



MOVING FORWARD, LOOKING BACK

MEMBER NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM THE MUSEUM OF DISABILITY HISTORY

SPRING 2013: VOLUME 6



Museum of
disABILITY History
A PROJECT OF PEOPLE INC.



“Little Differences” Exhibit Opening

“Little Differences: The Portrayal of Children with disABILITIES Throughout History” is an exhibit that examines the depiction of children with disabling conditions in a variety of formats across the ages. Whether appearing in works of fine art, literature, media campaigns or in popular culture, these children were intended to rouse the audience to action. “Little Differences” is an opportunity to assess modern perceptions of *disability* through the prism of historical imagery.

“Little Differences” includes a six panel banner stand exhibit with “pre-poster children” from prior to 1900, kids and the Parents Movement, politicians and kids, kids on TV and in print media, a new generation of “post-poster children” and push-back from the disability rights community.

A selection of artifacts from the Museum collection complements the banner stands. On display are tiny adaptive shoes, small AFO’s as well as postcards, match covers, and photographs. A trio of My American Girl®

dolls is also part of the exhibit; one doll uses a wheelchair for mobility, one walks a service dog in training, and the third has a hearing aid and has lost her hair due to a medical condition. The Museum has also expanded to a second gallery to display classic fundraising posters and photographs that reinforce the theme of “Little Differences.” Wherever possible the posters and photos bear the names of the poster children and the organizations they represented. The extra room allowed the display of “Dolly Downs,” a doll with “a loveable difference,” and Kathy (a Hal’s Pals doll), who has light brown hair, a pink dress, pink shoes, straw hat, necklace, clasp purse, gray leg braces and gray crutches.

The Little Differences exhibit will be displayed until the end of August at the Museum of disABILITY History. The exhibit is supported by the New York Council for the Humanities and Erie County. For more information or to arrange a guided tour for a group or organization, call 716.629.3626.

Inspiring Artist

The art work of Cammie L. Stamp has been on display at the Museum of disABILITY History for the past few months. Cammie recently visited the Museum to talk about her artistic interests. As an avid participant of People Inc.’s Arts Experience, Cammie paints, draws and creates sculptures. She also works in pastels and has made nature inspired tapestries.

Cammie indicates that she is working on a book; her autobiography through short stories and poetry. She has also been involved in teaching school children textile art at the Albright Knox Art Gallery.

Our featured artist displayed a pastel portrait of her beloved cat, Chet. Chet was a rescued cat whom Cammie adopted into her home.



Cammie Stamp with her work, “Chet Blue the Cat.”

Direct from the Docents

The Museum of disABILITY History is glad to announce a new addition to their docent family, Israel Cruz. Israel, who currently attends Elmwood Day Hab and helps produce the Our Voice Newsletter, will be working on various jobs at the Museum. This quarter, the docents have taken part in 13 tours within the Museum with a total of nearly 140 people. Some of the visitors who have toured the Museum were new employees, Amherst CAPP, Opportunities Unlimited of Niagara and Scouting Troops.

The Museum docents really enjoy taking part in the tours for the Boy Scouts. This quarter they have had a group of Boy Scouts from the Greater

Niagara Frontier Council. Most groups have about 15 boys and parents. The Boy Scouts have a Merit Badge for Disability Awareness. Museum docents, with support from their Employment Specialist Janet McNevin, take part in helping the boys meet different requirements for the Merit Badge. Some of these requirements include disability etiquette, adaptive sports and living aids. They also learn about accessibility. The boys are also given a tour to help them understand more about the history of people with disabilities. At the end of the session, the Scouts are asked to either teach others what they have learned or give back in some way.

Within the past six months, a program for Cub Scouts has been added to help them obtain their Disability Awareness belt loop and pin. This program is also through the Greater Niagara Frontier Council of Boy Scouts. This program allows the Museum docents to talk about their disabilities and how they might do things a little different in their day-to-day lives. The Scouts enjoy being able to talk with the docents and learn from them. They also learn about famous people who had disabilities and, take part in an exercise that makes them try to use a different part of their body to do something they normally would not be able to do.



Scouts with Docent Charles Degraffenried

Both the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts meet in the KeyBank room one Saturday a month normally rotating each month from 11am - 1:30pm. We are hoping to add more Boy Scout and Girl Scout councils to our tours.

In March, the docents also worked on a presentation at the University at Buffalo's South Campus for first year medical students. At this presentation, the docents go into three classrooms with about 20 students in each classroom. They speak for 25 minutes about themselves and what they expect from their doctors when they go on appointments. This is something the docents look forward to every year.



Docent Maria Bell, center, speaks to medical students at the UB South Campus.

The docents enjoy their work and love being able to share their knowledge of the Museum. They are true advocates!

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

Little Differences Word Search

w y g s h a z g o m p e s n h c f h a o a t z k p
s j r s r d v n p y l q r o e w c k p h b z l q z
u p q p c a n v m l s r w s y y k m y o i y p e d
r l c k b p v l d t p a d a h j p a f e l v w l k
u i j c k t j m g x l d x d m a n s p i i t w v q
d z a v k i x h g v z j f s d l q q b e t d d w a
b l h z p v z c c n n o p c o e r c q o y y g n w
c w i r o e b h a z i a u g h g a q s k h x r i k
c p s e h o k u d q e w h m u a p q h g u p x b s
c z t h a n r m v u m n f f s n r l d j p m l j e
b u o f e q s w o a w x z i e d q a o g n z k j q
m l r s q x k q c q u f z l n g v s c t m a t b r
h j y g h h j m a b n b k n i v d r h t b x c s a
o t g b p g y r t y d x b e o n a e q j e e y k d
q i g a a j u r e q e o y c a n d c l x l r a i j
p h t s t g s o h u d m n o p v g i a w z l c i o
v b h g f q q l d n b v c r m d s s v r o h x m i
x f m n u z x i o r e b g e g u d b y i t n p o s
g f q y g t p t d m o q e q p g e r f p d r k s e
j j y a l j r c m n n y g s s g u s v k o u e g v
n o i t a c u d e q b a o x j e g p u g b n a x s
p k e j m g n i d n a t s r e d n u r m d m c l e
n f s s e c n e r e f f i d i e b e x n n m r q f
c z i j e j r i u j l x n c w w s e i u z l c j h
i g u v t x x h a n j m w q c s d k q m m r g o

ability
adaptive
advocate
character
differences

education
history
individual
invacar
kindness

knowledge
museum
progress
understanding

Kid's Day at the Museum is a Huge Success!

Nearly 120 people flocked to the Museum of disABILITY History for Kid's Day on February 18. Visitors toured the Museum and many of the little ones pretended to drive the Invacar! *Ivan the Invacar Helps Big Dog*, written by Dr. Jim Boles, president and CEO of People Inc. and illustrated by Bob Cunningham, applications support specialist, was read in the story area. Children sharpened their crayons and spent time producing their best artistic designs in the coloring contest.

From there, everyone was lured upstairs by the smell of popcorn. Once there, the Kids on the Block took to the stage with an educational performance as they have done so many times in schools throughout Western New York. A movie followed and all who attended gave the day a favorable review! Regular child friendly events and activities will be held at the Museum on Saturdays this summer. A calendar of events will be added to the Museum website before then.

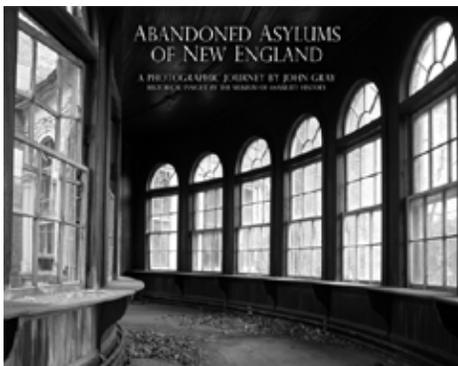


Connor, Jonathon and Evan received their Coloring Contest prizes from Mark Reilly of the Kids on the Block!



Mark Reilly of the Kids on the Block of WNY entertains the crowd. Photo by Derek Gee of The Buffalo News.

Abandoned Asylums of New England Now Available!



The Museum of disABILITY History is pleased to announce the long-awaited release of *Abandoned Asylums of New England*, a unique photographic journey by John Gray. The book explores some of the region's most prominent institutions from the nineteenth century—including state lunatic hospitals, state schools for the feeble-minded, tuberculosis sanatoriums and even a hospital constructed specifically for people labeled *dipsomaniacs* and *inebriates*. Originally self-published by Gray more than ten years ago,

this brand new edition features an expanded collection of images and historical insight by the Museum of disABILITY History.

The awe-inspiring structures of these asylums illustrate the amount of care and concern that went into their construction and intensify the sense of abandonment that now exists. Photographs of decrepit hallways, eerie rooms, leftover medical supplies and patient artwork are just some of the scenes that enable readers to envision the lives of the inmates and staff members who once occupied these storied temples of control, treatment and rehabilitation.

Gray's pictures are beautifully displayed on thick glossy paper measuring 11 by 9 in.—making this a perfect coffee-table book for enthusiasts of photography, asylums, and architecture, as well as those who are fascinated by antiquated treatments for people with disabling conditions. For more information, visit our Museum store or contact PeopleInkPress@people-inc.org.



“kNOw bullying!” Program Teaches Students How to be Bully Free!

The “kNOw bullying!” Program, a project of the Museum of disABILITY History and People Inc., premiered in Western New York school districts in January of 2013. Over the past months, approximately 700 fourth graders have participated in the program in nine school districts including: Eden, Niagara Falls, Hinsdale, Kenmore-Tonawanda, Buffalo, Grand Island, Williamsville, Hamburg and Clarence.

The program has received extremely positive feedback from the schools that received a presentation. The 45-minute presentation is interactive and incorporates the use of live puppetry to illustrate and define what bullying is, explain what students should do if they become a target of bullying, the consequences of bullying behavior on all those involved, and how students can become “stand-byers” rather than just bystanders or witnesses to a bullying incident. Students are anxious to ask questions, share stories and help to suggest “tools” that can be used in an effort to decrease bullying incidents.

To learn more about the “kNOw bullying” Program or to book a performance, contact Brie Kishel at bkishel@people-inc.org or at 716.629.3623.

Included below are some of the testimonials the program has received from the schools that were visited:

“Excellent program - exactly what I wanted. Was enjoyed by students and teachers. Reinforced what we have been telling the students. Another voice is always helpful. It is important that students were made aware of the difference between bullying and teasing and who to tell and what to do. We are doing “Wonder” with our 7th graders after February break and during Lent, we are doing the 26 Acts of Kindness (these are the two recommendations we include in our Teacher Toolkit which we distribute following the program). All falls into place. Thank you for having this experience for the students.”

- Principal, Nativity of Mary School in Williamsville

“Nice use of props and examples. Love the ‘toolkit’ idea - Kids really responded to it. Three presenters were excellent and kids were comfortable. Excellent use of Smart Board with the quiz. Kids were proud to wear their bracelets. Nothing should be changed or added to the program - thought it was great!”

- Teacher at Nativity of Mary School in Williamsville

“Reviewing what bullying is - the different ways and types of bullying, good interaction with the students, dig act! Change nothing! Ample student involvement, requiring feedback and response. ‘Toolbox’ gave students a chance to think and add to the list of solutions. Visuals gain attention-game rewards entice students to participate.”

- Teachers at Kalfas Elementary in Niagara Falls



“kNOw bullying!” hearts (random acts of kindness project) being displayed on the lockers of 4th grade students.



In Remembrance

On a cold and rainy day in 2005, the “1033 Group” met in the North Cemetery of the Wassaic Developmental Center to remember those long forgotten. “1033” was the grave number of Anna Stecklin. Her long buried stone had created a perfect replica in the soil and when it was uncovered, the group was named for her grave number.

The Museum of disABILITY History and People Inc. joined forces with these statewide efforts and installed a monument in the Jolls Road Cemetery in Perrysburg for more than 400 people buried there. In the following four years, two cemeteries which had served the Gowanda Psychiatric Center were restored. Nearly 2,000 gravestones were unearthed, cleaned, straightened or edged. In partnership with the Collins Correctional Facility, the Cattaraugus County Mental Health Association, Siena College, St. Bonaventure University and other numerous volunteers, the beautification efforts were successful. A new sign was installed on Route 62

and gardens were placed in both of these cemeteries. The gardens are maintained each year by participants at People Inc.’s Park Place Day Hab.

This past summer, volunteers forged ahead with their most daunting cemetery project; The Niagara County Almshouse Cemetery in Lockport. In a dense thorny thicket, volunteers, chopped back grape vines, trimmed trees, battled with wild rose bushes and poison ivy. Despite near 90 degree temperatures, the group created a beautiful space on the northern edge of the cemetery and a granite bench from Orleans Monuments was installed. A memorial plaque will be installed on a boulder which will mark the entrance to the cemetery.

The efforts of the Museum and agency were highlighted at the recent NYSACRA conference



in which Interim Museum Director Dave Mack-Hardiman provided a multi-media presentation. Just before the start of the seminar, a gift from the “1033 Group” was presented to the Museum. “1248” is a marker for a currently unused grave, so no harm was done when it was removed.

Special thanks to all of our numerous volunteers who have faithfully labored away in these long abandoned cemeteries.

Welcome New Members!

Individual/Student

Sandra Johnston
Chris LaFleur
Caryn Young

Family/Dual

Christina Lopez Bell

Friend

Dr. Michael Rembis

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

store.museumofdisability.org



“Like” the Museum of disABILITY History on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/museumofdisability

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

To become a member, please call 716.629.3626 or log on to our website at www.museumofdisability.org. Click on the “Support Us” tab, click on “Membership,” and then “Membership Registration.” Thank you for your support!

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 newsletter and quarterly newsletter
- Invitations to Museum events and exhibit openings

Museum of disABILITY History
3826 Main Street
Buffalo, NY 14226

“ I love how they had such a vast array of information that could be directed towards anyone visiting the museum, young or old.”

- Olivia

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 Museum Membership Card	FREE
Children (6-17)	\$2.00
Children under 5	FREE
1-hour guided group tour (Groups between 10-20 people)	\$25

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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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MUSEUM HOURS

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

STAFF

David Mack-Hardiman - *Interim Museum Director*
Douglas Platt - *Museum Curator*
Brie Kishel - *Education Coordinator*
Thomas Stearns - *Research Assistant*

DOCENT STAFF

Janet McNevin - *Employment Specialist*
Maria Bell - *Docent*
Charles Degraffenried - *Docent*
Anthony LaBarbera - *Docent*
Israel Cruz - *Docent*



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