



MOVING FORWARD, LOOKING BACK

MEMBER NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM THE MUSEUM OF DISABILITY HISTORY

FALL 2011



Current Exhibits



Moving Forward, Looking Back

A trio of the following Museum exhibits:

Madness in America:

A History of Mental Health, The Kennedy Connection, and On the Edge of Town: Almshouses in WNY on display at the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society

Through November 30, 2011



War and disABILITY

Through December 31, 2011



Dr. P.H. Skinner

Located at 1219 N. Forest Road, Williamsville

Through December 31, 2011

Continuum of Care: A History of Western New York Human Service Agencies

Anticipated opening April 2012

Greetings Museum Members!



Welcome to the first edition of our Museum member newsletter! This quarterly mailing will feature news and information regarding the latest Museum exhibits, programs, activities, and events. Our Curator's Corner feature will provide you with an inside look at some of the most recent acquisitions to our collection, and our upcoming exhibit guide will give a glimpse as to what our team has in store for the future.

We are wrapping up a busy October here at the Museum. We held our 7th annual disABILITIES Film Festival and Speaker series on October 13th at the University at Buffalo Center for the Arts. We featured the film, "Where's Molly" and had the creators of the documentary, Jeff and

Cindy Daly, as our guest speakers. The event was a huge success, with over four-hundred people in attendance - our biggest turnout yet!

We also participated in several Disability History Week celebrations in schools throughout Western New York. Museum staff and ambassadors held assemblies and completed various activities with local students in order to increase their knowledge of disability history, etiquette and awareness.

We also participated as exhibitors at the recent National Trust for Historic Preservation Conference that was held this past month here in Buffalo. Our newest traveling exhibit, *Dr. P.H. Skinner: Educator, Advocate and Abolitionist* made its debut at the conference. The exhibit, which highlights the life of this early educator for African-American children with disabilities, is currently on display at our Administrative headquarters located at 1219 North Forest Road in Williamsville.

A trio of our traveling exhibits entitled *Moving Forward, Looking Back* is currently on display in the Community Gallery of the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society. The exhibit is made up of the Museum's *Madness in America*, *Kennedy Connection*, and *Almshouses of WNY* exhibits. The exhibit will be on display now through the end of November.

If you haven't had a chance to see our *War and Disability* exhibit, it will be on display through the end of December and examines the American military and disability experience from the revolutionary war to present. Our Museum staff are always happy to provide guided tours for our members and their guests. Walk-ins are welcome so please stop in any time!

Thank you again for your membership. It is with your support that we are able to continue to develop quality exhibits and educational programs.

Best regards,

Tess Fraser

Museum Director

Unique Gifts Available at the Museum Store

By Pam Formoso, *Museum Reception*

Upon exiting the Museum of disABILITY History, you will have the opportunity to browse through our Museum Store. However, don't be fooled! This store is not just any Museum Store. While it is very quaint and pleasantly decorated to reflect each season, the Museum Store is pleased to announce that the merchandise we call "PeopleMade" is made by the individuals in different Day Hab Centers of People Inc.

With every new thing comes a chance to make a statement or a unique mark. In this case, the Museum of disABILITY History would like to "make its mark" by selling unique gifts in the very first Museum of disABILITY History Store.

It is only fitting that our most popular items, being the "PeopleMade" items, were going to be that "mark" that we put on society. They range from beautifully hand painted silk scarves and wine glasses, to artistically crafted stained glass butterflies and cement turtles. The best part about these items is that no two are the same!



When you leave the only "bricks and mortar" museum dedicated to disability history, our hope is that you will apply the priceless information learned to everyday living. There is no doubt that every visitor young and old will find something in our store to remind them of their invaluable visit. All proceeds benefit the growth and expansion of the Museum of disABILITY History as well as the Museum's Educational Outreach programs.

“ Thank you so much for the informative tour of the Museum of disABILITY History. As Special Educators, we were especially interested, and emotionally moved by the excellent and sensitive presentation of a population that is close to our hearts. May you continue to share this museum, with its extended resources, to our families, schools, and community. Thank you again for your time and attention.”

- The Bornhava Staff

Do you want to be a blogger?

Check out the Museum's new blog at blog.museumofdisability.org

We will be posting about various topics related to Disability History.

We would love to have some of our members volunteer to be guest-bloggers! If you are interested, please contact Museum Director Tess Fraser at tfraser@people-inc.org.

B. Thomas Golisano Foundation Grant Improves Website

By Laurie Becker, *People Inc. Grant Projects Manager*

The Museum of disABILITY History has received a \$10,000 grant from the B. Thomas Golisano Foundation to help us redesign our website. Past support from the Golisano Foundation was instrumental in the development of the Museum's current website, and these new grant funds will help us update the site, take advantage of emerging technology, and more fully engage our audience in exploring disability history issues. The new website will provide a more "user-friendly" platform in response to visitor feedback and will include features such as: an ongoing calendar of exhibit openings and special events; staff blogs on disability issues; easier access to resources, materials and information; and the ability to book traveling exhibits directly from the web.

“ This Museum is awesome! Society has sure come a long way in addressing people with various abilities. Thanks!”

- Theresa P.T.

NEW HOURS

TUESDAY - FRIDAY: 10 A.M. - 4 P.M.

SATURDAY: 10 A.M. - 2 P.M.

SUNDAYS AND MONDAYS: CLOSED

Kids on the Block and the Museum of disABILITY History Celebrate Disability History Week

By Brie Kishel, *Project Coordinator*

Elmwood Village Charter School and Hoover Elementary School (Ken-Ton school district) took part in an all day celebration in recognition of Disability History Week (October 17th-21st). The celebrations included a presentation for each grade level (kindergarten through fifth grade). The kindergarten classes at each school listened to a story, titled *Don't Call me Special*, addressing individual differences and the fact that even though a child might have a disability, it doesn't mean that they can't participate in activities that every child enjoys! The kindergarteners then had the opportunity to interact with one of the Kids on the Block characters who visited each classroom. First graders also listened to a story,



titled *Extraordinary Friends*, encouraging the students to ask questions they may have about disabilities and to celebrate their differences. The first graders also had the opportunity to meet and greet one of the Kids on the Block characters in their classroom.

Second graders at each school participated in a presentation about visual impairments by first listening to a story, titled *Taking Visual Impairments to School*, discussing how a student who is blind would still be able to get around the school, participate in learning in the classroom, and join their friends in fun activities in and outside of school. The message relayed by the book is that children who are blind just find a different way of doing things, but being blind doesn't stop them from learning and having fun like every other child! Students were then able to feel the Braille alphabet, see and hear a beeping softball, and meet Renaldo Rodriguez, a Kids on the Block character who is blind. They had the opportunity to ask Renaldo questions about how he gets around using his cane and other daily activities.



Third and fourth graders at Elmwood Village and third graders at Hoover viewed a Kids on the Block performance involving a one-hour, live puppet show promoting the awareness, education, and acceptance of individuals with disabilities. Students viewed three skits addressing visual impairments, autism, and cerebral palsy, and had the opportunity to ask questions about each disability directly to the Kids on the Block characters and puppeteers.

Fifth graders at Elmwood Village and fourth and fifth graders at Hoover participated in an interactive presentation about Disability Etiquette. The presentation discussed the history and treatment of individuals with disabilities, proper terminology, person-first language, a true and false quiz to test the students' knowledge about disabilities, and a look at some famous celebrities who have not let their disabilities stop them from tremendous success in their lives.

Volunteers who participated in presenting these two programs included Kids on the Block puppeteers - Erin Strassburg, Janet McNevin, Bonnie Prunella, Matt Iwanski, and Amy Jakiel, People Inc.'s Public Affairs Manager - Nicole Forgione, Museum of disABILITY History Director - Tess Fraser, Museum Curator - Douglas Platt, and KOB Project Coordinator - Brie Kishel. Thank you to all who made these events a great success!

The Museum Store is now online!
store.museumofdisability.org



Janice Nichols Survivor of Polio Advocates for Public Support

By Nicole Forgione, *People Inc. Public Affairs Manager*

Janice Nichols, author and polio pioneer, spoke about being a survivor and advocates to build public support to end the debilitating disease. Her friendly personality warmed the room as she was part of the Museum of disABILITY History's speaker series in October.

In 1954, Nichols was one of nearly two million children in the United States, Canada and Finland who participated in the Salk vaccine trial, which is the largest vaccine trial in the history of the world. Nichols made a complete recovery. Her book, "Twin Voices: A Memoir of Polio, the Forgotten Killer," wraps her family's personal story around the greater story of the disease.



Polio, short for poliomyelitis, is a disease that can damage the nervous system and cause paralysis, and sometimes death. Since polio immunization has become widespread in the United States, cases of polio are rare. However, polio remains a problem in many parts of the world.

A childhood victim of the 1953 Dewitt, New York, polio epidemic, Nichols' personal and professional life have been profoundly shaped by her experience. Nichols lost her twin brother, Frankie, to the disease and suffered temporary paralysis, leading her to choose a career as a rehabilitation counselor. Despite setbacks, Nichols has never lost her optimism.

During her presentation, Nichols encouraged attendees and the public to take a moment to visit www.theendofpolio.com to sign a petition and join a call for world leaders to commit to polio eradication. For each petition signature, a child will be vaccinated through the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

“Thank you so much for the opportunity to explore this special resource. Our students will remember this precious knowledge as they proceed in their health career futures. Many thanks!”

- Jane A. from Millard
Suburban Connections Class
(Erie 1 BOCES)



“War and disABILITY” Unveiled at Museum of disABILITY History

By Nicole Forgione, *People Inc. Public Affairs Manager*

People Inc.’s Museum of disABILITY History recently opened its newest exhibit, “War and disABILITY” with an opening reception on August 18. Steve T. Banko III, retired field office director for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and a Vietnam War veteran, was the keynote speaker. Steve Banko’s speech was powerful and thought provoking – see the video on YouTube (www.youtube.com/PeopleIncWNY). Other speakers included Judge Robert Russell and Eric Bauer, Museum of disABILITY History Board Member and exhibit contributor.

The exhibit is on display now through December 31 and covers American national history and the nation’s involvement in wars both at home and abroad. Topics covered include people with disabilities in war and war efforts at home, perceptions of veterans who are disabled in popular culture, neuropsychological injuries, the evolution of medical and military technologies and legislation, rehabilitation and reintegration issues facing veterans with disabilities. Highlights consist of the establishment of the Invalid Corps during the Civil War, the “Elwyn Boys” participation during WWII, and the introduction of Mobile Army Surgical Hospitals. As the technology of war has advanced, so has the number of injuries resulting in permanent disabilities. Survival from these injuries has been the direct result of ever evolving medical technologies.

For more information or to schedule a group tour, call 716.629.3626. Walk-ins welcome.

(L-R) Top Row: Dr. James M. Boles, People Inc. President and CEO; Judge Robert Russell; Steve T. Banko III, Vietnam War veteran; Steven Sanders, Amherst Town Council Member; Guy Marlette, Amherst Deputy Town Supervisor; Eric Bauer, Museum of disABILITY History Board Member, Iraq and Afghanistan war veteran, and exhibit contributor; Frederick Zazycki, Museum of disABILITY History Board Member; and United States Veterans.



Judge Robert Russell



Judge Robert Russell (left) speaks with Steve T. Banko III, retired field office director for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and Vietnam War veteran, and Tess Fraser, Museum of disABILITY History director.

Curator Corner

By Doug Platt, *Museum Curator*

The Museum of disABILITY History has recently added two Invalid Chairs to its collection, which are on display in the museum gallery. Invalid chairs were developed to position individuals who were ill, aged or infirm, in a comfortable manner. The addition of wheels to the chair allowed them to become handy transports for those too involved to walk by themselves.



One is a Geo. F. Sargent Co. Rolling Chair. It is dark brown in color and has four wheels with a wooden frame. It has wicker arms and siding, a caned seat and wooden foot-rest. The chair has metal leaf spring style suspension and axle, small metal front wheels and large wooden and metal rear wheels.

The second is a Reclining Tricycle Style Chair, it too has a wooden and metal composition,

but instead of four wheels, it has three, with a small rear wheel to facilitate turning corners. The tricycle chair lacks the spring suspension of the roller, but it has a lever that allows it to be adjusted from an upright position to a full recline.

These items, both in good condition, are now on display and are beneficial additions to the collection of mobility aids for individuals with disabilities. "Getting around" has always been a major factor in disABILITY History.



Kids on the Block of WNY will Launch Anti-Bullying Program

By Brie Kishel, *Project Coordinator*

The Kids on the Block of Western New York educational puppet troupe, a community outreach project of People Inc. and the Museum of disABILITY History, has recently purchased the "Bullying Prevention and School Safety" curriculum. The curriculum will be offered to schools beginning in the fall of 2012. Throughout the current school year, the troupe will work to develop the program and incorporate the advice of experts in the field to enable the program's puppeteers to relay the most effective anti-bullying message and

information to schools. The initiative will be a stand-alone program not meant to replace the current disability awareness program, but to complement the message the troupe promotes addressing education, awareness, tolerance and respect for all individuals regardless of any differences.

Kids on the Block Project Coordinator Brie Kishel attended an anti-bullying conference sponsored by the Character Council of Western New York on

October 26 in Hamburg, NY. The keynote speaker at this event was Dr. Amanda Nickerson, director of the Center for the Prevention of Bullying Abuse and School Violence at the University at Buffalo. The conference addressed the Dignity for All Students Act, legislation which goes into effect on July 1, 2012, requiring all schools in New York State to revise codes of conduct and adopt policies to create a school environment free from harassment and discrimination.

The Kids on the Block of Western New York is excited to participate in taking a stand against bullying and aiding in the prevention of bullying incidents in elementary schools across Western New York. For more information about the development of this program or how to have a Kids on the Block disability awareness performance performed at schools in the area or for community groups, call Brie Kishel at 716.629.3623.



"Like" the Museum of disABILITY History on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/museumofdisability

Welcome New Members!

Individual/Student

Mary Ann Kedron
Anna Korus

Family/Dual

Edward Clausen	Jennifer Kendt
Jennifer Demert	Scott Kendt
Simon Farrell	J. Paul Synor
Bonne Hall	Mary Synor
David Hall	Joyce Ullery

Friend

James Boles	Robert Murrett
Don Bach	Fred Zazycki

Sustainer

Rhonda Frederick	SODEXO
David Gerber	Francisco Vasquez
Nancy Palumbo	Alexandra Wehr

Don't forget that as a member, you receive a 10% discount in the Museum Store!

Become a Member...

Want to support the Museum of disABILITY History? Membership opportunities are now available! With four different levels to choose from, you can choose the one that is right for you. All supporting membership levels are good for one year.

The top three reasons to become a member are:

- 1 Unlimited free admission
- 2 Invitations to exclusive events and exhibit openings
- 3 10 percent discount in the Museum of disABILITY History store.

“ I found the museum very educational and interesting. The early historical information was very enlightening! I am so glad I came and I also learned how New York has participated in the history and needs of the disabled. Having disabilities myself I feel now that I am in a good state.”

- Anitra L.

MUSEUM INFO

3826 Main Street
Buffalo, NY 14226
716.629.3626
www.museumofdisability.org
store.museumofdisability.org

ADMISSION

Adults (18 and up)	\$5.00
Students with ID	\$2.50
Seniors (60 and up)	\$2.50
People Inc./Human Service	
Employees with ID	\$2.50
Children (6-17)	\$2.00
Children under 5	FREE
1-hour guided group tour (Groups between 10-20 people)	\$25

2011-2011 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Nancy Palumbo
Chairperson
Vice-President, People Inc.

Penny F. Zepowitz
Vice-Chairperson
President, Communications Plus

Eric Bauer
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Construction Inc.

Doreen Dell
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Buffalo

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Dr. David Gerber
Distinguished Professor of
History, State University of
New York at Buffalo

Frederick J. Zazycki
Retired, Director NYS
Department of Mental
Hygiene

MUSEUM HOURS

Tuesday - Friday	10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Sundays and Mondays	Closed

STAFF

Tess Fraser - *Museum Director*
Douglas Platt - *Museum Curator*
Reid Dunlavey - *Research Specialist*
Brie Kishel - *Project Coordinator*
Stephanie Kryst - *Museum Assistant*
Pamela Formoso - *Museum Reception*

MISSION STATEMENT

The Museum of disABILITY History is dedicated to the collection, preservation and display of artifacts pertaining to the history of people with disabilities.



www.facebook.com/museumofdisability