



MOVING FORWARD, LOOKING BACK

MEMBER NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM THE MUSEUM OF DISABILITY HISTORY

FALL 2012: VOLUME 4



8th Annual disABILITIES Film Festival and Speaker Series features *Bully*

The room was packed for the 8th Annual disABILITIES Film Festival and Speaker Series at the University at Buffalo Center for the Arts on October 4, 2012. The event was hosted by the Museum of disABILITY History and People Inc.

The feature film was *Bully*, directed by award-winning and esteemed documentarian Lee Hirsch. *Bully* captures the devastation done to middle and high school kids and the collateral damage done to their families. Unfortunately, bullying is an issue that has not been substantially addressed by the vast majority of school administrators. The emotional damage done to kids such as Alex, 12 and Kelby, 16, and the suicide of Tyler Long, bring serious doubt to such dismissals.

After the film was featured, guest speaker Jesse Saperstein, best-selling author, autism advocate and motivational speaker spoke to the crowd. He has Asperger's Syndrome, a mild form of autism. Jesse was charismatic, funny and daring during his talk. While peppering his presentation with humor and witticisms, he shared how he was bullied.

Tim and Tracy Rodemeyer, Williamsville parents of Jamey Rodemeyer, a teenage boy who committed suicide last year due to bullying, shared, "We're hoping that people will realize that bullying is a problem, and that it needs to be dealt with and need not be taken lightly."

Many in the audience were moved by the Film Fest. Among those was DeLacy Kennedy, assembly coordinator of Windermere Elementary in Amherst, who said, "I had a great time at the film last night, so powerful!"

In addition to the movie, the "kNOW bullying" awareness and prevention program, a program of the Museum of disABILITY History and People Inc.,

was debuted at the event. The program aims to prevent bullying. Museum of disABILITY History Education Coordinator Brie Kishel is spearheading this new undertaking and is set to premier in Western New York school districts

in January 2013. It will incorporate live puppetry, Q and A and information on how to fight bullying for kids. A day before the Film Fest, the Bullying Awareness and Prevention Forum sought to facilitate a discussion for the community regarding the subject and introduce the program to parents, administrators, teachers, school counselors, PTA members and other education staff. It was held at the Buffalo Academy of the Sacred Heart.

Dr. Amanda Nickerson is the Director of the Albert Center for Bullying Abuse Prevention within University at Buffalo's Graduate School of Education, and served as one of the panelists: "...sometimes we only talk about

the targets [of bullying] and how to help them but we know more and more that the individuals that bully are not doing very well either." Dr. Nickerson explained that lack of monitoring may contribute to that child bullying. She shared, "Parents do you know what your kids are doing? They need supportive role models to let them know the right way to behave, and to show by example." Passing laws, according to Dr. Nickerson, is not enough, everyone must play a part. "If someone has the tendency to point the finger, they ought to turn it

back on themselves: What are you as an individual trying to do to contribute to help making this problem go away? Do you know about the resources that are out there for someone who is suffering?"

The anti-bullying initiative in Western New York is picking up momentum with the implementation of awareness and prevention programs like these. However, as echoed by Dr. Nickerson, change will happen at the individual level. This movement will be defined by how well people can bring different elements of the community to come together as one to prevent bullying.



Jesse Saperstein, best-selling author, autism advocate and motivational speaker, spoke at the Film Festival.



Members of the Bullying Awareness and Prevention Forum.

Holiday Shop with Us!

Are you an early bird? Already done wrapping? Or have you not even started your holiday shopping? If you have not started or if you need some extra ideas, please stop by the gift shop at the Museum of disABILITY History! There is something for everyone: inspiring books, children's books, jewelry, hand-painted wine glasses and unique gifts! You can shop with ease online at store.museumofdisability.org.

Traveling Exhibits Available for your Business

The Museum's traveling exhibits bring the different topics in disability history to those who are unable to visit the Museum. It is for people of all ages and abilities who would like to know more about the history of people with disabilities. Traveling exhibits are available for presentations at schools, libraries, businesses, health organizations, conferences or special events - locally and throughout the United States.

**Enhance your event. Educate your community.
Reserve an exhibit today! 716.629.3626**

Where to find our Traveling Exhibits

November 2012 Reel Life

University of Pittsburgh, PA

War and disABILITY

New England Air and Space Museum,
Windsor Locks, CT

Moving Forward Looking Back, Skinner and Reel Life will also be circulating at administrative offices of People Inc.

Fisher Price Donates My American Girl® Dolls to Museum's Collection

My American Girl® Dolls (including one without hair) were donated to the Museum of disABILITY History by Fisher-Price, Inc. Robert Tom, senior director, Product Engineering Services, personally delivered the two dolls recently.

The new line of dolls without hair is aimed at girls affected by cancer, alopecia or any medical condition causing hair loss. This new product line provides even more possibilities for a girl to create a doll that is as unique as she is. The donation also included a hearing aid, a service dog and a wheelchair from the My American Girl® Dolls collection.



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

Kids Corner - share with your kids, grandkids, niece or nephew!

Ivan the Invacar Book Series Premieres Fun and exciting reading for children

The Museum of disABILITY History is excited to share some fun news about a new book series for children! The book series will be about Ivan the Invacar. The first book is *Ivan Helps Big Dog*. All of the books have been written by James M. Boles, Ed.D., president of People Inc., along with a team of educators who reviewed the books throughout the process.

There are many ways to look at disabilities. Ivan the Invacar is a car that transports his driver Derry, who is in a wheelchair, to work. So, Ivan is an adaptive device to help people with disabilities. However, Ivan is also a reluctant superhero who helps those in need: In this first of many adventures, Ivan gains his superpowers and rescues his friend, Big Dog.



"I wanted to write about disabilities but not with a direct focus on disability. Ivan, the Invacar is a helper of people with disabilities," shared Dr. Boles on why he chose to write a children's book series. "However, the books are not about Derry or the disabled. They are about adventures that involve someone with a disability, but NOT necessarily as a focus. I wanted to show a world where people with disabilities are part of everyday life which includes the exciting experiences of a superhero, like Ivan the Invacar."

Currently, the book will only be available in the Museum of disABILITY History gift shop and online at store.museumofdisability.org. Stay tuned for a special promotion about the book for the holiday season! Other titles in the book series will debut in 2013, including: *Ivan and Little Cat*, *Ivan and the Cave* and *Ivan and Big Red*.

kNOw bullying!

A project of the Museum of disABILITY History

Learn to be
bully free!

“kNOw bullying” program! premieres in January

The “kNOw bullying!” program, a project of the Museum of disABILITY History, will be premiering in school districts across Western New York as of January 2013, for fourth grade students. The program is in the final stages of development at this time and staff are currently training to present the program to a waiting list of schools. The cost of the program will be a minimal \$1.00/student. Training is focusing on the puppetry presentation, as well as educating staff to provide pertinent information, facilitate an open discussion and appropriately answer student questions.

“kNOw bullying!” will be provided as a supplement to established anti-bullying programs and will help to reinforce the message that students should become “Stand-byers” rather than bystanders in the efforts to reduce bullying incidents in their schools. The program will utilize educational puppetry to provide students with a visual scenario. The puppeteers will also facilitate a discussion with the students regarding the definition of bullying, types of bullying, tools and resources for students to use if they become a victim or witness and how to become a “Stand-byer.” Information packets will be distributed to teachers as a resource of additional information and assist teachers in reinforcing the message of the “kNOw Bullying” program in their classrooms. Students will also be provided with handouts and resources will be sent home to parents as well.

The anti-bullying initiative must be a collaborative effort between teachers, students, administrators, parents and members of the community. In order to decrease incidents of bullying both inside and out of school, people need to KNOW and understand what bullying is and what they can do as individuals to participate in changing their own attitudes and engage in the battle against this societal dilemma. For more information about this program, contact Brie Kishel, education coordinator, at bkishel@people-inc.org or 716.629.3623.

Thank you Film Fest sponsors

THE BUFFALO NEWS



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Business Independence Security Services Network
Today's choice will make the difference tomorrow

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Child and Family Services

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MAGAZINE

New York State
Developmental Disabilities
Planning Council

Hadley Exhibits

Ceremony of Remembrance at Niagara County Almshouse Cemetery

People Inc. and the Niagara County Sheriff's Department held a Ceremony of Remembrance to honor the lives of individuals who now rest at Niagara County Almshouse Cemetery on Niagara Street Extension in Lockport. The event was on October 18, 2012. Former residents of the Niagara County Almshouse were commemorated with a program, an unveiling of a memorial garden and music. Approximately, 70 names of individuals laid to rest in the cemetery were read during the program.

The cemetery recorded burials from 1830-1912 and estimates that more than 1,400 people who resided at the Niagara County Almshouse are buried there most with anonymous graves. The burial grounds, above the former location of the Almshouse or Poorhouse, were overgrown with vines and bushes.

Over the past many months, People Inc. staff and volunteers restored the cemetery. Professors and students from the Buffalo State College Anthropology Department used ground penetrating radar to determine the location of the cemetery.



(L-R) Niagara County Manager, Jeffrey M. Glatz; Niagara County Undersheriff, Michael J. Filicetti; James M. Boles, Ed.D., People Inc. President.

Records will be transcribed from the Niagara County Historian's Office and the Museum of disABILITY History, a project of People Inc., to create a searchable database. Research has shown that the individuals of the Niagara County Almshouse were considered “sick, insane and crippled.” It is one of the first institutions of care that were provided to people with disabilities, said James M. Boles, Ed.D., president of People Inc. The restoration endeavor is an example of the strides that have been made in the treatment of people with disabilities and to acknowledge their history.

Museum Receives IMLS Museums for America Grant

The Museum of disABILITY History is proud to share news about an IMLS Museums for America Grant of \$50,000 that was recently awarded. The funds will allow the team to research and develop a project called Writing the Wrongs: Journalism and disABILITY History. The project will highlight journalism's role in exposing the harsh conditions faced by people with disabilities in custodial care facilities operating under the prevailing standards of treatment for their time. It will document journalism by and for people with disabilities and its continuing role in illuminating social injustice. Products will include a traveling exhibit, an exhibit brochure, an On-Cell guided tour, a virtual museum exhibit, and a grade-four-to-twelve curriculum, as well as a book and e-book. The exhibit is expected to open in October 2013.

Welcome New Members!

Individual/Student

Barbara Guancial
Donald Solberg
Barry Weinstein

Family/Dual

J. Paul Synor
Ann Burk

Corporate

The Buffalo News
Buffalo Healthy Living

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

store.museumofdisability.org

Support the Museum, Become a Member!

Want to support the Museum of disABILITY History? Membership opportunities are now available! With five 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 Support the only brick and mortar disability history museum
- 2 Unlimited free admission and store discounts
- 3 Invitations to exclusive events and exhibit openings

Consider A Corporate Membership

*All memberships are good for 1 year (12 months from start date)

- Six free admission passes for guests
- 50% discount on Museum admission for your employees
- 10% discount in the Museum Store year round if membership card is presented
- 15% discount for employee gifts and wrapping
- 15% discount on traveling exhibit rental and offsite presentations
- Invitation to "Friends of the Museum" appreciation event
- Complimentary 1/4 page ad in the Museum's newsletter (*complimentary design upon request*)
- Recognition in the Museum lobby and website
- Subscription to the Museum of disABILITY History's monthly enewsletter and quarterly newsletter
- Invitations to Museum events and exhibit openings

 'I thought the Museum would be centered around institutions, but not maybe go into stuff like entertainment,' shared Matt Edmonds during a recent visit to the Museum of disABILITY History. 'I didn't expect so many showpieces. I expected kind of more text and less, you know, interesting artifacts, so that's been cool to see.'"

- Matt Edmonds, a diverse visitor all the way from London, England visited the Museum of disABILITY History in Buffalo, NY in October 2012. He used the Museum's rich resources for work-related research.

MUSEUM INFO

3826 Main Street
Buffalo, NY 14226
716.629.3626
info@museumofdisability.org

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

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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*
Osiris Gomez - *Research Assistant*
Brie Kishel - *Education Coordinator*
Jewel Wood - *Museum Reception*

MISSION STATEMENT

The Museum of disABILITY History advances the understanding, acceptance, and independence of people with disabilities. The Museum's exhibits, collections, archives and educational programs create awareness and a platform for dialogue and discovery.



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