's simplest form, ableism is the belief system that tells us it is better to be non-disabled than it is to be disabled. Ableism also examines disability discrimination on a systemic level by looking at the ways our society designs physically and socially segregated systems.

This fall we are expanding on our Ableism 101 workshop and offering Ableism 102 as a more in-depth study of ableism. If you have not yet attended Ableism 101, that will be offered prior to our Ableism 102 workshop. These workshops are free and open to the public. Please register online at the links below or contact Miranda at (269) 345-1516 x120 and let us know if you need an accommodation to participate.

• Ableism 101: Everything you know about disability is (probably) wrong!

In this workshop we will introduce the basic concepts of ableism and explore how the language we use around disability can either support equality or perpetuate stigma. Participants will be challenged to identify their own unconscious bias around disability. Come learn how to support the disability rights and disability justice community in Southwest Michigan.

Battle Creek: Thursday, September 5 1:00 – 3:30PM
United Way of the Battle Creek & Kalamazoo Region | 34 W. Jackson Street, Ste. 4B

St. Joseph: Wednesday, September 11 1:00 – 3:30PM
Disability Network Southwest Michigan | 2900 Lakeview Avenue

Kalamazoo: Tuesday, September 17 5:00 – 7:30PM
Disability Network Southwest Michigan | 517 E. Crosstown Parkway

REGISTER online for Ableism 101: bit.ly/A101-2019

• Ableism 102: Next Steps in Dismantling Ableism

This workshop builds on what you learned in Ableism 101 with a deeper examination of the causes and impacts of ableism and what it means to be truly inclusive.

NOTE: To register for Ableism 102 you need to have already taken Ableism 101 or also register for one of the above 101 workshops.

Kalamazoo: Tuesday, September 24 1:00 – 5:00PM
Disability Network Southwest Michigan | 517 E. Crosstown Parkway

St. Joseph: Wednesday, September 25 12:30 – 4:30PM
Disability Network Southwest Michigan | 2900 Lakeview Avenue

REGISTER online for Ableism 102: bit.ly/A102-2019



Disability Network Southwest Michigan has a fragrance-free policy. For the well-being of those with scent sensitivities, please do not wear scented products when visiting our office or attending events.

RAMP-A-THON supports our Ramp Up program

Disability Network's annual RAMP-A-THON kicks off at our ADA celebration on July 26. RAMP-A-THON raises money to construct or purchase ramps for people with mobility disabilities in our service area. A ramp makes it possible to do something as basic as getting to the mailbox, as important as getting to doctor appointments, and as critical as being able to vacate in the event of an emergency. Ramps allow everyone equal opportunity to be a vibrant part of their community.

Make a RAMP-A-THON donation at our ADA Celebration on July 26 to receive a RAMP-A-THON water bottle!

You can also make a donation online at www.dnswm.org or drop a check in the mail to: RAMP-A-THON / Disability Network, 517 E. Crosstown Parkway, Kalamazoo, MI 49001

Special Thanks to our RAMP-A-THON corporate sponsors:

Finishing Sponsors:

Integrity Back & Brain

Senior Services Southwest Michigan

Whirlpool Corporation



Framing Sponsor

Area Agency on Aging - Region IV

Consumers Credit Union



Foundation Sponsor

Molina Healthcare

Your RAMP-A-THON dollars at work: Meet Chris

Chris was excited and very appreciative to receive a ramp on her home through our Ramp Up program. Chris lives alone and has multiple sclerosis, diabetes, and fibromyalgia. Her house has a series of steps from the curb to her front door which were extremely difficult for her to maneuver, even with help, and unsafe to attempt by herself.

Now Chris is able to get to the bus stop in front of her house safely and independently to access her community and go to her appointments. She told us, "It's like night and day, the difference this ramp makes! It's the small things people take for granted—now I can take out my trash whenever I need to and get my mail every day!" In fact, our ramp volunteers (with permission from the postal service) integrated Chris' mailbox into her ramp!



Internet access for low income households

In today's world, the internet has the ability to empower lives, but only for those who can connect to it. Access to the internet provides an opportunity to connect with family and friends, access virtual library shelves, apply for jobs online, research health questions, complete an online education—and a whole lot more.

Both AT&T and Comcast offer a program for low-income households. Each program has its own set of qualification criteria. Visit them online to learn more or contact our Information and Referral department for more information.

AT&T Access: www.att.com/access

Comcast Internet Essentials: www.internetessentials.com



WORKSHOP

Providing Accessibility in Outdoor Developed Areas & Recreation Facilities

Join us for this free workshop to learn about providing accessibility in outdoor developed areas and recreation facilities such as pedestrian trails, beaches, picnic & camping areas, playgrounds, swimming pools, and sports facilities as outlined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) & Architectural Barriers Act (ABA).



This workshop is designed for staff from Centers for Independent Living, parks & recreation planners, public planning & building authorities, landscape architects, ADA Coordinators and anyone interested in accessibility.

Register online at: bit.ly/OutdoorAccess2019. Let us know if you need an accommodation to participate. Questions? Contact Paul Ecklund at (269) 345-1516 x 117 or ecklundp@dnswm.org

Lansing: Thursday, August 15 1:00 – 4:00 PM
Lansing Community College - West Campus (Rm M122) | 5708 Cornerstone Drive

Disability Network's Annual Report available on-line

You can now view or download our 2017-18 Annual Report on our website as a pdf or a text-only Word document at www.dnswm.org/about-us/annual-reports.

WORKSHOP

DO'S & DON'TS: Assistance Animals

There is a lot of confusion about what qualifies as a service animal and how they differ from emotional support animals. There are specific laws regarding what type of assistance animals are allowed in different places and whether an establishment can deny access to an assistance animal. Join us to learn more!



This event is free and open to the public. Please register online at bit.ly/ddaa2019 or contact Miranda at (269) 345-1516 x120. Let us know if you need an accommodation to participate.

Kalamazoo: Thursday, August 22 9:00 – 10:30 AM
Disability Network Southwest Michigan | 517 E. Crosstown Parkway

St. Joseph: Friday, August 23 9:00 – 10:30 AM
Disability Network Southwest Michigan | 2900 Lakeview Avenue

INTERACTIVE WEB TRAINING

Accommodations for All

Join us in either our Kalamazoo or St. Joseph office on Friday, August 9 at 1:00 for an interactive live webcast training from the Job Accommodation Network (JAN). The presentation will provide information for employees and employers on job accommodations for hidden disabilities. Question and answer sessions will be available during the webcast.



JAN is the leading source of free, expert, and confidential guidance on workplace accommodations and disability employment issues. Working toward practical solutions that benefit both employer and employee, JAN helps people with disabilities enhance their employability, and shows employers how to capitalize on the value and talent that people with disabilities add to the workplace.

This event is free and open to the public. Please register online at bit.ly/JANdnswm or contact Miranda at (269) 345-1516 x120. Let us know if you need an accommodation to participate.

Friday, August 9 | 1:00 – 3:00 PM
Kalamazoo office: 517 E. Crosstown Parkway
St. Joseph office: 2900 Lakeview Avenue

Our Publications:

The LINK is our quarterly newsletter, available in print or emailed in electronic format and is available in alternative format upon request.

Disability Digest is a monthly e-publication focused on the Disability Rights Movement and upcoming Disability Network happenings. Available in electronic format only.

You can sign up online for our publications at www.dnswm.org; or contact Dale at abbott@dnswm.org or (269) 345-1516 x123. Current and past issues of our publications are available on our website at www.dnswm.org.

Sign up for our
**electronic
publications!**



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Disability Network Southwest Michigan

517 E Crosstown Parkway
Kalamazoo, MI 49001

www.dnswm.org



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Accessible Computer Lab

The Accessible Computer Lab in our Kalamazoo office is open any time our office is open. We have a volunteer available to offer assistance during the following designated hours:

Computer Lab Assistance Hours:

- Monday: 10:00AM to 12:00PM & 1:00PM to 3:00PM
- Tuesday: 10:00AM to 12:00PM & 1:00PM to 3:00PM
- Wednesday: 1:30PM to 3:00PM
- Thursday: 10:00AM to 12:00PM



Support Our Work: You can help support the work we do with a tax-deductible donation to Disability Network. Visit our website to donate [online](http://www.dnswm.org) or call Kristen at (269) 345-1516 x119.