



The Compass

Disability News YOU Can USE

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NEW FREEDOM INITIATIVE 2007 PROGRESS REPORT

President Bush announced the New Freedom Initiative in February 2001 as his commitment to tear down barriers to full integration into American life that remain for many of the 54 million Americans with disabilities. The following are some of the highlights of the progress that has been made:

Increase Access for People with Disabilities through Technology:

- Aided State efforts to incorporate assistive technology into their education programs;
- Streamlined accessibility standards for voting machines and other important technological advances;
- Advanced the President's Executive Order centralizing electronic information of use to the disability community at www.disabilityinfo.gov.

Expand Educational Opportunities For Youth With Disabilities:

- The Department of Health and Human Services has made specific efforts to reduce youth recidivism, homelessness, institutionalization, and other factors that inhibit a full and complete educational experience that may disproportionately effect youth with disabilities.

Integrate Americans with Disabilities Into the Workforce:


- Sought to increase the number of employees with disabilities in the Federal workforce by implementing innovative hiring and working practices, including telework;
- Vigorously enforced the Americans with Disabilities Act;
- Began implementation of the "Ticket to Work" program as a way to eliminate work disincentives among persons with disabilities.

Promote Full Access to Community:

- Improved access to healthcare with the Medicare Prescription Drug Program and sought to increase accessibility of healthcare for individuals with disabilities;
- Taken numerous steps to modernize emergency preparedness plans and standards for persons with disabilities.

Even though much progress has been made in the areas listed above, much work still needs to be done to empower individuals with disabilities to reach their full educational, social, and professional goals. The full report can be viewed online at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/newfreedom/newfreedom-report-2007.html>.



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PLACES TO
SURF 

Don't miss the **DisabilityInfo.gov** website as you explore the web for disability related topics such as:

- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities
- Fair Housing Rights

DisabilityInfo.gov
The New Freedom Initiative's
Online Resource for Americans with Disabilities

- Social Security Disability Benefits
- Vocational Rehabilitation

Do you know...

- Fewer than 15% of individuals are born with a disability
- A disabling injury occurs every 2 seconds



2008 Mental Health Champions

In April three individuals were honored as Missouri's first-ever Mental Health Champions at a celebration in Jefferson City. One of those honored was from the Ozark Region.

Dan LaLone, of Springfield, has been physically disabled since birth. His disability didn't prevent him from being the driving force for the creation of "Sassafrass," a fully accessible apartment complex for people needing mobile accommodations. Sassafrass is located in Springfield.



Learning the computer can be difficult, but for someone with a vision impairment it may seem too difficult to attempt. The Ozark Region Career Center does have assistive technology in the Resource Center to assist individuals, but until recently assistive technology was not available in the computer lab. A customer seeking to improve her computer skills to be able to move into a better job was placed in the computer lab. She was not able to see the screen as well as she needed to see it, so the computer lab has purchased ZoomText.



ZoomText is a computer program that magnifies the screen. You can easily zoom in on things you need to see in more detail and zoom out when you want to see the regular view. With ZoomText, the customer was able to complete tutorials for Windows XP, Word, and Excel. She will be starting a new job soon where she hopes to be able to apply her new skills.

Plans for the Year

A training proposal for this year is being established. In last year's survey, workforce staff requested additional information on topics such as:

- Mental Illness
- Independent Living Center Programs
- Developmental Disabilities
- Hard of Hearing/Deaf
- Low Vision/Blind and Mobility Disabilities

Stay tuned for upcoming information so that you can mark your calendars.

Don't miss
Freedom Fest 2008
Celebrating ADA
Sponsored by SCIL
Friday, August 1, 2008
4:30—9:00 pm

Freedom Fest 2008!

Celebrating the Americans with Disabilities Act

by
Remembering the Past,
Celebrating the Present
and Preparing for the Future!

Tons of Vendors!

Lots of Prizes!

Friday, August 1, 2008

4:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Southwest Center for Independent Living
2864 S. Nettleton Ave.
(417) 886-1188

Many Games for All Ages!

18 Years of Pursuing Independence
Freedom March from 5 to 5:30 p.m.

Free Kabobs, Hot Dogs, Popcorn & Funnel Cakes!

Disability Program Navigator

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If you have any
questions, please
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887-4343, ext. 353.

Everything that is really great and inspiring is created by the individual who can labor in freedom—Albert Einstein