



MOVING FORWARD, LOOKING BACK

MEMBER NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM THE MUSEUM OF DISABILITY HISTORY

SUMMER/FALL 2015: VOLUME 15



Guest Contribution

GoFundMe Campaign Initiative to Benefit Museum of disABILITY History

By Jeffery Zeplowitz, Museum of disABILITY History GoFundMe Campaign Chairperson



Katrina and Jeffery Zeplowitz


An exciting fundraising initiative for the Museum of disABILITY History will be starting soon! We will host a launch event, “Night of a Thousand Stars,” on Saturday, October 3, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Museum of disABILITY History, 3826 Main Street, Buffalo. The event is designed to kick-off a crowdfunding campaign

on the website, gofundme.com.

While there is no fee to attend our event, we are encouraging guests to contribute to our new GoFundMe campaign during the reception. The campaign will raise funds for ongoing and upcoming Museum projects, including our experiential movie theatre and a new building addition to attract families and children.

We are looking forward to a wonderful evening of food and drink, a silent auction and great fellowship with some of Western New York’s brightest stars. There will be unique videos presented that were produced by Hollywood stars. A special presentation of television memorabilia donated to the Museum for its permanent collection will be highlighted. The evening will also include some fun appearances by players of the Buffalo Sabres Alumni Association.

Once our GoFundMe page is finalized and ready to accept donations, announcements will be made on our Museum of disABILITY History website and through our social media outlets, Facebook and Twitter. For more information, to donate or to register for the event, contact Doug Farley, director, Museum of disABILITY History, at dfarley@people-inc.org or by calling 716.629.3626. We look forward to having you be a part of our fundraising campaign!



“Night of a Thousand Stars”
Saturday October 3, 2015, from 7 to 9 p.m.

Museum of disABILITY History GoFundMe Campaign Chairpersons
 Jeffery and Katrina Zeplowitz

“Night of a Thousand Stars” Host Committee
 James M. Boles, EdD, Museum of disABILITY History
 Rhonda Frederick, People Inc.
 Assemblywoman Jane Corwin
 JoAnn Falletta, Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra
 Erie County Clerk Christopher L. Jacobs
 Legislator Edward A. Rath III
 Rebecca Reeder, Nardin Academy High School
 Buffalo Comptroller Mark J.F. Schroeder
 Alexandra Marzucco Wehr, First Niagara Bank
 J. Garrett Vorreuter, Pierce-Arrow Film Arts Center

Kindly RSVP by September 28, to Doug Farley at dfarley@people-inc.org or 716.629.3626.

If you cannot attend, but would like to make an online donation, visit gofundme.com/Musedisability. If you prefer to send a check, please make it payable to: Museum of disABILITY History, GoFundMe Campaign, 3826 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14226. Thank you for your support!

Message from the Director



Welcome to the Summer/Fall 2015 edition of “Moving Forward, Looking Back,” a newsletter produced by the Museum of disABILITY History. Here is a recap of some of our recent events:

The Museum was pleased to host the ADA25 national tour in late April 2015. We are also excited that photographs taken by People Inc. graphic designer, Rachel Bridges,

were selected by *New Mobility* magazine for the cover of their July issue. The image is a depiction of many local advocates as they celebrate at the Museum alongside the “Road to Freedom” bus. Rachel’s great work is easy to spot locally, and now it can be seen on a national stage!

We had another full house on May 29 for “Dialogues on disABILITY” featuring author and anthropologist Rosanne Higgins. For more than 20 years, Rosanne has had a desire to tell the story of the Erie County Poorhouse in a way that would be accessible to more than just the scholarly community. Rosanne’s need to tell this story resulted in her novel, *Orphans and Inmates*, which is the first in a series chronicling fictional accounts of poorhouse residents inspired by historical data. It is followed up by her latest book, *A Whisper of Bones*. Both are available online or in our Museum store. A third book is also in the pipeline.

If you get a chance to visit the Museum soon, you may see a little “Hollywood” in action. Local cinematographer Jon Hand has been spending time with us, creating a short documentary that will be

featured in our new theater, scheduled to open this fall. The movie will serve to introduce visitors to our Museum and the topic of disability history. It will immerse our guests in an experiential setting that plays out in a recreation of a mental institution from the mid-20th century. More news about an opening celebration will be available soon.

Also new this summer is a little “Mubu Madness!” *Mubu the Morph* is the newest literary character that is taking our message to children. Mubu joins *Ivan the Invacar* in helping children understand that their potential is limitless. Author Stephen Nawotniak and illustrator Jeff Scott Perdziak are representing the Museum and People Ink Press at various book signings and other events around Western New York. We held a fun kick-off book launch event on August 8.

“The movie will serve to introduce visitors to our Museum and the topic of disability history. It will immerse our guests in an experiential setting that plays out in a recreation of a mental institution from the mid-20th century.”

We were pleased to have had an increase in the number of tourists visit us recently. Please remember our Museum as a destination throughout the year if you are entertaining any travelers of your own, whether friends or family members, we’d be honored to spend time with you and your guests.

Thank you all for your continued interest in the Museum of disABILITY History. Your support is crucial in helping us achieve our mission of increasing understanding, acceptance and independence of people with disabilities.

Thank you again!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Doug Farley".

Doug Farley, Director
Museum of disABILITY History

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A Sneak Peek at Two New Books

By James M. Boles, EdD, Founder, Museum of disABILITY History, and Author

Recent research in Niagara County, NY, will result in two new books. The first concerns the subject of alternative health care in early Lockport, and the second will cover healing springs located throughout Niagara county.

The books will delve into many interesting topics, including:

Colorful healers who lived and worked in Lockport in its early days: Rattlesnake John, who boiled down the fat of many rattlesnakes and sold the oil as a cure-all; Dr. Dean, the sweat doctor; Dr. Teasdill, the charm doctor; and Dr. Knapp, the water cure doctor.

More than 65 healing springs identified in Niagara county with historical or local folklore references, all claiming health benefits: Mineral springs, salt springs, breweries that used spring water and sanitariums that used mineral water. So far, there are three recognized salt springs dating back to Native American occupation of the area.

The alternative health care book is slated for a 2016 release and the healing springs book is scheduled for 2017.



Lemonade Stand Sales Donated

We had an unexpected and sweet visit! Pierson Schwartz, age 7, and his mom Annie, stopped by to donate the proceeds from his lemonade stand. He made \$26, and donated the money to our Museum so it could be used to help others. Pierson took photos with our Invacar and Doug Farley, director, and took a tour of our exhibits. Pierson, thank you so much for your kindness and thinking of others!



A good example of a gravity spring, located in Niagara county, NY.



Somerset Native American salt spring, Somerset, NY. Salt Spring is in a hollow log sunk into the ground eight feet.

They Did No Harm: Alternative Medicine Book Presentation and Signing Featuring Author James M. Boles, EdD

Friday, October 16, 2015 • 7 - 9 p.m.
Museum of disABILITY History
3826 Main Street, Buffalo

Join Dr. Boles as he discusses this topic and his book research.



In the 1800s, medicine was primitive. Physicians often were untrained, and licensing was not yet organized. Many died because of this care, and people had little confidence in doctors. In the same period, healing facilities and health products ranging from medicinal mineral water, patent medicine, food, and devices were developing in Niagara Falls, NY as alternatives to traditional medicine. With good marketing and common wisdom, these enterprises used a variety of colorful methods, mostly harmless, to help their customers. Mainstream medicine at the time was far more dangerous.

**Registration encouraged.
RSVP to 716.629.3626.**



Out of a “Family Secret” Comes Healing, New Beginnings

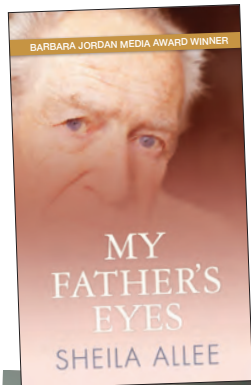
When Sheila Allee was a teenager, she accidentally discovered she had an uncle who had long before been placed in an institution for people with intellectual disabilities. Horrified that her Uncle Melrose had been “put away” and that no one ever talked about him, she couldn’t get him out of her mind.

Several decades later, she tracked him down and the two became great friends, going for rides in the car and to McDonald’s for hamburgers as well as talking on the phone and just sitting in peace and silence together.

Eventually, she was able to help him move to a group home, a welcome respite for a man who had lived in a dreary state institution for more than 50 years.

Through it all, Sheila thought all she was doing was helping her uncle find a better life and righting a wrong that had been done to him when he was ostracized from his family. But, along the way, her Uncle Melrose helped her heal from her own emotional wounds.

After her uncle died in 2001, she decided to write a book about their friendship. The result of that effort is *My Father’s Eyes*, now available in the Museum of disABILITY History store. The book won the 2015 Barbara Jordan Media Award for positive depictions of people with disabilities.



Guest Contribution

The Girl Who Believed She Never Could

By Stephanie Briechle, Buffalo State College Graduate



Have you ever felt like life passes you by in a blink of an eye? One moment you’re beginning a new chapter in your life, then you realize that chapter is ending? Well, that’s how I have been feeling. Looking back on my life, it’s been two years since I received my associates degree at Erie Community College. It was the best feeling in the world knowing I had a college degree under my belt. Although

I felt like I could do anything, I was concerned about not being accepted into a four-year school.

I can successfully announce I have graduated from Buffalo State College with a bachelor’s degree in English. I worked hard to get my degree, but it was not an easy road because I have a learning disability.

A learning disability, in my words, is someone who has difficulty comprehending material faster than a “normal” individual. Although someone has difficulty comprehending, it does not define his or her whole self, but only a part. I believe anyone can be a success no matter his or her background. I never thought I would be the person I am today because I had low self-esteem issues. I thought someone like me who has a learning disability would never be able to go to college after high school. I didn’t believe in myself, nor did I have any motivation to do something until I met my English teacher while I was a junior in high school. She was the one who inspired me to become a writer because she knew I had a gift. I remember being shocked and confused because I never thought I could be a writer, let alone a good one. Even with all my doubts, I will never forget the smile my teacher had on her face when she told me, “You have a gift Stephanie. This is something you should not ignore, but pursue.” After that day, I knew my life would change forever.

“My life right now has many open possibilities waiting to be discovered. This journey has been one heck of a ride, with many ups and downs.”

My life right now has many open possibilities waiting to be discovered. This journey has been one heck of a ride, with many ups and downs.

Not only was I determined to push myself to the limits, I wanted to prove to everyone that someone with a learning disability can do anything in life with a positive attitude and inspiration.

I know that sounds so cliché, but in all honesty, that’s reality. If you have no inspiration to be something or you have a negative attitude, then you have nothing to fight for. You can’t just assume your goals will be served to you on a silver platter because that’s not how the world works. Being a full time student was a struggle that came with many sacrifices, but would I go back and change all that?

continued on page 11

In the Media

The Museum of disABILITY History and Doug Farley, director, were recently featured in the August 2015 issue of *Buffalo Spree*.

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OSAA/And access for all: Douglas Farley steers Museum of disABILITY History into the future

When the City Museum of disABILITY History (Museum of disABILITY History) opened its doors in 2013, the goal was to provide a place where people with disabilities could learn about the history of disability and the people who have made a difference. The museum is a place where people with disabilities can learn about the history of disability and the people who have made a difference. The museum is a place where people with disabilities can learn about the history of disability and the people who have made a difference.





New Mobility Cover Photo Features ADA25 Legacy Tour Visit in Buffalo

The Museum disABILITY History hosted the ADA25 Legacy Tour with a celebration in April. Tom Olin, renowned disability rights photographer and director of The Disability Rights Center, visited the Museum and participated in the festivities. We are honored that a photo taken during the celebration was selected and featured on the cover of the July 2015 issue of national magazine, *New Mobility*. Tom, attendees from the event, participants from our parent agency, People Inc., as well as community members appeared on the cover.

Photo credit: Rachel Bridges, People Inc. graphic designer

Save the Date!

Holiday Party with Music by Universal Mind
Thursday, December 3, from 5 to 7 p.m.
Museum of disABILITY History, 3826 Main Street, Buffalo

The tradition continues....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. Enjoy refreshments, a basket raffle, and of course, dancing! Plus, new this year will be a visit from Santa! Due to last year's sell-out crowd, no-cost tickets are required this year and are available by contacting our Museum at 716.629.3626.



Kelly's Hollywood Making its Mark

Fans of the movie *Kelly's Hollywood* will be happy to know that DVDs are for sale in our store! The documentary is Buffalo native and film creator Brian Donovan's tribute to his sister, Kelly, who was born with Down syndrome. The movie was featured at our Museum of disABILITY History Film and Speaker Series in October 2014. Over the past year, it has been shown at various colleges and, most recently, at the National Down Syndrome Congress Convention in Sedona, Arizona; Special Olympics World Games in Los Angeles and the World Down Syndrome Congress Convention in India.

Pictured L-R: Dave Mack-Hardiman, associate vice president, People Inc. and Brian Donovan, film creator.

Q&A: Author Stephen Nawotniak Shares the Goals of New Children's Book, *Mubu the Morph*

Compiled by Nicole Forgione, Marketing Communications Manager, People Inc.



Pictured L-R: Jeffrey Scott Perdziak, illustrator and Stephen Nawotniak, author, hang out with their pal, Mubu!

As the new school season is upon us, we often think about what new skills children gain. Sharing valuable life lessons with children can be challenging and fun. Whether you are a parent, grandparent, teacher or someone who works with kids, it is important to share lessons in and out of the classroom. The Museum of disABILITY History

recently partnered with author Stephen Nawotniak and illustrator Jeffrey Scott Perdziak, both of Clarence, NY, to bring a new children's book series to life.

The first book, *Mubu the Morph*, is suitable for children grades K to 3, and offers lessons on self-image, self-confidence and character development. In a candid interview, author Stephen Nawotniak shares the goals of the book series.

What inspired you to write this book/series?

I believe that we pass on wisdom gained through experience through stories, and the stories that we tell our children can affect the perspective they develop. *Mubu the Morph* began as "sketching with sound"...putting together interesting sounding phrases to a cadence. Over time, this phonetic sketch morphed into the story before you today.

What are your goals with the book?

My primary goal for the book is to provide a medium to share that

a positive self-image is developed from our internal gifts and talents versus an external comparison with others.

Why is it important for this book to be part of children's and schools reading lists?

I think certain messages are timeless and have an importance and value that extends beyond all cultures, socio-economic situations, ages and creeds. They are messages that ring true to the human soul. Positive self-image and self-identity are such messages.

In addition to a positive self-identity, understanding and acceptance of differences are important qualities. In the story, Mubu realizes that while he, himself, does not fit in with a specific group, he can share his purpose with those groups should he choose. This "sharing" brings with it challenges as well as joys...and Mubu gets to choose what to focus on. The power of choice is another such message.

What common themes are there in the Mubu book series?

The Mubu series will contain themes of positive self-identity, the value of overcoming obstacles, gifts that come from challenges and that wisdom can often come from mistakes or injuries. It is a series that honors the human spirit and shares how that spirit can grow and develop into a positive one through challenges and apparent setbacks.

What qualifies you to know what families and/or educators may look for in children's book topics?

Mubu the Morph is about developing a positive self-identity from internal gifts and purpose versus comparison with external situations. Living with a disability (bipolar) has made that distinction very apparent as I work on my own identity amidst the community and self-stigmas that exist around people with a mental health condition. While I believe that this challenge has improved significance in my



Held on August 8, our Mubu the Morph Book Launch Kick-Off event was a bit hit! Children had fun during book readings with author and illustrator Stephen Nawotniak and Jeffrey Scott Perdziak, along with being creative with chalk drawings and getting their caricatures made.



Our Mubu the Morph book kick-off launch event was a fun day for families. Claudia Lee and her children, Christian and Alexandra, enjoyed reading the book together.

life because of my situation, I believe it is a challenge that faces all in some way and that all can benefit from its story/wisdom.

What is your long-term vision for the book series?


My long-term vision of this series is to provide a series of characters and situations that can provide a positive message relatable by everyone. Each story is unique and is written over the course of its own timeline, but all attempts to provide the reader and listener both a journey that feeds the soul. I would love to provide readings to kids involved with summer camps/programs, offer author visits to schools, support literary centers with tools to improve reading and complement the stories with lesson plans to support teachers in integrating the messages into their classrooms in a relevant way.

What other topics do you plan to explore in the Mubu book series?

Mubu's Christmas addresses the value of imagination. *Blue Mubu* addresses the ability to shift one's perspective from sad to glad (gratitude, not necessarily happy). *Kookoo-ah-choo's Flight* addresses the process of recovery from an emotional injury and how that process can strengthen us. *Dr. Snoo* addresses how the process of an injury or challenge can provide us with the ability to be a better support/help towards others...and can actually end up being a gift in unknown ways.



In August, Linda Pellegrino, WKBW-TV Channel 7 AM Buffalo host, interviewed Stephen Nawotniak, Mubu the Morph author and Doug Farley, Museum of disABILITY History director.



The *Mubu the Morph* children's book is available for \$9.95, at the Museum of disABILITY History's store and online, store.museumofdisability.org and mubuthemorph.com.



Life-Changing Careers Start Here!

People Inc. exists so that individuals with disabling conditions or other special needs have the supports they need to participate and succeed in an accepting society.

Group Home Staff \$10.93/hr
Program Instructor \$10.93/hr
LPN/RN pay rate varies

Apply online! people-inc.org/careers

Pre-Employment Drug Test Required. EOE.

Disability history travels to you!



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

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

The Lives They Left Behind Exhibit finds a Permanent Home

We are happy to announce that *The Lives They Left Behind: Suitcases from a State Hospital Attic* exhibit will be permanently displayed at our Museum of disABILITY History.



When Willard Psychiatric Center in the Finger Lakes closed its doors in 1995, an incredible discovery was made in the attic.

Suitcases - hundreds of them - belonging to the former patients. Suitcases that told of dreams. Aspirations. Of futures unfulfilled. Of loss. Isolation. Suitcases that told the stories of the lives they left behind.

The Museum of disABILITY History is proud to have *The Lives They Left Behind: Suitcases From A State Hospital Attic* as part of our permanent collection. The exhibit honors the memories of those who packed the suitcases and hopes to inspire dialogue about the treatment of those with mental illness.



Exhibit now part of our permanent collection



Admission fees apply.




Book available at Museum Store

To compliment the exhibit, *The Lives They Left Behind: Suitcases from a State Hospital Attic*, is available for purchase at the Museum store.



Museum of disABILITY History
3826 Main Street, Buffalo, NY
716.629.3626

Hours: Monday - Friday 10am - 4pm
Saturday 10am - 2pm

 [facebook.com/museumofdisability](https://www.facebook.com/museumofdisability)
museumofdisability.org

The exhibit was created by The Community Consortium, an organization that works to promote the full citizenship and civil rights of people with psychiatric disabilities.

Artist Re-emerges after Traumatic Brain Injury

Life changed in an instant for Diane Pokorski and her family in 2001, when at the age of 52, she survived a stage 5 Sub Arachnoid Hemorrhage. This resulted in six months of hospitalization, followed by a long recovery at home in the care of her husband, Ron. Diane's brain injury left her with significant disabilities including: right side hemiplegia (paralysis) in her dominant side, blindness in her right eye, global aphasia (difficulty speaking and understanding language) and apraxia (disorder of motor planning).

Prior to Diane's life-changing event, she was a graduate of the Fashion Institute in New York and owned her own business as a seamstress for many years, boasting several hundred customers. Now that she could no longer sew, Diane faced a challenging question: What could she do creatively with the abilities that remain? More importantly, what new skills could she learn to actually benefit from what happened to her?

Years of encouragement and consistent physical, occupational and speech therapy helped Diane progress significantly. Due to the painfully slow improvements that are consistent with a traumatic brain injury, it wasn't until 10 years later that Diane started to develop the cognitive skills to be able to do something different with her life and tap into her lost creativity. She needed physical help sewing, which she received, and continues to get from her mom. However, her sense of creativity was coming back and what she couldn't sew by herself, she could design.

Diane's renewed sense of purpose and creativity began with jewelry-making. She has created many unique pieces which she meticulously designs and assembles herself. Shortly after the initial creation of her jewelry, Diane's speech therapist began a program with her emphasizing expression through writing. She began by spelling words or drawing pictures to explain what she was trying to say. As drawing became the communication tool of choice, Diane began to draw things around the house in great detail. She then began to draw scenes from Italy where she had lived and visited frequently over the years. The results are highly detailed pen and ink drawings that she continues to improve upon every day.

Diane now has a small business called "Artistic Challenges." She has a Facebook page of the same name where her work is displayed. You may also see and purchase her artwork and jewelry at the Museum of disABILITY History Store.



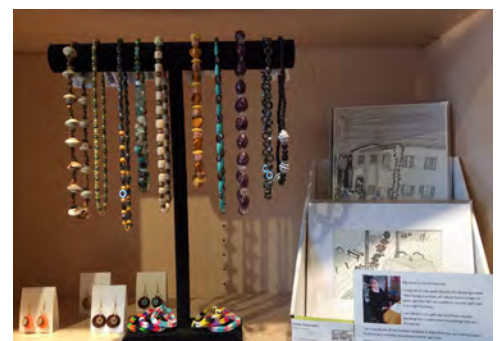
Ron (Diane's husband), Diane and her children, Nicole Patterson and Ryan Miller.

New In-Store

The Museum of disABILITY History is proud to feature new and recently restocked items in the Museum Store! *Mubu the Morph*, the 19th and most recent book to be published by People Ink Press, discusses themes of self-image, self-confidence and character development. The book is accompanied by a poster, coloring book, and bookmark which are suitable for children in grades K to 3.

Our newest PeopleMade items include cement garden turtles, rubber band bracelets and new jewelry designs and prints from Diane Pokorski of Artistic Challenges.

As always, the Museum boasts an excellent collection of fiction, non-fiction and children's books on a variety of disability topics, as well as toys, gifts and more! If you have not been in recently, we encourage you to visit!



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!



NYS Senator Robert Ortt



NYS Senator Michael Ranzenhofer



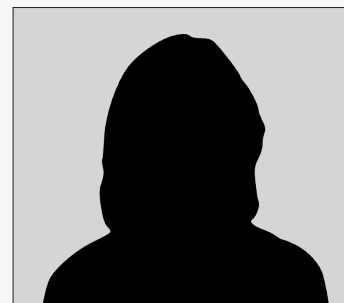
Buffalo Comptroller Mark J.F. Schroeder



SODEXO



Michelle Fowler



This could be you!

New Members!

A warm welcome to our newest members who recently joined and renewed:

Individual/Student

Jacqueline Briggs
Michelle Fowler
Emily Hoffman
NYS Senator Robert Ortt
Esther Owens
Jennifer Liber Raines
Susan Paul-Saladino
BJ Stasio
Maureen Wiedeman
Margaret Zak

Family/Dual

Ann McElroy
Mary and Paul Synor
Bill and Pat Townsend

Friend

NYS Senator Michael Ranzenhofer
Comptroller Mark J.F. Schroeder

Sustainer

Doug and Lois Farley
SODEXO

Corporate

The Greater Buffalo United Accountable
Healthcare Network (GBUAHN)

As a member, you receive free admission to the Museum and events, and a 10% discount in the Museum Store!



Congratulations on 30 years of service!

Museum of disABILITY History Curator Doug Platt celebrated his 30 year anniversary with People Inc.! Throughout his career, Doug has assisted individuals with developmental disabilities through various roles within People Inc. He started as our Museum project coordinator in March of 1999, and is currently our curator. An avid fan of history and an advocate for individuals with developmental disabilities, Doug has helped to grow our Museum archives to more than 6,900 items and enhance community awareness about our mission. Thank you, Doug Platt!

Pictured L-R: Doug Platt, Museum of disABILITY History curator and Dave Mack-Hardiman, People Inc. associate vice president.

“The Girl Who Believed She Never Could” continued from page 4

Absolutely not. Being pushed to my limit made me want to work harder, fight harder, and prove to everyone who ever doubted me that I can be successful.

I can't tell you how many long nights I stayed up writing papers, reading assignments, studying for exams and so on. It got to the point where I would sit in my room and cry because, sometimes, I felt like this was too much and I couldn't do it anymore. Those vulnerable moments would terrify me the most because it brought out my worst fear – failure. Failure was one of the characteristics that brought out my anxiety; it made me depressed and it worried me to the point where I was so afraid to fail not only my family, but myself. Nobody wants to be labeled as a failure when it comes to reaching his or her goals. Everyone wants to succeed and to be accepted in anything they do.

The one thing that kept me going was my mom's voice saying, “It's hard right now, but in the end it will all be worth it. You're going to look back at this moment and smile because you overcame your fears.”

And she was right. I am here in this moment writing my accomplishments with a smile on my face. If I could go back in time and sit down with my eighteen-year-old self, I would tell her that everything is going to be okay. I would tell her to be strong and embrace the good and bad moments because it's going to make you a better person at the end of the day.

I never want anyone to feel like they don't have a voice in society because they are afraid that nobody will listen. I don't want individuals who have learning disabilities (or any disability, for that matter) to feel like they are limited to society's standards because they feel like or they have been told that they can't do something they love. I've been there. I know how it feels. But I have now proved to those people who believe individuals with a disability can't do

something that a “normal” person can do, that it is possible. I have two degrees under my belt, my writing has been published and now I am working on new material to expand my creativity. There is no way I'm going to have someone doubt my ability to become a successful writer. I am going to continue to share my story. If I can inspire just one person, then I did my job.

I have my good days and I have my bad days, but they will not define who I am nor will they stop me from doing what I love. I hope my journey will inspire many individuals to share their stories, as well. We are all here on this earth for a reason; it's just a matter of finding out what inspires us and how we each can help change the world, too.



Like us on Facebook! [facebook.com/museumofdisability](https://www.facebook.com/museumofdisability)

Curator's Corner

By Doug Platt, Curator



Our archive is the wellspring for the majority of exhibits, publications and programs that have been developed by the Museum of disABILITY History. It consists of a wide variety of items that reflect the breadth of the field of disability history. The archive was built by acquisitions of Museum staff and through donations from

scholars, disability organizations, other historical organizations and private citizens who have or were related to people with disabling conditions. The archive has been utilized by independent researchers, journalists, documentary filmmakers, authors and students from elementary through post-graduate levels. Some have accessed our holdings by direct study at the archive. Others have utilized our online archive, website or through contact with Museum staff. Recently, several groups and individuals have reached out to the Museum for research assistance. We have received requests from:

- Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, a publication company located in Cold Spring Harbor, NY, whose purpose is furthering the advance and spread of scientific knowledge. The company was seeking permission to use a photo of Dr. Robert Guthrie in a book entitled *Orphan: The Quest to Save Children with rare Genetic Disorders*, by Philip Reilly, MD.

- The Director of the Office of Travel Training, for Special Education District 75 within the New York City Department of Education. She and a colleague were looking to use some of the Museum's photos in an informative booklet designed to connect students with their history and inform others about people with disabilities.

- US Business Leadership Network (USBLN), which was looking for files from the Museum of disABILITY History's African American and People with Intellectual Disabilities traveling exhibits to include in the organization's mobile museum.

- An individual from Tauranga, New Zealand, working to restore an "invalid rolling chair" on behalf of the Elms Foundation, an organization which preserves and manages the Elms Mission Station. He was seeking a photo of the wheelchair on display at the Museum (produced by the New Haven Folding Chair Company of Connecticut between 1870 -1880) as reference for his restoration work.



We are always happy to assist disABILITY endeavors at the local, state-wide, national and international level.

MUSEUM INFO

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

MUSEUM HOURS

Monday-Friday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Sunday: Closed

ADMISSION

General Admission:

Museum Members.....FREE
People Inc. employees.....FREE
Adults.....\$6.00
Students, Seniors, and Human Service Employees.....\$3.50
Children ages 6-17.....\$3.00
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 fee added to the total amount per person
Rental of the Main Training Room (2nd Floor w/ elevator access, up to 80 people): \$100 fee added to the total amount per person



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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.