



Keeping You Informed

Summer 2010



## “YOU ARE INVITED”

Please join us as we celebrate  
the 20th Anniversary of the signing  
of The Americans with Disabilities Act

We will have a picnic at Kearsley Park, on Friday, July 23rd from 11:00 to 2:00 pm. See all the information about the Celebration inside this newsletter.



### Downtown Flint to Host Summer Bicycle Race, Le Champion Pavé, July 24-25, 2010

On Sunday, July 25, downtown Flint will be transformed into a people-powered 1-mile-long race track, where cyclists from across the country will start and finish under the iconic arches on the bricks on S. Saginaw Street.



The Maillot Jaune Road Race Committee and the Flint Area Convention & Visitors Bureau are teaming up to bring the event, an outgrowth of the highly-successful Maillot Jaune in Fenton, to Flint this summer.

Everyone from the professional rider to the training wheeler will enjoy the festivities. Among the many categories of races will be a **competitive hand cycle race**. Come watch as hand cycle athletes dice it up on the bricks of Saginaw St! *Le Champion Pavé* will showcase all the races one would expect on a short course and many more including a race for kids, as well as fun rides and a ride for families. For more information: [lechampionpave.com](http://lechampionpave.com).



**FLINT, Michigan** -- The Disability Network of Flint was one of five Comcast Community Connections award winners honored at Comcast's Southfield offices.

The Flint-based advocacy organization received Comcast's digital literacy award for using technology to help with its mission. The Comcast awards were given to organizations that are working for positive change and share the company's vision to connect individuals to resources to better their lives.

Mike Zelle, president and chief executive officer of The Disability Network, said the organization was honored to be recognized by Comcast. "Comcast is helping us make technology available to hundreds of students with disabilities to gain skills that will help them with employment and independent living skills," Zelle said in a news release.

# Net News



NET NEWS is published quarterly by :

The Disability Network,  
a Center for Independent Living supporting people with any type of disability in Genesee County

NET NEWS is designed to inform people with disabilities and other interested parties, about disability issues and other matters relevant to the disability community.

We welcome your comments and suggestions.

**THE DISABILITY NETWORK**  
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Flint, Michigan 48507  
(810) 742-1800 voice  
(810) 742-7647 TTY  
(810) 742-2400 fax  
tdn@disnetwork.org  
www.disnetwork.org



**We need you!** Please volunteer to help out at the ADA Celebration Picnic on Friday, July 23rd. Many jobs are available. You may want to help with the games, serve food, do face painting, help at the arts & crafts table or simply help set up or clean up. Call 810-742-1800.



To view our YouTube account profile, visit:  
<http://www.youtube.com/user/TheDisabilityNetwork>



## DATES OF INTEREST

- ADA Celebration Picnic ..... Friday, July 23
- Board of Directors meeting ..... Wednesday, Aug 18
- 3rd Annual Freedom Raffle ..... Friday, Sept 24
- 15th Annual Employment Luncheon ..... Friday, Oct 15
- Leaders for Action meeting .....  
..... 2nd Thursday of each month
- Computer Classes (call 742-1800 for starting dates)

## Introducing Deborah McCormick



The Disability Network would like to introduce our newest AmeriCorps/Vista member; Deborah McCormick.

Deborah is the Housing Coordinator for our Nursing Home Transition team. She will be assisting The Disability Network and Valley Area Agency on Aging to find affordable, accessible housing for the programs and advocating in the community for additional safe, affordable, accessible housing for everyone. Deborah brings experience in housing and knowledge of Medicaid and Medicare services to our team.

Welcome Deborah!

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## Charlene Lizotte, Speaker

Charlene Lizotte, (front row right) a member of the Genesee County RICC and founder of All About Awareness, LLC was a speaker at the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council's 11th Annual Legislative Day held at the Lansing Radisson on February 9<sup>th</sup>.

Charlene relayed personal stories to fire up the RICC members to speak with their legislators about issues that affect their lives.



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## The Disabled Traveler's Companion

The majority of people with a disability are afraid to travel for fear of the unknown. What is waiting for them upon arrival?

The Disabled Traveler's Companion is helping to remove the unknown with photographs and measurements so people with disabilities can view their destination before leaving their home.

Ron and Kay Wilmers would like to invite you to take a minute to explore their website before your next vacation and check to see if your destination will be accessible and functional. Visit them at [www.tdtcompanion.com](http://www.tdtcompanion.com)



*Photo by Rog Wilmers (rogwilmers.com)*



## Ramp Program

Through a grant provided by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and administered by the City of Flint, The Disability

Network has been able to provide 30 new accessible ramps and 2 accessible bathrooms since August of 2009. We also provided repairs to two ramps that were built several years ago and needed to be updated.

We currently have over 22 ramp and home modification projects on our waiting list for the 2010 – 2011 grant period. We are accepting applications for ramps and interior home modifications for the new grant period.

Ramp applicants must live in the City of Flint and may either own or rent their home. Applicants who are in need of interior modifications such as a roll in shower, grab bars or other improvements, must own their homes.

If you are interested in receiving a ramp or home modification project you should call Gary Kidd, our Flint Ramp Project Coordinator, at 742-1800 extension 315.



The ADA Department at TDN is constantly adding updated and new information regarding the many different aspects of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Much of the material that we have is available to our members in either print or electronic form.

The many brochures and articles that are available include information about accessible Retail Outlets, Medical Facilities, Restaurants, Transportation, Government offices, Golf Courses, Playgrounds and Camping Facilities. We also have information regarding the types of accommodations that employers should provide to their employees, contact information for various agencies, and other areas of interest.

If you are interested in a specific subject or need any other information, please contact Gary @ 810-742-1800 x 315.



## Michigan Assistive Technology Loan Fund

The Michigan Assistive Technology Loan Fund allows people with disabilities and seniors (or their family members) to purchase assistive technology devices or services, including modification of vehicles and homes. Loans may also cover cost of training to use the purchased equipment, warranties, and service agreements.

Assistive technology is defined as any item, piece of equipment, or device that enables an individual with a disability to improve individual independence and quality of life.

If you would like to apply for a loan to purchase any item or piece of equipment that will help you improve your independence and overall quality of life, contact Carrie at The Disability Network at (810) 742-1800.

The Michigan Assistive Technology Loan Fund was established by the Michigan Disability Rights Coalition (MDRC) through a grant from the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR). MDRC joined with United Cerebral Palsy of Michigan, the Option 1 Credit Union and disability organizations throughout the state to offer this innovative program.



The Disability Network  
will hold it's third  
**Annual Freedom Raffle**  
Friday, September 24, 2010

A Total of \$5,200 Will Be Awarded

**FIRST PLACE: \$3,000**

2nd Place: \$1,500

3rd: \$250

4th through 12th Places: \$50 each

If fewer than 1,300 tickets are sold the raffle reverts to a 50/50

Donation: \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00

The drawing will be held Friday, Sept. 24, 2010, 12 noon  
at The Disability Network  
You need not be present to win

Call or stop in to get your tickets:  
The Disability Network  
3600 S. Dort Hwy, #54 • Flint 48507  
Voice (810) 742-1800 • TTY (810) 742-7647

• CHECK • CASH • CREDIT CARD •

\*visit our website at [www.disnetwork.org](http://www.disnetwork.org)\*



The Disability Network  
and



# Genesee County Community Mental Health

Invite You To Join Us As We Celebrate The  
20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the

## “AMERICANS with DISABILITIES ACT” and the 4th Annual Picnic

Music by  
D.J.  
David Hodges



Balloons, Games  
Face Painting

Food/Beverages  
Ride Accessible  
Bicycles

Community  
Access Awards

World Cup Celebration  
Soccer Match

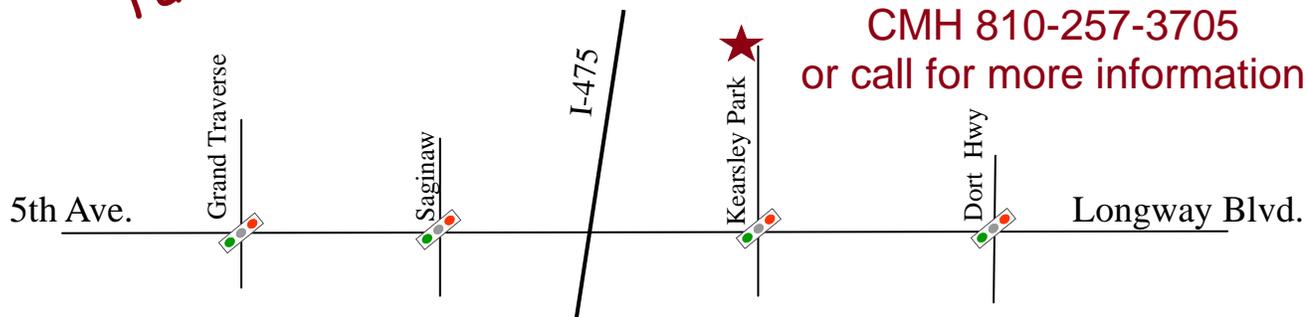
Friday, July 23, 2010

11:00 am – 2:00 pm Kearsley Park  
1706 Kearsley Park Drive off Longway Blvd.

fun\*fun\*fun

### RSVP

to get your “FREE” food ticket  
TDN 810-742-1800  
CMH 810-257-3705  
or call for more information



Funded in part by the Michigan ADA Steering Committee, a branch of the Great Lakes ADA Center  
and also by the Genesee County CMH Client Activity Fund.

Funds are provided in part by the National Institute on Disability Rehabilitation and Research (NIDRR) Grant #H133G060097.”



**MMAP, Inc.**  
Michigan Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program

## **NEED HELP WITH YOUR PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS? *You May Qualify for “Extra Help”!***

Did you know that Medicare is paying for most prescription drug costs for people with limited incomes and resources, all over the country? Would you like to know whether you qualify to get help like this? All you have to do is apply! And, if you think you won't qualify, think again.

One woman with Medicare was struggling to pay for her prescriptions even with a drug plan and her \$1200 Social Security benefit. A local MMAP counselor explained the “Extra Help” program to her. Once she heard that the value of her home and car was not used to determine her eligibility, she applied and qualified for “extra help.” She is now saving over \$3900 per year!

Even with the new Medicare prescription drug benefit, some people with limited income and resources are having a hard time paying for their medicines, but there is good news. If you qualify, the “Extra Help” program can help pay your drug costs, like monthly premiums, annual deductibles and prescription copayments. Many people qualify and they don't even know it!

Applying for the benefit is the only way to see if Medicare will pay most of your prescription drug costs. Call the MMAP Hotline **1-800-803-7174** and get routed to a counselor near you. There is no fee for MMAP services. A trained counselor will help you fill out the application. They can do this even over the phone. All information provided in the application is strictly confidential.

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## **PROPERTY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM *MSHDA***

Have you heard about the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) and their Property Improvement Program? MSHDA offers low interest home improvement loans to single-family homeowners with low to moderate income, and landlords renting to low to moderate income tenants.

Homeowners can borrow up to \$50,000 for a site built home, less for manufactured homes. The interest rate for homeowners is 4%, 6% or 8%, depending on your income. There is a minimum credit score of 620 and other conditions may apply.

Landlords can borrow up to \$25,000 per unit, with a maximum outstanding limit of \$100,000 per borrower. Eligible properties cannot have more than 11 units. The interest rate for landlords is fixed at 8% and the rental units must meet MSHDA rental unit guidelines.

Eligible home improvements include, but are not limited to: heating & air conditioning, plumbing & electrical, roof, doors and windows, siding & insulation, kitchen and bath remodeling, garages, carports, driveways, sidewalks and ramps.

Loan terms are flexible – up to 20 years to repay the loan. There are no annual fees, no penalty for early payoff and automatic payment is available. There are some other fees required such as origination fees, underwriting fees and an inspection fee.

More information is available from <http://www.michigan.gov/mshda> or call:

Court Street Village – 239-4644    Flint Neighborhood Improvement (FNIPP) – 766-7212  
Mission of Peace – 232-0104    Salem Housing – 785-5340



THE DISABILITY NETWORK  
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Flint, Michigan 48507

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Flint, MI  
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You can help us serve you better. Complete this brief survey and return it in the mail or give us a call and let us know how we are doing.

Have you received information/support from The Disability Network?

- Yes       No       Don't Know

The services provided by The Disability Network were:

- Very Good    Good    Fair    Poor    Very Poor

**Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*If* you would like us to contact you, please provide name/phone number:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_