



I WANT YOU!

The Family Café CHANGE AGENT NETWORK THEY NEED YOU!

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This Newsletter Is A Project Of The Family Cafe

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The Change Agent Network is a project of The Family Café and offers an opportunity for advocates and change agents to work collaboratively to transform the system by: combining abilities, skills, ideas, and talents; standing together for meaningful system reform measures; taking the lead in our communities and neighborhoods; sharing information to help families become effective players within their communities; developing statewide networks to organize and discuss the issues that are most important to families and persons with disabilities; and creating a united position on critical disability policy issues.

ADA FOR ALLEGHENY COUNTY & PITTSBURGH



AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT 1990-2020

30 YEARS STRONG

The 30th Anniversary of the ADA

On July 26th we will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act. This landmark legislation ranks among the pantheon of historic legislative achievements such as the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Social Security Act of 1919 and the 1920 legislation authorizing the nineteenth amendment to the United States Constitution affording women the right to vote. Along with these, the Americans with Disabilities Act is one of those important pieces of legislation that impacts our daily lives. The passage of this legislation was the result of years of relentless work, advocacy and a truly bi-partisan approach. It literally opened the door to the world for millions of American's with disabilities. In honor of the passage of this bill, let us review the rights it now affords us and the key players who made it happen.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) became law in 1990. It prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in all areas of public life, including jobs, schools, transportation, and all public and private places that are open to the general public. The purpose of the law is to make sure that people with disabilities have the same rights and opportunities as everyone else.



Key elements of legislation

Title I - Employment

Helps people with disabilities access the same employment opportunities and benefits available to people without disabilities.

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Applies to employers with 15 or more employees.

Requires employers to provide reasonable accommodations to qualified applicants or employees. A “reasonable accommodation” is a change that accommodates employees with disabilities so they can do the job without causing the employer “undue hardship” (too much difficulty or expense).

Defines disability, establishes guidelines for the reasonable accommodation process, and addresses medical examinations and inquiries.

Title II - Public Services: State and Local Government

Prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability by “public entities” such as state and local government agencies. .

Requires public entities to make their programs, services and activities accessible to individuals with disabilities.

Outlines requirements for self-evaluation and planning; making reasonable modifications to policies, practices, and procedures where necessary to avoid discrimination; identifying architectural barriers; and communicating effectively with people with hearing, vision and speech disabilities.

Title III - Public Accommodations and Services Operated by Private Entities

Prohibits places of public accommodation from discriminating against individuals with disabilities. Public accommodations include privately owned, leased or operated facilities like hotels, restaurants, retail merchants, doctor’s offices, golf courses, private schools, day care centers, health clubs, sports stadiums, movie theaters, and so on.

Sets the minimum standards for accessibility for alterations and new construction of commercial facilities and privately owned public accommodations. It also requires public accommodations to remove barriers in existing buildings where it is easy to do so without much difficulty or expense.

Directs businesses to make "reasonable modifications" to their usual ways of doing things when serving people with disabilities.

Requires that businesses take steps necessary to communicate effectively with customers with vision, hearing, and speech disabilities.

Title IV - Telecommunications

Requires telephone and Internet companies to provide a nationwide system of interstate and intrastate telecommunications relay services that allows individuals with hearing or speech disabilities to communicate over the telephone.

Requires closed captioning of federally funded public service announcements.



Key Players

Justin Dart Jr.

Justin Dart Jr. is considered by many to be the “Father of the ADA”. At age 18 Dart contracted polio, and the illness left him a wheelchair user. After graduating (1954) from the University of Houston, Dart briefly studied law at the University of Texas before undertaking several business ventures. During that time he also became active in the disability rights movement.

In 1981 U.S. President Ronald Reagan appointed him vice-chairman of the National Council on Disability. Dart and other council members drafted a national policy on equal rights for people with disabilities, and the document ultimately became the foundation of the ADA. In 1986 Dart became head of the federal Rehabilitation Services Administration, but he was forced to resign the following year after he criticized the department during a congressional hearing. After the ADA was signed into law on July 26, 1990, Dart promoted the legislation and fought later efforts to amend it. Justin Dart Jr. won the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1998 and died in 2002.



Judy Human

Judy is an internationally recognized leader in the disability community and a lifelong civil rights advocate for disadvantaged people. In 1970, Heumann and several friends with disabilities founded Disabled in Action, an organization that focused on securing the protection of people with disabilities under civil rights laws. While serving as a legislative assistant to the chairperson of the U.S. Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, in 1974 she helped develop legislation that became the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. An early leader in the Independent Living Movement, she then moved to Berkeley where she served as deputy director of the Center for Independent Living. She also organized the sit-ins at the U.S. Department of Health Education, and Welfare offices in San Francisco and around the U.S. which resulted in HEW Secretary Joseph Califano signing the Rehabilitation Act's Section 504 regulations. She co-founded the World Institute on Disability with Ed Roberts and Joan Leon in 1983, serving as co-director until 1993. Among many other things, Judy also served in the Clinton Administration as Assistant Secretary of the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services at the US Department of Education from 1993 to 2001.

Pat Wright

Pat Wright's leadership during the ADA's passage eventually earned her the nickname, “The General”. She was one of a handful of leading strategic thinkers based in Washington, DC. Wright made her first major inroads to the disability rights movement at the Section 504 sit-in in San Francisco in April, 1977. Although she was there largely to serve as a personal assistant to Judy Heumann, Wright began to reveal and develop her negotiation skills in dealing with authorities. This experience led her to become more involved with advocacy. In the late 1970s she joined DREDF, the Disability

Rights Education and Defense Fund. The ADA's success was due in no small part to Wright's strategic leadership.

Bobby Silverstein, J.D.

Bobby is a nationally-recognized attorney with over 45 years of public policy and advocacy experience. For more than a decade, he served as staff director and chief counsel for the Senate Subcommittee on Disability Policy, chaired by Senator Tom Harken. Bobby was a behind-the-scenes architect of more than 20 disability related bills enacted into law including the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Individuals with Disabilities Act and of course the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Senator Tom Harken

Senator Tom Harken was the legislative sponsor of the Americans with Disabilities Act. His passion and commitment is one of the main reasons this law exists today. He is one of those legislative giants who will be studied in civics classes for many years to come. Senator Harkin was elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1974 and was re-elected four times. He was also elected to the United States Senate in 1984 and served until 2014.

President George H.W. Bush

Any discussion of the Americans with Disabilities Act must include President Bush. It is one of his greatest legacies. During the bill signing President Bush remarked: "With today's signing ... every man, woman, and child with a disability can now pass through once-closed doors into a bright new era of equality, independence, and freedom." While there is still work to do, President Bush's support has made a tremendous impact on the lives of all Americans with disabilities.

30 Years Later And We Still Have A Way To Go!

In 2007, the National Council on Disability produced a report entitled: "The Impact of the Americans with Disabilities Act: Assessing the Progress Toward Achieving the Goals of the ADA". In this comprehensive report they identify areas that need improvement.

"The provisions of the ADA addressing architectural, transportation, and communication accessibility have changed the face of American society in numerous concrete ways, enhancing the independence, full participation, inclusion, and equality of opportunity for Americans with disabilities. Americans with disabilities report having greater access to goods and services from businesses, state and local governments, and their local communities. People with mobility impairments have experienced substantial improvements in physical access to transportation, businesses and government agencies. As workers, people with disabilities are more likely to receive accommodations and less likely to be terminated due to their disabilities. However, obtaining employment remains difficult for people with visible and severe disabilities. Disparities still exist in access to health insurance, health care, and financial assets for people with disabilities, as compared to people without disabilities. Access to information, particularly the Internet, is inconsistent, at best, for people who are visually impaired. Progress toward the goal of economic self-sufficiency appears to be the goal having the least success".

Let us not let this sobering but realistic assessment of work that still needs to be done take away from the tremendous achievement that happened thirty years ago. Many American's with disabilities were

literally prisoners in their own homes or institutions. The ADA changed that. We at The Family Café are profoundly grateful to the aforementioned pioneers as well as to those who, on a daily basis, continue the fight for inclusion and for the opportunity to determine our own collective destinies.



podcast

Please check out our Podcast!


Please be on the lookout later this month for another episode of the Disability Advocacy Hour podcast coming out soon! Our guest will be the aforementioned Bobby Silverstein, one of the original architects of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Joe and Jeremy will have a conversation with Bobby about the lessons he learned about advocacy over the course of his career in government service, and how those lessons can be applied to our efforts here in Florida and at the federal level.

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July

ADA30
Americans with Disabilities Act
Celebrate the ADA! July 26, 2020

2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>5</p> <p>Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act of 1984 (VAEHA): VAEHA requires accessible polling places for federal elections.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>1849: First "Shelbred Workshop" for the Blind The first "shelbred workshop" is developed for the blind at the Perkins Institution in Massachusetts.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Fact: Over a billion people live with some form of disability.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>41% of adults living with a disability have no internet at home, compared with 69% of those without a disability.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Justin Dart Jr. was an American activist and advocate for people with disabilities. He helped to pass the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, co-founded the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD), and is regarded as the "Godfather of the ADA".</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Fact: People with disabilities often do not receive needed health care.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>1849: First "Shelbred Workshop" for the Blind The first "shelbred workshop" is developed for the blind at the Perkins Institution in Massachusetts.</p>
<p>12</p> <p>Fact: Disability disproportionately affects vulnerable populations.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>67% of disabled Americans ages 18 to 64 own a desktop or laptop computer, compared with 84% those without a disability.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>2p.m. ADA Anniversary Update: 30 Years, Where do We go Now? www.ada-audio.org</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Fact: Rehabilitation helps to maximize functioning and support independence.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>54% of adults living with a disability use the internet, compared with 81% of adults without disabilities.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Fact: People with disabilities can live and participate in the community.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Prohibits employers from discriminating against individuals with disabilities in job application, hiring, firing, advancement, compensation, job training and other terms, conditions and privileges of employment.</p>
<p>19</p> <p>Fact: People with disabilities are more likely to be unemployed than non-disabled.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Fact: People with disabilities are vulnerable to poverty.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Justin Dart is best known as the father of the ADA.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>#CRIPTHEVOTE</p>	<p>23</p> <p>40.6 million or 12.6% of the total civilian noninstitutionalized population with a disability in the United States in 2018.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>1972: Governor Wallace of Alabama is paralyzed after being shot during a presidential campaign rally in Laurel, Maryland.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>1861-1865 American Civil War The American Civil War results in 30,000 amputations in the Union Army alone. This event brings disability issues to the American consciousness.</p>
<p>26</p> <p>1990: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law on July 26, 1990, by President George H.W. Bush.</p>	<p>27</p> 	<p>28</p> <p>1907: Eugenic Sterilization Law Spreads Like Wildfire Indiana becomes the first state to enact a eugenic sterilization law—for "confirmed idiots, imbeciles and rapists"—in state institutions.</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Fact: Children with disabilities are less likely to attend school than non-disabled.</p>	<p>30</p> <p>1887: Helen Keller Meets New Tutor Helen Keller, a deaf-blind seven-year-old living in Tuscarora, Alabama, meets her new tutor, Annie Sullivan.</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Lead on! Lead on! Justin Dart</p>	

Thank you to those who joined us during The 22nd Annual Virtual Family Café. We are delighted to report that our virtual educational sessions so far have over 500,000 views, and our outreach continues to grow! Check out our new website at www.FAMILYCAFE.NET.

Please mark your calendars for The 23rd Annual Family Café which will be held on June 11th, 13th in Orlando. Hope to see you there! Registration will open on February 14th!

See You Next Year!

at the **23rd** annual **Family CAFÉ**

June 11 - 13, 2021 • Orlando

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