

DISABILITY RIGHTS IN ACTION

A Newsletter of the Center for Disability Rights, Inc. / Fall 2022

CDR Produces First Television Special

This year we worked with 13WHAM ABC to produce a thirty-minute television special, "Celebrating Independent Living and the ADA." This video production celebrated our accomplishments during COVID-19, brought awareness to the community, and raised funds to support the work we do.

This video production is centered on our organization's response to the pandemic, our work in transitioning people out of nursing homes, and our advocacy supporting the disability community. We showed viewers why independent living and the ADA are critically important.

The television special aired on July 26th, the 32nd anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) into law, a significant milestone in disability rights history. That special ran on the affiliate channels for FOX and CW in the Rochester area on July 28th and July 30th.

The production would not have been possible without the key members of the Rochester community who provided testimonials. We would like to publicly thank everyone who contributed.

The video is posted online at <https://cdrnys.org/donate> and on CDR's YouTube channel. We encourage anyone who has not already done so to watch the television special.

Please turn to Page 5 to learn how you can help.



IMAGE DESCRIPTION: photograph of disability advocates lobbying at the late Assemblyman David Gantt's office in Albany, circa 1989.

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www.cdrnys.org

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(518) 320-7100

Corning
(607) 654-0030

Geneva
(315) 789-1800

Rochester
(585) 546-7510



IMAGE DESCRIPTION: headshot of Bruce E. Darling.

Dear Friends,

If you missed “Celebrating Independent Living and the ADA” on 13WHAM ABC, you can watch the production on our webpage and YouTube channel. My thanks to the members of the Rochester community who provided testimonials.

Many other things have been going on here at CDR. I invite you to catch up on our advocacy and read about our featured program.

Please contact us to learn more about CDR and how you can get involved. Stay tuned for additional information and updates on our work.

Bruce E. Darling

Center for Disability Rights works to ensure the full integration, independence and civil rights of people with disabilities and seniors in the community.

CDPAS Expands to the Capital Region

Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Services (CDPAS) is pleased to announce we are expanding our services into the Capital Region. On August 22nd, CDPAS Specialist Tamyalis Torres, who worked out of our Geneva office, moved to our location in downtown Albany. This expansion has been on the horizon, and we are excited to start building relationships with consumers in this region.

CDR has had a presence in Albany for many years. Our office on Washington Avenue has served as the home base for policy work. We are pleased to add vital services to this region.

We are now taking referrals for consumers from Albany, Rensselaer, Schenectady, Schoharie, and Saratoga Counties. We are excited to meet our new consumers in these communities. For more information, or to find out if you may be eligible, please contact CDR at (585)-546-7510 or send an inquiry to CDPAS@cdrnys.org.



IMAGE DESCRIPTION: headshot of Tamyalis Torres.

**Accessible
Trunk-or-Treat**

**October 20, 2022
5 - 7PM**

Low-sensory experience 4 - 5 pm

Free for all children 10 and younger. Free for all children with disabilities 14 and younger. Adult supervision is required.

**Registration required by October 14:
www.cdrnys.org/halloween**

**FUN, SAFE, &
FULLY-ACCESSIBLE HALLOWEEN!**

**FRONTIER FIELD,
ONE MORRIE SILVER WAY,
ROCHESTER, NY**

THIS EVENT IS SCENT-FREE!

This event is being held in conjunction with Lights On After school, and is supported by the Greater Rochester After school & Summer Alliance

IMAGE DESCRIPTION: advertisement for Halloween event: Accessible Trunk-or-Treat, October 20, 2022, 5-7PM, Low-sensory experience 4-5PM. Free for all children 10 and younger. Free for all children with disabilities 14 and younger. Adult supervision is required. Registration required by October 14: www.cdrnys.org/halloween. Fun, safe, & fully-accessible Halloween! Frontier Field, One Morrie Silver Way, Rochester, NY. This event is scent-free.



Are you interested in getting involved with us?

You can help by:

- Donating
- Volunteering at Events

You can join our:

- Advocacy Efforts
- Committees

Don't forget to like, follow, and share us on social media!

Ask us how you can get involved!

We are not-for profit organizations working to keep people with disabilities living independently in the community, with help from services and supports they may need.

**We would like to
thank Wegmans
for its Gold
Sponsorship in
support of CDR and
RCIL for 2022.**

Wegmans

Update from the Advocacy Team

The Advocacy Team has been active in numerous campaigns to promote the integration and full participation of disabled people.

In March and April, the Manager of Government Affairs worked with advocates from across the state to call on Governor Hochul to include raises for Consumer Directed Personal Assistance (CDPA) attendants in her budget. Our advocacy with Governor Hochul was instrumental in leading to a \$2.00 raise in October 2022 and another \$1.00 raise that will take effect in October 2023.

In May and June, the Advocacy team led a statewide campaign to stop the flawed DNR Restoration bill (S4685). This bill threatened the lives of disabled people - including the newly injured and those with developmental disabilities. The legislation would have restored "Medical Futility" judgements as a basis for denying CPR. CDR will continue its advocacy against legislation that jeopardizes the lives of disabled New Yorkers.

Over the summer, members of the Advocacy Team were involved with the Coalition for Community Integration to educate members of Congress and their staff about bipartisan civil rights legislation that would affirm the right of disabled people to live in freedom. The proposed bill, the Latonya Reeves Freedom Act (H.R. 6860/S. 3417), fulfills the promise of the Americans with Disabilities Act by strengthening the community integration mandate. It also safeguards the bodily autonomy of disabled Americans by codifying *Olmstead v. Lois Curtis*, the Supreme Court decision that said people have the right to receive services in the most integrated, least restrictive setting possible.

Also in July CDR was invited to an event hosted by Governor Hochul in New York City commemorating the 32nd anniversary of the ADA. She delivered strong support regarding the ADA and *Olmstead*, emphasizing her commitment to making New York a leader in protecting the rights of people with disabilities. As part of the event she also signed a package of bills aimed at protecting and supporting the rights of people with disabilities, including a bill to legally recognize supported decision making agreements in New York State, which CDR supported.



*IMAGE DESCRIPTION:
members of CDR's
leadership with Kim
Hill, New York's Chief
Disability Officer.*

Contact Advocacy



(585) 546-7510

Ask for Advocacy!



advocacy@cdrnys.org

Email Our Team!

**Get Involved
With Us Today!**

Support the Center for Disability Rights! Give the Gift of Freedom.

All of the people in our video have at least one thing in common. They all believe in our mission and are working with us to achieve it. During the pandemic, we have been very active meeting consumer needs. However, there is more to be done.

To be successful, we need the help of everyone. We need people to provide resources, provide time, share expertise, and donate funds, so that we can continue in our mission and vision of a society where people with disabilities live independently.

You can be an important part of working with CDR, and make it possible for people with disabilities to live independently in the community of their choice.

If you would like to make a donation: please go to <https://cdrnys.org/donate>.

*Or fill out the Annual Giving card below and return to:
497 State Street, Rochester, NY 14608. Please indicate "ADA 2022."*

Newsletter Accessibility:

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter in an alternate format, including:

- Braille
- Large print

Contact Linda Taylor:
Ltaylor@cdrnys.org

Upcoming Board Meeting

October 20, 2022
1:00pm
497 State Street
Rochester, NY 14608

All board meetings will be conducted on Zoom, until further notice.

497 State Street
Rochester, NY 14608
(585) 546-7510



/rochestercdr



@CDRNYS



cdrnys.org/youtube



cdrnys.org

This year, give a gift that lives on year-round.

Annual Giving

☐ YES! I want to support the independence of people with disabilities with my donation of:
☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25
☐ Other \$ _____

☐ I am enclosing a check payable to CDR.
☐ Pay by credit card
☐ Master Card ☐ Visa ☐ Amex ☐ Discover
 Card Number _____
 Exp Date _____ CVV _____ Zip Code _____
 Signature _____
☐ Donate online at www.cdrnys.org

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Center for Disability Rights is a registered not for profit Corporation. Donations are tax deductible.



Center for Disability Rights, Inc.

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PROTECT YOUR FREEDOM!

CDR works for the full integration, independence, and civil rights of people with disabilities.

Become a Member of CDR today!

Membership year 9/1 - 8/31. Minimum contribution \$5 per year.

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

PHONE NUMBER

EMAIL ADDRESS

Enclosed is my contribution of \$_____.

Make your check payable to Center for Disability Rights, Inc.
Mail check, along with this completed membership form, to:

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****All Donations are tax deductible.***