



MOVING FORWARD, LOOKING BACK

MEMBER NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM THE MUSEUM OF DISABILITY HISTORY

SPRING 2012: VOLUME 2



Message from the Director

Greetings Museum Members!

Spring has sprung and things have been quite busy at the Museum of disABILITY History! We have been working diligently on gathering new acquisitions to feature in upcoming traveling exhibits and publications. Some upcoming events are being planned, including an exclusive member appreciation event to take place later this spring, as well as our 8th Annual disABILITIES Film Festival and Speaker Series, which will be held on Thursday, October 4, at the University at Buffalo Center for the Arts. Another exciting project that our team has been working on is the re-design of the Museum website. We are very excited to share the final project and new features with our members and the rest of the community. The new site is expected to make its debut sometime this May.

This edition of our newsletter features the Kids on the Block education program, traveling exhibit information, as well as new and exciting opportunities and projects.

Enjoy, and thank you again for supporting the Museum of disABILITY History!

Best regards,
Tess Fraser
Museum Director

“Kids on the Block” Out-and-About in Western New York!

Kids on the Block of WNY puppets and puppeteers have been very busy since the start of the school year! The disability awareness puppet program has been presented in 40 schools (and counting!) to over 3,500 third and fourth grade students. The “Reading with a Puppet” program has been presented in 30 schools (and counting!) to over 2,900 kindergarten, first and second grade students.

Kids on the Block of WNY have been invited to several special events this year to “meet and greet” our fans and supporters at the following events:

- The Parent Expo at the Childrens Safety Village in Chautauqua County
- The disABILITIES Film Festival and Speaker Series
- The Buffalo Chili Fest
- Hunter’s Day of Hope for Children
- Disability Awareness Celebrations at Elmwood Village Charter and Hoover Elementary
- Character Carnival sponsored by the Character Council of WNY
- Buffalo St. Patrick’s Day Parade



Kids on the Block of WNY Puppeteer Rikki Cason, Puppet Melody, co-founder of Hunter’s Hope Foundation Jim Kelly, Project Coordinator Brie Kishel and Puppet Mark Kelly at the Hunter’s Day of Hope for Children.



While at the Buffalo St. Patrick’s Day Parade, Puppet Mark Riley and Project Coordinator Brie Kishel met staff from WGRZ-TV Channel 2: Melissa Holmes, Kevin O’Neill and Jodi Johnston.

“ I think this presentation was the most beneficial assembly I have brought my students to. It provided an engaging performance that portrayed children with disabilities as capable children with unique and special characteristics. It allowed the students to be comfortable with the topic and ask questions. I think that every class should see this show! Excellent!”

- West Seneca East Elementary teacher (referring to Kids on the Block of WNY)

Museum Store Featured Item



“Vintage Asylum’s of WNY Notecards”: They are St. Mary’s School for the Deaf, J.N. Adams Memorial Hospital, Providence Lunatic Asylum/Sisters of Charity and St. Joseph’s Orphan Asylum. A packet of eight notecards is \$7.95.

Disability History Curriculum Bill being pushed in the State Legislature

Last year a bill was introduced in the New York State Legislature requiring children in grades K-12 in New York State be taught through a curriculum developed by the Museum of disABILITY History the history of people with disabilities. The bill and curriculum aim to promote greater awareness and understanding of people with disabilities by amending current NYS Education Law 801 to make available to all students “suitable curriculum materials to aid in the instruction, understanding and acceptance of students with disabilities.” The bill is sponsored by Senator Mark Grisanti of Buffalo and Assemblymember Michael Cusick of Staten Island. Cusick is also the Chair for the NYS Assembly’s Disabilities Task Force.

“Teaching kids this important history will open their minds to the unfortunate past of how people with disabilities have been treated while at the same time show them the contribution they make and will continue to make to society,” said James M. Boles, Ed.D., president and chief operating officer of People Inc.

Presently the bill is in the Education Committees of both houses of the Legislature. The goal is to get the bill passed by the end of the Legislature’s legislative session this June.

For more information, contact People Inc. Public Affairs Director Kevin Horrigan at Khorrigan@people-inc.org or 716.817.7475.

Anti-Bullying Initiative

The Museum of disABILITY History and People Inc. have begun development of an Anti-Bullying Program which will educate and encourage students to recognize and report bullying incidents they witness in their schools. The anticipated goal is to decrease the number of incidents that occur. Brie Kishel, project coordinator, has been researching the “Dignity for all Students Act,” legislation that will be going into effect on July 1, 2012, while also attending seminars and public forums in the local school districts to better understand the key concepts and concerns schools are trying to address. The goal is to have this curriculum available during the 2013 school year. The program will be a stand-alone community outreach program of the Museum and People Inc. designed for fourth grade elementary students. Although the approach of the program will be “teaching through puppetry,” this is a separate project from the Kids on the Block. For more information, contact Brie Kishel at Bkishel@people-inc.org or 716.629.3623.

Do you want to be a blogger?

Check out the Museum’s new blog at blog.museumofdisability.org. There will be postings 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 or at 716.629.3602.



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

“ I found the Museum very interesting. My favorite part was seeing the car. I thought it was very cool how there was one automobile just for those in wheelchairs. All of the history and facts were very relevant and interesting.”

- written by a Student from the junior class at Sacred Heart Academy

Traveling Exhibits are ready to travel!

Bring the Museum of disABILITY History to you!

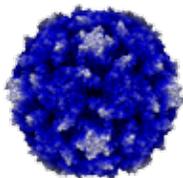
While the Museum of disABILITY History maintains a home in Buffalo, we want to share disability history worldwide so we have designed exhibits that easily ship and set up. For more information on how to rent one of our traveling exhibits, contact the Stephanie Kryst at skryst@people-inc.org at 716.629.3613. Our travel exhibits cover a broad range of unique topics including the following:



- **African Americans and the Disability Experience: From Colonial Times, Desegregation, Advocacy and Achievement**
A five panel banner stand that highlights the perspective of African- Americans in relation to their experience with disability. This exhibit covers the first African slaves brought to colonial America, Brown v. Board, civil rights, and medical accomplishments.

- **The Quest for the Cure:**

Polio in America: A four panel banner stand exhibit that documents the Polio epidemics of the 20th Century. The exhibit explores the disease, how polio changed America, the development of the March of Dimes and the vaccines developed by Salk and Sabin.



- **Self Advocacy: A History of People Speaking Up for Themselves:** A four panel banner stand that traces the Self-Advocacy Movement from early educational facilities to the development of organizations established for and by individuals with disabilities. This includes the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act.



- **The Kennedy Connection:** A four panel banner stand exhibit that showcases the contributions of the Kennedy family, from the founding of the Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation to the

establishment of the Presidents Commission on People with Intellectual Disabilities. It also highlights the work of Eunice Kennedy Shriver and Edward M. Kennedy.

- **Moving Forward, Looking Back:** A two panel banner stand that shows how the evolution of services and social attitudes toward individuals with intellectual disabilities have changed over the past two thousand years.
- **In the Game: Sports and Disability:** A three panel banner stand time-line style exhibit that chronicles events and individuals that have transformed sport and recreation for people with disabilities. From early educational and habilitation efforts to highly competitive modern amateur and professional activities.
- **Madness in America: A History of Mental Health:** A six panel banner stand that provides an overview of the history of mental health in the United States. It features the development and expansion of mental institutions, changes in medical care and treatment and contributions by individuals who were recipients of mental health services.
- **Reel Life: disABILITY goes to the Movies:** Many motion pictures have been made that have disability themes or actors with disabling conditions. Over the years, actors portraying a character with a disability have increasingly

been the recipients of the Academy Award for Best Actor. This two panel banner stand exhibit features some notable and award winning films and actors from the 1930s to 2010.

- **Skinner Exhibit:** Just before the Civil War, Dr. Platt H. Skinner, a pioneer educator of the disabled, operated three schools for African-American children who were blind, deaf or both. The second school was located in Suspension Bridge, New York at the terminus of the Underground Railroad, on which Skinner may have been a conductor. This two panel banner stand exhibit takes a look at the possible connection between Dr. Skinner and the Underground Railroad as proposed by Dr. Michael Boston.

- **War and**

disABILITY: This five panel banner stand examines the American military and disability experience in terms of medical military technology, legislation regarding veterans, the psychiatric effects of combat, pop-culture and disability and the contributions of individuals with disabilities in times of national need.



Where to find our Traveling Exhibits

April 2012 War and Disability:

Belmont Housing Resources for WNY,
Buffalo, NY (04/09 - 04/15)

Self Advocacy, Moving Forward Looking Back and Madness in America:

Diversity in Disability Symposium
Center for Tomorrow, University at Buffalo
North Campus (04/14)

October 2012 Sports and Disability:

New York State Psychologists Conference,
Niagara Falls, NY (10/25 - 10/27)

November 2012 War and disABILITY:

New England Air and Space Museum,
Windsor Locks, CT (entire month)

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



EB Galaxy Construction Inc.

E.B. Galaxy is a Service Disabled Veteran Owned business that was established to provide experienced and professional construction management, general contracting, and consulting to various government, private agencies and clientele in the North Eastern Region of the United States. E.B. Galaxy is looking forward to working with your organization on future projects.

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Partnership with Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Heritage Commission

The Museum of disABILITY history is working with the Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Heritage Commission as they work on showcasing the Underground Railroad story as part of a modern international gateway at one of today's busiest border crossings between United States and Canada, The Whirlpool Bridge. The commission has completed the survey and data gathering by EDR, an environmental design and research company that has consulted the commission on a heritage management plan that consists of: community research, historic research by Dr. Judith Wellman and site location with possibly a walking tour application for smart phones.

There are two components to the project:

1. The interpretive center which will be at the U.S. Customs House, to help people learn about the Underground Railroad movement in the city of Niagara Falls, NY..
2. Heritage trail and land marking of sites along the route

Land Marking is the next phase of discussion as well as various types of applications for the interpretive center and other sites along the Heritage trail. This includes The Skinner School as part of the Heritage trail. Dr. James M. Boles has recommended the museum assist the land marking process with whatever the final type of marker will be. The Museum of disABILITY continues to advise the commission on a reference or small exhibit for the interpretive center about the Skinner school.

As of today, the Museum has made a request to the commission to tour the Museum of disABILITY History tentatively this spring and gain valuable historical and practical insight in exhibit design and disability history.

See Your Company Here!

Would you like to advertise in the Moving Forward, Looking Back Museum of disABILITY History Member Newsletter?

Advertising space is now available. Corporate museum members receive a free ¼ page ad. Call 716.629.3626 or email info@museumofdisability.org for more details!

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

Color and decorate Mark's helmet for him!



Mark Says:

- Remember to wear your helmet
- When you're playing contact sports like hockey, football, wrestling, boxing
- When you're riding your bicycle, scooter, skateboard, snowboard, skis, or ice skates
- When you're riding on a motorized recreational vehicle

Curator Corner - The Find

By Douglas Platt, Contributor

From the Museum of disABILITY History Blog - blog.museumofdisability.org



One aspect of building and overseeing the collection for the Museum of disABILITY History is what I call “The Find.” It is the moment that you realize a recent acquisition has expanded the breadth and depth of the collection exponentially. My most recent “Find” arrived in a photograph album.

The Museum recently acquired a dark brown photo album, bound with a brown shoelace. Upon opening the album, the first two photos were 7 x10 inch photographs of a concert band. They sat and stood with their instruments, looking proudly into the camera. They are the O.H.E. Band, in two photos taken on July 31, 1940. “O.H.E.” stands for the Ohio Hospital for Epileptics, and two hand-written pages adjacent to the photos identify each of the band members and the conductor, Professor James T. Lewis.

The remainder of the 200 plus photo album are smaller photos of people working at or experiencing life at the Gallipolis Ohio institution during the 1920s, 30s, 40s and into the 1950s. One photo features Ruth, Jennie, Mable, Helen, Ruby and Jean, the Cottage 7 girls’ band.

A 1924 photo shows Miss. Watson, Nye, Brucker, Reynolds & Roush, the “Nurses of O.H.E.,” (Miss Russell and Mrs. Parson were absent).

An undated photo with the hand-written number “3” and stamped “59” on the back is of a young lady in costume as...a camera. I guess every picture does tell a story.

“ I enjoyed the museum tour of disABILITY History. I truly did not ever realize all the accomplishments of those who are disabled have achieved. My favorite part was seeing the timeline of the history. I found it extremely fascinating. I would love to go back!”

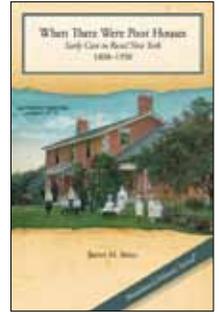
- Student from the junior class
at Sacred Heart Academy

New Release!

Published by the Museum of disABILITY History,
People Inc. and People Ink Press

When There Were Poorhouses: Early Care in Rural New York, 1808–1950

To prevent them from slipping into the void of abandoned history, this book describes the institutions—some highly visible and others lesser known in and near Niagara County—that provided some of the earliest organized care for the blind, deaf, sick, disabled, insane, and destitute. Niagara County, a typical rural county of New York State, serves as a historical model for study of the various institutions—the poorhouses, almshouses, sanatoriums, asylums, orphanages, pest houses, widows houses, hospitals, and special schools in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.



Available at the Museum of disABILITY History Store,
3826 Main Street in Buffalo.

The following is an excerpt from When There Were Poorhouses:

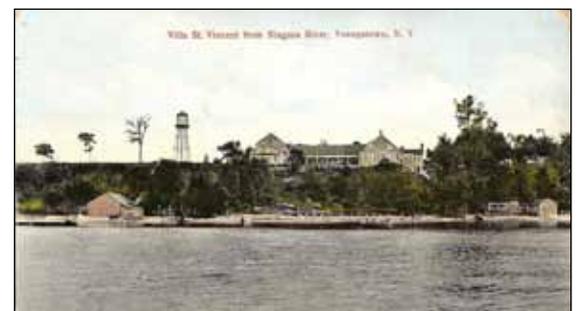
Villa St. Vincent Youngstown, New York 1904–1954

Villa St. Vincent was the summer home for students of St. Vincent’s Female Orphan Asylum and Technical School in Buffalo.

From 1904 this large summer complex overlooking the Niagara River was owned and operated by the Roman Catholic Order of the Sisters of Charity of the Sisters of St. Vincent de Paul. The structures on the property included ten buildings for daily living, recreation, and worship. Piers located at the water’s edge allowed for recreational activities throughout the summer, including boating. The children helped with daily chores at the villa.

After 1951 Villa St. Vincent was managed by the Sisters of Charity Hospital of Buffalo for the benefit of girls from the Good Shepherd Home.

Villa St. Vincent was razed in 1957, although the chapel, still in good repair, was relocated. Now used as a parish hall, it stands on the grounds of St. John’s Episcopal Church on Main and Chestnut Streets in Youngstown.



Villa St. Vincent, Youngstown. A large statue of Mary faced the water.

Welcome New Members!

Individual/Student

Kevin Quinnan Alec Frazier
Dale Stampfer Chana Kotzin
Robert Dunford Joan Murray
Virginia Batchelor

Family/Dual

Ann McElroy Roger Glasgow

Friend

Linda Siragusa

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



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

Support the Museum, 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 Support the only bricks 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 present
- 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 e-newsletter and quarterly newsletter
- Invitations to Museum events and exhibit openings

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*
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