

## Successful Film and Speaker Series

By Nicole Forgione, Public Affairs Manager, People Inc.



Movie, check! Enthusiastic film creator, check! Red carpet, check! Crowds, check!

The world premiere of *Kelly's Hollywood* at the Museum of disABILITY History Film and Speaker Series on October 17 was a huge success!

More than 200 people attended the event and met film director and Buffalo native, Brian Donovan. A St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute graduate, the film is his tribute to his sister, Kelly, who was born with Down syndrome. Kelly was about surpassing expectations and living a life that 'Anything can be' – a theme of the movie.

Tickets sales, silent auction and donations benefitted the Museum of disABILITY History, Bornhava and Cantalician Center.

Brian shared, "By documenting my sister, I hope the film illuminates that it's not who you are when you're born, but who you are when you live."

The world premiere of *Kelly's Hollywood* was the result of an extraordinary collaboration," said Dave Mack-Hardiman,

continued on page 3



During the reception, Frank Cammarata, executive director of the Erie County Office for the Disabled, presented a proclamation to the Donovan family.

Truth be told, I didn't know what the future held, but I did know that life is short and everything worth living for starts with a leap of faith and a dream...a dream that anything can happen...anything can be...especially if you have a cheerleader by your side."

- Brian Donovan



### In This Issue

- Successful Film and Speaker Series
- 2 Anything Can Be
- 3 Message from the Director
- 4 James M. Boles Active in New Role
- 5 Curator Appointed to New York State Historical Records Advisory Board
- 6 In The Media
- 7 New Members!
- A Call for Writers: "Out of the Shadows: Join the Conversation"
- Docents Keep Busy
- 10 Expanding Knowledge of Mental Illness During Awareness Week
- 11 Support the Museum of disABILITY History
- 12 Find your photo with Brian Donovan!

## **Guest Contribution**

## **Anything Can Be**

By Brian Donovan, Kelly's Hollywood Film Creator

In 1969, shortly after giving birth to my sister Kelly, the doctors told my mom to institutionalize her because she had Down syndrome and wouldn't have a fully realized life. Fortunately, my mom said, 'no,' and brought her home.

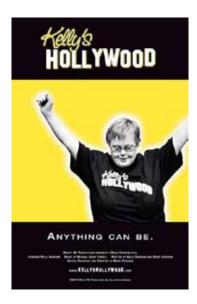
I don't think anyone knew what kind of life my sister would have. We certainly didn't anticipate celebrating her life with the world premiere of *Kelly's Hollywood*, as part of the Museum of disABILITY History Film and Speaker Series 45 years later. But celebrate we did and it was perfect in every way. The Museum of disABILITY History and People Inc. staff were superb and did an incredible job promoting the film and making the event extraordinarily successful.

I always knew I wanted to bring the film home to Buffalo, NY where we grew up and Kelly lived throughout her life. Even though Hollywood provided

...she personified it's not who you are when you're born, but who you are when you live."

some of Kelly's greatest joys, it was Buffalo that protected and nurtured her and where she lay peacefully in the end. The Museum and People Inc. were the perfect partners and hosts for my documentary.

The event was one day, but my happy memories and gratitude towards the efforts made by the Museum and People Inc. on behalf of the film will be forever. Thank you for embracing Kelly and me, my family and all the people she touched. Kelly proved the doctors wrong with her fully realized life, and she personified it's not who you are when you're born, but who you are when you live. Let's live.





## Museum of disABILITY History Film and Speaker Series Committee

#### **Planning Committee**

Pat Cammarata (Bornhava) Rachel Gottorff
Doug Farley Tom McDade (I
Nicole Forgione Dave Mack-Har
Leslie Garrity Rachel Martin (1

Rachel Gottorff Tom McDade (Donovan family friend) Dave Mack-Hardiman Rachel Martin (Cantalician Center)

### **Movie Selection Committee**

Maria Bell Isaac Cote Israel Cruz Charles Degraffenried Doug Farley Larry Jordan-Lee David Mack-Hardiman Janet McNevin Doug Platt Michael Rembis, PhD Thomas Stearns

## Message from the Director



Welcome to the fall edition of *Moving Forward*, *Looking Back*. I hope you had a chance to visit the Museum of disABILITY History during the summer.

In our last edition, we introduced our planned construction for our Interactive Tour Room and Theater. I am pleased to report that a lot has been accomplished in terms of removing walls and giving the theater area a new appearance.

Next up will be the sound and projection equipment and some of the surprise elements that will make this experience truly unique. I will let that pique your interest as we finish up this project over the next few months.

I am also very proud to announce another new project on the drawing board, the Children's Learning Center. With the help of a generous appropriation from the People Inc. Foundation, we are moving ahead with architectural designs for a great addition to the Museum that will provide us with a new exhibit space that will feature some state-of-the-art children's exhibits. Stay tuned for more details as this project moves through the necessary design and permit stages.

I hate to mention it, but like it or not, winter is right around the corner. I would like to invite everyone to start that season off in style by attending our Holiday Celebration with the outstanding group of musicians of Universal Mind. This octet is making a reprise visit from last year when they helped us dance the night away while enjoying some great holiday goodies. Throw in a great basket raffle and your evening will be complete! Mark your calendars for Friday, December 5, from 5 to 7 p.m. Bring your dancing shoes and don't forget to put on your best holiday sweater!

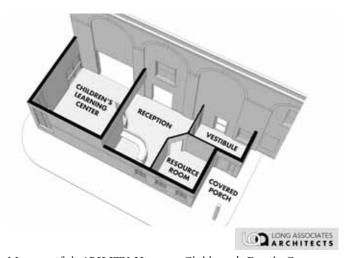
Hope to see you soon!





ARCHITECTS

Museum of disABILITY History - Children & Family Center, rear perspective.



Museum of disABILITY History - Children & Family Center, 3/4 overhead view.













"Successful Film and Speaker Series" continued from page 1

More photos on page 12

Museum of disABILITY Film and Speaker Series director and People Inc. associate vice president. "Endless thanks to Kelly's mother, Pat Donovan, and her brother Brian, director of the film."

The Museum of disABILITY History Film and Speaker Series was established in 2004 to educate, challenge stereotypes and explore issues faced by individuals with disabilities.

Sponsors of the event included: Amherst Dipson Theatre, Andruschat Law Firm, Buffalo Healthy Living, The Buffalo News and the New York State Council on the Arts. In-kind supporters of the reception were: Bing's Italian Restaurant, Down Syndrome Parents Group of Western New York, Dunkin' Donuts, Tops and Wegmans.

Kelly was about surpassing expectations and living a life that 'anything can be' - a theme of the movie."

## **Upcoming Events**

All events held at the Museum of disABILITY History. Stay tuned to our website and Facebook page for more details!

### Friday, December 5, 5-7 p.m.

Celebrate the holidays with music from Universal Mind, a band sponsored by Aspire of Western New York comprised of talented musicians who are differently-abled. RSVP for this FREE event by calling 716.629.3626.



### Saturday, January 24, 2015 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Susan Conners, author and president and founder of the Tourette Syndrome Association of Greater NYS, will present at the Tourette Syndrome and Associated Disorders in the Classroom Workshop. Educators, parents and human service professionals are encouraged to attend. Practical strategies will be provided for supporting those with Tourette's and other neurological disorders. Call 716.629.3626 for costs and registration information.

### James M. Boles Active in New Role

The Museum of disABILITY History is pleased to welcome its founder, James M. Boles, EdD, to his new role. Upon retiring from president and chief executive officer of People Inc., Dr. Boles now serves People Inc. as the business development and senior research advisor.

Dr. Boles is continuing to conduct and coordinate historical research and writing in disability studies for future publications and trainings. Some of these projects include: A new edition to the Ivan the Invacar children's books series and three new books: Lockport's Early Alternative Medicine, Healing Springs of Niagara County and Healing Palaces of WNY (Sanitariums by county), and an update to a previous publication of When There Were Poorhouses. Also, Dr. Boles recently completed a book project titled, They Did No Harm Alternative Medicine in Niagara Falls, NY.



In addition, Dr. Boles has been instrumental with the development of a new educational exhibit to the Museum of disABILITY History

that will provide visitors with a unique learning experience. Existing space is currently under construction for a small theater and interactive exhibit to be called the Tour Room. The Tour Room, which is scheduled to be completed next year, will be the first area visited by a variety of audiences. Short videos, along with personal stories and testimonials related to disability history will be presented.

Dr. Boles continues to stay connected to People Inc. His leadership extends as an advisor for any future affiliations with other human service agencies and long-range planning.



On October 2, 2014, James M. Boles, EdD was awarded a proclamation from Erie County Legislator Lynne Dixon and members of the Erie County Legislature for his years of service at People Inc.

From left to right: Legislatures Peter Savage, Patrick Burke and Edward Rath; Majority Leader Joseph Lorigo; Legislator Lynne Dixon; James M. Boles EdD of People Inc.; Chairman John Mills; Rhonda Frederick of People Inc.; and Legislators Kevin Hardwick and Ted Morton.



Doug Platt giving a tour.

## **Curator Appointed to New York State Historical Records Advisory Board**

Congratulations to Doug Platt, curator of the Museum of disABILITY History, who was recently appointed to the New York State Historical Records Advisory Board. He will serve on the board from November 1, 2014 to October 31, 2017.

The board provides advice and guidance to the State Archives, the Board of Regents and Commissioner of Education, New York State government and to the historical records community statewide on historical records programs and issues in New York. This advice may

result in strategic priorities for action, legislative initiatives, grant projects and a wide range of activities.

The mission of the New York State Historical Records Advisory Board is to assist in, support, coordinate and advocate for the identification, collection, preservation, management, use and accessibility of records that document all of New York's peoples, communities, organizations, businesses and governments.

## Internship and Volunteer Opportunities Available

By Thomas Stearns, Museum Coordinator



Are you looking for a fun and interesting activity to participate in during your spare time? Do you have a passion for education and history? If you answered 'yes' to either of these questions, then a volunteer or internship opportunity is waiting for you at the Museum of disABILITY History!

### Opportunities include:

- Serving as a museum docent
- Planning events
- Cataloging new acquisitions
- Conducting research
- Outreach with local organizations

Serving as a docent would involve learning how to give a tour of the Museum gallery and conducting scheduled tours. Event planning would include assisting with our speaker series, distributing event flyers within the community and/or assisting at events. Cataloging new Museum acquisitions includes learning how to utilize PastPerfect Software in order to accession new items into our collection. Conducting research on an assigned topic would involve using the Museum's library and archives. The research would be used for new blog posts, newsletter articles, publications, new exhibits and/or for incorporating new content into the Museum website.

Conducting outreach with local organizations includes visiting museums, historical societies and human service agencies in an effort to establish mutually beneficial relationships.

Along with your commitment, to be accepted into the program, you must complete a criminal background check, a drug screening and the first day of new employee orientation. If interested, contact Thomas Stearns, Museum coordinator, at tstearns@people-inc.org or 716.629.3604.

### In the Media

By Doug Platt, Curator



Telling the story of and about the Museum of disABILITY History and what it has to offer the public can take on a variety of forms. My personal favorite is a face-to-face conversation with visitors, but to reach a wider audience, we welcome the media.

In early August, Jason Planck, a Schenectady area disability activist and Disability Access Network News reporter visited the Museum to see our exhibits and record an interview. Jason was impressed with the scope of the chronology and the breadth of topics. Jason's goals are to provide resources and information to the general public about the rights and needs of the disability community, as well as gather and report information about accessible tourism. His video can be found at facebook.com/Dannewsdisability.

In September, independent filmmaker Adrian Esposito shot footage at the Museum for content for his upcoming documentary "Diffability Hollywood." It will explore the portrayal of characters with disabling conditions in classic films and popular culture.

Mike Gerlach, host of the Maryland based radio program "Insights on disABILITY," contacted the Museum of disABILITY History for an interview which aired October 5. The interview is archived at www. insightondisability.com.

In October, Dan Barry, Museum member and *The New York Times* journalist, called for information regarding institutional cemeteries



Adrian Esposito and Doug Platt.

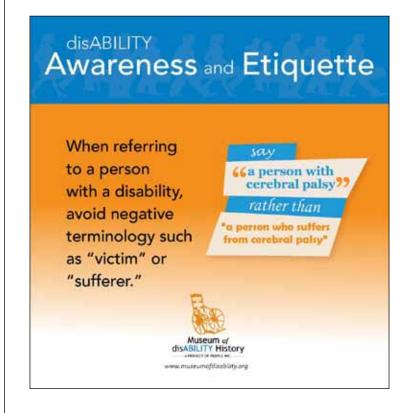
as a friend of his had recently came across an overgrown plot on the grounds of the old Central Islip State Hospital on Long Island. Barry was provided with an overview of what our Museum has done in this area, some web-based contacts and content, as well as the contact information of our very own cemetery restoration maven, David Mack-Hardiman, People Inc. associate vice president.

The Museum of disABILITY History looks forward to continuing to get the word out about disability history and contemporary issues in both new and traditional media platforms.



## **Bee** Writers and Editors Receive Guided Tour

As a way for editors and writers of the Bee Group Newspapers to reach out to the community, the editorial team requested a tour of the Museum of disABILITY. The group of 16 staff members gained insight on appropriate ways to address people with disabilities when writing stories and learned the importance of person-first language.



## Support the Museum, Become a Member!

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

To become a member, please call 716.629.3626 or log on to our website at museumofdisability.org. Click on the "Support Us" tab, click on "Membership," and "Click Here to Become a Member." Thank you for your support!

### We are Members!



Rhonda Frederick, president and CEO, People Inc. and James M. Boles, EdD, business development and senior research advisor, People Inc.



This could be you!

### **New Members!**

A warm welcome to our newest members:

### Individual/Student

Gail Armstrong Patricia Carrig
Robert and Fran Armstrong Barbara Fiorella
Robert Bedigan Anitra Lahey

### Family/Dual

Joan and Robert Barry Jesse and Mary Palumbo
Lester and Lisa Boeh Penny and Barry Zeplowitz
Norman and Adam Page

### **Friend**

Jennifer Kendt Buffalo Comptroller Mark JF Schroeder Sue Mann-Dolce Juris Smiltins

### Sustainer

James M. Boles, EdD and Paige Boles Rhonda Frederick Larry Skerker



## "Like" us on Facebook...and Write a Positive Review

What do you love most about the Museum of disABILITY History? Do you have a favorite exhibit or event? Why not write a review on the Museum of disABILITY History Facebook page and let others know more about it? Your positive comments will help promote our exhibits, events and educational activities and spread disability awareness! The "review option" is currently located at the top of the Museum of disABILITY History Facebook page, underneath the cover photo.



facebook.com/museumofdisability

### **Guest Contribution**

## A Call for Writers: "Out of the Shadows: Join the Conversation"

By Lizz Schumer, Writer

Stephen Hawking once said, "Sometimes I wonder if I'm as famous for my wheelchair and disabilities as I am for my discoveries." It's true that Hawking's face is as recognizable as his science; as is Einstein's, as is Ben Franklin's. But would anyone know Einstein without his characteristically crazy hair or Ben without his bald head and pocket watch?

We're quick to judge people by their appearances, even if their talents overshadow them. We're quick to dismiss those we think can't hold talent beneath their wheelchairs, behind their speech impediment or within their non-mainstream bodies, because they don't fit our idea of what a scientist, an artist, a dancer looks like. That's the society we live in. That's wrong.

As a writer, a reporter and an editor, I've always wanted to be judged on my work, not my persona. As a woman with an invisible disability, I have had the infinite luxury of making that choice. When I was first diagnosed with fibromyalgia, I crouched behind 'normal' like a shield, hiding my disease like a brand under a bandage. But it oozed and prickled, and as time went on, I decided the opportunity for advocacy was greater than the luxury of invisibility; because choosing

to remain in the shadows can feel like an arrogant cowardice, when most of us don't have that choice.

As a writer, a reporter and an editor, I've always wanted to be judged on my work, not my persona."

I'm not 'normal.' Neither is anyone I know, and that's what our upcoming event is all about. On Friday, March 6, 2015, the Museum of disABILITY History will host an evening reading and panel of writers with disabilities or writers who cover disability; to read from their work and discuss the 'Crip Lit' culture, what it means to them, and how it empowers writers of difference.

The next day, on Saturday, March 7, 2015, we will open the mic to local and regional writers with disabilities who want to share their own writing, stories and their own contribution to 'Crip culture.' We're inviting writers, poets, novelists and academics who are willing to share a piece of themselves to show that normal is no virtue, because normal doesn't exist. Join me to talk about where we sit, where we stand, where we exist within our own society and the larger context. Let's start a conversation; let's contribute to the movement.

Are you interested in participating? Send an email to schumeea@ gmail.com, with "Writing Application [your name]" in the subject line, explaining a bit about yourself, your writing background and why you would like to join the conversation. Please include 2-3 writing samples, so we can get an idea of your work.

## Our Traveling Exhibit is on the Road!

As part of the partnership between the Museum of disABILITY History and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Legacy Project, our traveling exhibit, "Self-Advocacy: A History of People Speaking Up for Themselves," made a stop on the ADA 25 Legacy Tour. It was displayed in September at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center as part of their Abilities Expo.



## Disability history travels to you!



### Disability themed exhibits available to rent for businesses, schools, colleges, conferences and events

The Museum of disABILITY History proves that everything's possible. It is a trusted, go-to resource for anyone who is looking to learn about the history, challenges and achievements of individuals with disabilities over the past few centuries. Here, the history of people with disabilities becomes alive.

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

### From the Docents

### **Docents Keep Busy**

Have you ever wondered what our docents do here? It's a great question! The docents help the Museum of disABILITY History maintain accurate records on the artifacts through a software program called PastPerfect. They also help to choose different events and help where needed.









Charles

Izzy

Maria

Isaac

They have been a part of the decision process for the movies that have been shown for our Film and Speaker Series. Recently, they have been cataloging videos that we received from retired People Inc. President and CEO James M. Boles, EdD.

The docents take pride in the work they do. However, the one thing they truly enjoy is the opportunities they get through tours for different groups. Some of them like to help give a tour and presentation to the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts. Others like to meet future doctors and physical therapy students. The docents also enjoy providing tours for People Inc.'s new employees.

So far this year, the docents have taken part in more than 48 tours which adds up to 537 people. Docents provide tours to groups as large as 20 people and they normally last an hour. A lot of groups

specially request them not only for their knowledge, but also for their personal experience that they on different artifacts. If you are looking to visit, give the docents a chance to show you around!

Our docents have provided tours to the following colleges:

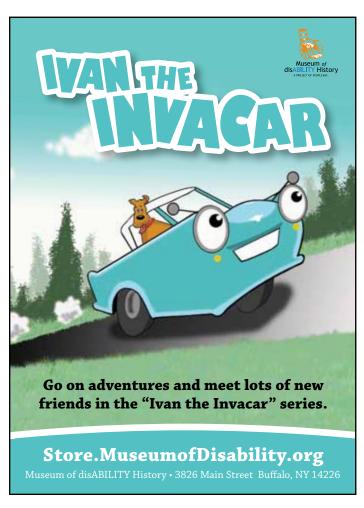
- Canisus College
- D'Youville College
- Jamestown Community College
- Medaille College
- SUNY Geneseo
- University at Buffalo

Keep an eye out for the Docents on PBS as a part of their production on disABILITY History and the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). The segments should air sometime early in 2015!

In October, Doug Farley, director of the Museum of disABILITY History, presented a Disability Etiquette Program to staff members of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District. He led a discussion with district members regarding disability etiquette and the history of how people with disabilities have been viewed and treated by our society over the last two centuries. Here is some feedback from the presentation:

Thank you so much for coming out to the District Office and presenting a lunch and learn workshop. I have had so much positive (and no negative!) feedback in the last two days that we'll have to bring you back next year to talk again. It was a really informative and interesting presentation. I cannot think of the last time that we had so many people turn out for a lunch and learn on a sunny day.... you did a really wonderful job with the presentation that touched on some highly sensitive and emotionally-charged issues."

- Judith Phillips, EEO manager, US Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District



## **Expanding Knowledge of Mental Illness During Awareness Week**

By Taylor Gesel, Reporter, The Record

Mental Illness Awareness Week, October 5 through October 11, shines a light on a sector of health that affects over 60 million Americans, according to the Anxiety and Depression Association of America. People fighting to create awareness for those suffering from mental illnesses are faced with a history of stigma and hardship.

That history is summarized in the exhibition "Madness in America: A History of Mental Health," by the Museum of disABILITY History, now being shown in the circulation gallery of the E. H. Butler Library. The seven-panel informative exhibition gives a history of the development of mental institutions in the United States, the changes in medical care and treatment of the illnesses and contributions by individuals who received these mental health services. Coinciding with the awareness week, Museum Curator Doug Platt hopes to create a dialogue that will lead to more open discussion about the issues those with all types of disabilities face.

"We all have our challenges," Platt said. "Some are just in different areas. We hope to provide a context for what is going on now in the mental health field, and hopefully lead to a more integrated, diverse, understanding and accepting society."

SUNY Buffalo State's counseling center in the Weigel Health Center has taken its own form of support outside of the services they already provide for those seeking help.



Photo credit: The Record

The "Buffalo State Cares: Suicide Prevention" initiative focuses on QPR (question, persuade, respond) Gatekeeper training in an attempt to widen the breadth of the community to support those needing assistance.

"Once someone is connected to the mental health world, they are much better at seeing the signs of distress and more adept to respond to the problem," said Joan McCool, director of the counseling center. McCool says that though a short-staffed counseling center may not have the ability to hold large scale events to promote awareness, educating anyone willing to help goes very far in expanding the support system at Buffalo State.

"It is really everyone's issue," McCool said. "No one should be unaware of these illnesses' significance."

Reaching beyond the boundaries of the Buffalo State campus, those looking to teach the next generation have references such as the exhibition to educate and observe the students they will teach.

"It's becoming more important to see the signs and not ignore them," said Catherine Conway, graduate secondary science education student. "So much can be done to give everyone a better future."

While Mental Illness Awareness Week may only be once a year, Platt said that there is far more to learn every day when people examine how mental health is seen in society.

"There is definitely still some degree of stigma, especially for mental illness," Platt said. "But hopefully that will continue to change as people realize it is not a choice, and that with the right amount of support, therapy and understanding, people can lead more functional lives."

We had a wonderful experience at the Museum of disABILITY History. I think the kids learned a lot of new things and were surprised by many of the artifacts and especially the history right here in Buffalo. On the ride home, the boys were asking all kinds of questions and talking about friends or family members that have dyslexia and the daily struggles they live with. It was a great experience. We hope to return soon with staff or more of our Big and Little matches."

- Maryam Ghazanfari, assistant director of programs, Be-A-Friend Program Inc., Big Brothers Big Sisters of Erie County

## Support the Museum of disABILITY History

## Eat, Shop, Travel and More...

Buy the popular Entertainment® book savings membership and help raise money for the Museum of disABILITY History! Each local edition includes thousands of discounts for fine and casual dining, attractions, shopping, travel and more – in the book, online and right on your phone! Over 110 editions are available! A portion of the sales will benefit the Museum of disABILITY History! To purchase yours, go to: buy.entertainment.com/9Y793N



# Shop at the Museum of disABILITY History! Unique Gifts and Friendly Service

By Sarah Jerge, Museum Store Manager



It's time to start thinking about holiday gift giving and great gifts are available at the Museum Store! There's always one person who already has everything and you're not sure what to give them so visit our store and check out our unique PeopleMade products.

PeopleMade products are handmade by individuals at People Inc.'s Day Habilitation programs. Items include silk scarves, hand painted wine glass sets, handcrafted wooden wine stoppers and wooden pens.

PeopleMade products are available at the Museum Store and on our website, store. museumofdisability.org.

Gift wrapping is also available to make things easier during the holiday season. Stop in anytime and pick out something special! The store is open during the Museum of disABILITY History's regular hours, Monday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.





### 2015 Wall Calendar Now Available

The Museum of disABILITY History 2015 wall calendar is now available to purchase! The calendar features twelve stunning color photographs of the Buffalo State Hospital/Richardson Towers, taken by urban archeologist Ian Ferance. The calendar is a 11"x17" when open and has space for daily entries. The calendars are only \$12.95 each and available in our store and online, store.museumofdisability.org.





## Find your photo with Brian Donovan!

The red carpet at the Museum of disABILITY Film and Speaker Series was a big hit! Event attendees were not only local, but came as far as Rochester, Cleveland and Los Angeles! Guests had the chance to meet and chat with Kelly's Hollywood film creator Brian Donovan. More event photos are in an album on the Museum of disABILITY History Facebook page.



### **MUSEUM INFO**

### **MUSEUM HOURS**

Monday-Saturday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sunday: Closed

### **ADMISSION**

Museum Members	FREE
People Inc. employees	FREE
Adults	\$5.00
Students, Seniors, and Human Service Employees	\$2.50
Children ages 6-17	\$2.00
Children ages 5 and under	FREE

### **Group Tour Rates:**

All groups (greater than or equal to 10 people): \$4 per person Rental of the KeyBank Room (1st Floor, up to 20 people): \$50

Rental of the Main Training Room (2nd Floor w/ elevator access, up to 80 people): \$100 fee added to the total amount per person

### MISSION STATEMENT

### 2014 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Maria Bell - Docent

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