

RAP Sheet

The Latest in Disability Research, Advocacy, Policy, and Practice

Summer Issue 2008

JUST FOR FUN



'JUST DO IT'

Chandler Bullard, Program Specialist, Northeast Passage

Welcome to the Summer Issue of the Rap Sheet and the beginning of our fifth year of publication. In honor of summer and lazy days, this issue is dedicated to fun. Whether your dream is to sing in a rock band or to travel the world, we hope that the stories in this issue will inspire you to get out there and just do it.

Recreation? Recreation! To you – to me – all the way to your grandmother...disabled, upright, a dog to a cat. Everyone and everything considers recreation differently. Some climb rocks at a 90 degree angle, while others sit in a lawn chair watching them. I have known people that believe running a marathon is a spiritual event. As for me, running my mouth is spiritual.

So let's just begin by saying that recreation is whatever you want it to be. You want to go for a hike, swim the English Channel or have a BBQ in the backyard, it's all recreating. As I am a man that prefers to roll rather than walk, this doesn't make me any less apt to recreate. I enjoy a good throw on the baseball field, just as much as I like viewing a game at Fenway.

I have traveled to some fun destinations; some more like a Turkish prison. But still, I did it. I have played stand up sports and sitting sports, not one more fun than the other.

I bake. That's correct, I bake. I turn on a sporting event (preferably the Red Sox) and I bake pies. I take pictures of loved ones and things that I love. Sometimes I sit back with a refreshing beverage and take in my backyard with a true friend. All of these things I consider recreation.



Photograph courtesy of: Matt Frye

Chandler (left) and co-worker, Matt Frye, take in the Red Sox on opening day at Fenway.

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SUSAN COVERT, EDITOR

A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT BY THE

DISABILITIES RIGHTS CENTER, INSTITUTE ON DISABILITY, AND NH COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



LOOKING FOR RESPECT AT MARGARITAS

Julia Freeman-Woolpert, Disabilities Rights Center

Cory Pierson loves nothing better than to get together with friends, often at a restaurant over dinner and drinks. The Draft, Outback, Red Blazer, Barley House, Olive Garden, and Hermanos are all favorite hangouts for Pierson and his friends. At Hermanos when Pierson orders his favorite beer, Old Thumper, the waiter brings him two half full glasses. Pierson, who has cerebral palsy, appreciates this attentiveness; two half glasses are easier for him to manage than one full one.

Still in his youthful 20's, Pierson occasionally gets carded when he orders a drink. A responsible drinker, Pierson has never had trouble with service in any of Concord's restaurants . . . except for Margaritas.

Pierson had been to Margaritas several times with friends and family without any problems until an incident last year. On that day, Pierson and his longtime friend Colleen Sullivan headed to Margarita's to meet some of her friends. Sullivan wanted to introduce them to Pierson; she thought they would enjoy each other and Pierson was looking forward to meeting them and hoped to make some new friends. He was a little nervous and wanted to make a good impression.

Sullivan spotted her friends already seated at a table and she and Pierson headed over. Before they had even been seated, a waitress came up and informed them that the manager had decided the restaurant would no longer serve Pierson any alcoholic beverages. Pierson was caught off guard, humiliated in front of Sullivan's friends before he even had a chance to say hello.

Sullivan took the manager, Michael Zubik, aside and tried to reason with him. Zubik told Sullivan they would not serve Pierson because they couldn't tell if he was drunk. Sullivan, who is a physical therapist, explained that Pierson hadn't been drinking, that he had cerebral palsy which causes problems with his coordination. The manager again refused to serve Pierson, saying he had no way of knowing whether or not Pierson was intoxicated or what effect alcohol might have on his condition or any medications he was taking.

"I could not believe my ears," said Sullivan. "I asked him, 'How do you know whether he's taking any medications or not?'" Even after telling Zubik what he was doing was discriminatory, the manager was adamant about not serving Pierson.

(Cover story continued)

The most important part of recreation is doing recreation. Get out and enjoy the things you enjoy. Grab a friend, go it alone, do what you want to do. If things end up being limited to you then un-limit them. Excuses are just lack of imagination. Recreation is the joy in life. It's the apple in the Garden of Eden. All you have to do is reach out and take a bite.

U • N • L • I • M • I • T • E • D

Northeast Passage's motto is "explore the possibilities." We truly believe that everything is possible and we help each of our participants access the areas of recreation that are of interest. From adaptive equipment rental to our comprehensive list of Web site resources, we're here to offer advice – our collective imagination is limitless!

This summer, we will be offering regular adaptive programming in

- Cycling
- Kayaking
- Water skiing
- Golf
- Hiking

We invite you to try something new, develop your skills and get outside! Northeast Passage is a program of the University of New Hampshire's School of Health and Human Services, and is an affiliate of Disabled Sports USA. Northeast Passage develops and delivers innovative, barrier-free recreation and health promotion programs. Visit www.nepassage.org for a full list of programs.

"Dost thou think, because thou art virtuous, there shall be no more cakes and ale?" ~ William Shakespeare

Shortly after that, Pierson got in touch with the Disabilities Rights Center. Pierson let DRC lawyer Cindy Robertson know that he wanted to resolve the problem as amicably as possible. All he wanted was an apology, to be treated with respect, and to be able to go have a beer with his friends.

The DRC contacted Margaritas and informed them that refusing to serve someone because of a disability was a violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Shawn Joyce, President and CEO of Margaritas, replied in a letter that the restaurant would not serve Pierson, claiming they couldn't tell if he is intoxicated and were concerned about liability. Joyce said if the Chief of Enforcement Officer for the NH Liquor Commission, Eddie Edwards, wrote a letter saying Margaritas could serve Pierson they would do so. Granting a blanket absolution is something the Liquor Commission clearly cannot do, as an individual assessment of all patrons is required whenever alcohol is served.

Margaritas had participated in trainings from the NH Liquor Commission on visible signs for determining whether or not a person is intoxicated. Based on the Liquor Commission guidelines used in this training, "It was clear Cory wasn't intoxicated," said Robertson. "His eyes weren't glassy or droopy. He was not being loud or using foul language or annoying others. He didn't have alcohol on his breath. His friends confirmed he had not been drinking. Quite frankly, Margaritas' explanation that they could not tell if he was intoxicated, was irrational."

Robertson arranged a meeting with Chief Edwards, Pierson, and Joyce. At the meeting Margaritas' CEO reiterated that looking at Pierson, he couldn't tell if he was intoxicated or not. When Robertson asked him what it was about Pierson that led him to believe he might be drunk, he answered, "The way he talks and the way he walks," and refused to answer further. Robertson pointed out that these things were strictly part of Pierson's disability, but Joyce refused to change his position. "It was like talking to a wall. The failure of Mr. Joyce to even consider that Cory was not intoxicated was infuriating," said Cindy. "He simply took an unrealistic position and stood by it. Although he denied ever discriminating against anyone based on a disability, Mr. Joyce made it clear that he had no intention of serving Cory regardless of whether Cory's rights under the ADA

were being violated or not. In fact, since that meeting, I have again written to Mr. Joyce asking him to reconsider his position as to Cory and have not received a response."

There was agreement at the meeting, however, that NH establishments serving alcohol needed better training on the issue of disability discrimination. Robertson undertook the task of locating similar training around the country and found that the national law enforcement expert on distinguishing disability from intoxication was none other than Weare Police Department Deputy Chief Bill Quigley. Quigley agreed to work with Robertson and Edwards to develop training materials for the Liquor Commission; this work is currently underway.

Sullivan said the entire incident was terribly hurtful to Pierson. He finds it painful to go anywhere near Margaritas. "I deserve respect," said Pierson. "I wish they treated me better."

To date, Margaritas has not apologized to Pierson and has shown no indication of changing its position. Until the restaurant stops discriminating, Pierson, his friends, and family no longer spend their money at Margaritas. They prefer friendlier places.

If you're looking for a friendly, accessible place to eat and drink, check out the Rolling Gourmet, a project of the DRC. Better yet, rate some restaurants for the Rolling Gourmet and earn money and a free Disabilities Rights Center t-shirt! <http://www.drcnh.org/restaurant.htm>.



Cory Pierson and bartender Scott Hopkins share a moment at Hermanos, where Cory is a valued customer.

Photographer Julia Freeman-Woolpert

FACILITATING FRIENDSHIPS

Karen Turner (Parent) and Anneliese Fisher (Summer Camp Director)

Five years ago, members of our community, including parents and representatives from our town's recreation department and school district, had the vision that our town's summer camp could be fully inclusive of all children. We made a commitment to share responsibility. We reached out to other like-minded organizations including Friends of Newmarket Recreation, Greater Piscataqua Community Foundation, the Newmarket Community Education Partnership, and the Council on Developmental Disabilities to help us. No one accomplishes "inclusion" alone.

We are ordinary folks and started with ordinary questions and fears. We worried about Jim who has a history of aggression and had been kicked out of four other summer camps. We wondered how we would communicate with Sue who is non-verbal. What would happen to Jake who has mobility issues? Our deepest fear was that we would fail them.

In order to ensure that children would be truly included we sought to create conditions where friendships can happen. We developed strategies for facilitating friendships that are rooted in the expectation that **all** children should:

- ◆ Experience a sense of belonging,
- ◆ Have a way to participate,
- ◆ Know supports are always available, and
- ◆ Experience this in their own community.

We believed that this is not a disability issue, but that all children need support in various ways at various times. We found that the supports - including positive behavioral supports, emotional regulation strate-

gies, and visual aids – that we put in place for children with disabilities have benefited all children. Every camp group uses a large-size visual schedule. No longer does the "typical" child have to peek over a "special needs" child's shoulder to see what is coming next. In creating a culture of acceptance, we learned that the best sup-

ports are those offered by a friend, not an expert with a clipboard.

We don't deny that this is hard work. We have worked hard. We have been creative. We have collaborated and shared resources. We have invested in education – our counselors attend inclusive workshops prior to every camp year. In our first year, with a grant from the Greater Piscataqua Commu-

nity Foundation, we created a position of friendship facilitator whose sole responsibility was to help kids – all kids – make friends at camp. We found that by facilitating friendships, behavioral disruptions at camp declined over 75 percent! Now this position is a regular line item in our budget.

Over the past five years we have experienced a profound shift in how we do things and how we view children. We are no longer afraid. We have worked through the difficult times and have seen possibilities unfold. There is a cultural transformation afoot. We have found that all our counselors are now facilitating friendships. Our counselors have learned that offering choices works better than issuing ultimatums, that being flexible and creative in finding ways children can participate means success for all, and that really getting to know each child is the most important strategy of all.



Newmarket Summer Day Campers

(Continued on page 6)



Summer Camp Fun

Paul Robinson, Esq., Volunteer Advocate, Disabilities Rights Center

Summertime means sunshine, baseball games, and fun with friends. But most of all, it means vacations and... SUMMER CAMP! Unfortunately, many children and teens with disabilities have not been able to participate fully in the camp experience. Most summer camps were not designed with accessibility (or comfort) in mind. Fortunately, things have begun to change for the better. There are now a variety of camps designed specifically for campers with disabilities, and other camps that make accommodations so children with disabilities can be included in the camp community. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) also requires that camps remove barriers to people with disabilities if the removal of the barriers is readily achievable.

What happens when parents think they've found the best camping experience for their child, only to discover that certain aspects of the camp are inaccessible or unsuitable because of their child's disability? What specific accommodations must the camp make? The ADA requires that barriers to individuals with disabilities be removed if that removal is "readily achievable." The ADA defines this as something that is "easily accomplishable and able to be carried out without much difficulty."

To help determine whether the removal of a particular barrier removal is "readily achievable," the U.S. Department of Justice lists five factors that should be considered:

- 1 The nature and cost of the action;
- 2 The overall financial resources of the site or sites involved; the number of persons employed at the site; the effect on expenses and resources; legitimate safety requirements necessary for safe operation, including crime prevention measures; or any other impact of the action on the operation of the site;
- 3 The geographic separateness, and the administrative or fiscal relationship of the site or sites in question to any parent corporation or entity;
- 4 If applicable, the overall financial resources of any parent corporation or entity; the overall size of the

parent corporation or entity with respect to the number of its employees; the number, type, and location of its facilities; and

- 5 If applicable, the type of operation or operations of any parent corporation or entity, including the composition, structure, and functions of the workforce of the parent corporation or entity.

Although this guidance is technical and will vary from camp to camp in its application, overall it represents a great increase in opportunity for campers with disabilities because it, along with the ADA itself, establishes a minimum standard of accessibility which camps must satisfy.

Besides improving physical accessibility for people with disabilities, the Americans with Disabilities Act also requires that facilities, including summer camps, make reasonable modifications in their practices when necessary to accommodate individuals with disabilities. This would include making accommodations to include children with disabilities in a wide range of typical camp activities like swimming, archery, and capture the flag. It also means accommodating special dietary requirements or altering routines or rules if needed. The only exception to requiring accommodation is if the accommodation would fundamentally alter the nature of the activity. In addition, camps owned and operated by religious entities are exempt from the requirements of Title III of the ADA and may not be as accessible for children with disabilities.

When it is time to pick out a specific camp, the Internet can be an excellent source of information. The National Center on Physical Activity and Disability has a section on camping resources on their website: http://www.ncpad.org/fun/fact_sheet.php?sheet=88&PHPS ESSID=d06614ad3abf4cdfbec2f039dada1767.

The American Camping Association New England has a searchable database of camps: <http://www.acane-camps.org/>.

Whichever camp you pick, get out and have some summertime fun – just don't forget to bring the bug spray!

(Continued from page 4)

We have learned so many lessons. Sue taught us to listen with our eyes – of course she can communicate. We rejoiced for Jim who, for the first time in his life, had a friend. We witnessed the power of friendship in his smile and the lightness in his step as he navigated a silly obstacle course (and when Jim returned to school in the fall he no longer needed an aide on the playground). We have seen kids in a kickball game, without a single grumble, give up the treasured honor of pitching to Jake so he could be part of the game. At camp we created a culture of acceptance and the children carry that with them when they leave.

We share our story in the hopes that Friendship Facilitation and inclusion become the norm for recreation departments across the state. Ours is not a “special needs” summer camp. And it’s not just about kids with disabilities merely being at camp. In our summer camp every child is valued and supported. There are no asterisks or exceptions – this is our community. The diversity of human experience that is part of an inclusive camp changes all of us. Kids have fun together; they teach and support one another. They inspire us. As the director of our recreation department Jim Hilton says, “Let us re-create what a typical recreation department looks like!”



Any body can do it

A martial arts studio looks for students of all abilities

Shira Schoenberg, Concord Monitor *

Appreciating difference is a theme that resonates at the Multi-Cultural Martial Arts studio in Bow, which opened last fall. Instructors Nick Moorhead and Mikel LaChapelle, who have been friends for more than 30 years, teach four styles of martial arts. Their classes are open to everyone, from those with severe disabilities to athletes in top shape.

“I can differentiate teaching instruction so everyone moves at the pace they need,” said owner and instructor Mikel LaChapelle. “I want everyone to have the opportunity to try.”

LaChapelle, 36, and his girlfriend Jennine Mann, 32, came up with the idea of opening a martial arts studio last summer. LaChapelle, assistant principal at Winnisquam Regional High School in Tilton, is a career educator with a decade of experience in special education. He has trained in martial arts for 25 years, with teachers in the United States, South Korea, and several other countries. Mann, who runs the business side of the studio, has taught special education for six years, most recently at Beaver Meadow Elementary School in Concord.

Mann said the idea for the studio was inspired by one of her students, Samuel Habib. Samuel wanted to learn karate, but no other school would accept him because he has cerebral palsy.

“It felt unfair to us that there are kids who get turned away from other schools,” Mann said. “We said what if we thought about doing a school and modifying the curriculum.” They decided to create a school that would merge different cultures, styles, and abilities.

The couple found a space on Tallwood Drive, with room for a small office, handicapped accessible bathroom and changing rooms, and a training studio with 70-foot ceilings and a second story loft. The walls of the entrance are lined with LaChapelle’s numerous black belt certificates as well as knives from around the world. The studio wall has flags from each of the countries that influenced him – the United States, Japan, Israel, South Korea, the Philippines, Indonesia, Brazil, and Russia.

LaChapelle said martial arts help people get in shape, develop character, and challenge themselves mentally, physically, and emotionally. It is meant to teach discipline and humility – the highest ranking students, which now include LaChapelle, wash the floors.

On a recent evening, a class had four students, two others who were both learning and helping teach and several prospective students, in addition to the instructors. They all watched as instructors demonstrated kicks, punches and blocks. One after another, they practiced falling, jumping onto their backs and rolling across the floor without using their hands. They played a game that involved hopping around on one foot. A teacher in one exercise was student in the next.

If a student has special needs, the instructors will work to accommodate them. For example, a student in a wheelchair could learn how to use the wheelchair as an extension of his body. LaChapelle has worked with a student who cannot lift his arms above his chest; he learned to use his hips and legs instead. LaChapelle said he adapts his instruction to different learning styles, teaching by speaking, demonstrating, or showing a student how a technique is supposed to feel.

"As each new student comes through the door, we'll adjust accordingly," Mann said. She compared it to a classroom,

where all the students get personalized instruction. "We're extending something that should be in place anyway for everyone, to the fringes."

UPDATE – When this story appeared in November 2007, the Multicultural Martial Arts Studio had four students. Today it has 25, including eight students who have disabilities and several students from Rwanda who have limited proficiency in English. Co-owner Jennine Mann said she believes their Studio offers the only adaptive Judo program in New England.

(For more information, email multiculturalmartialarts@verizon.net or call 225-4623 or 479-6007.)

**A longer version of this article was published in the Concord Monitor November 6, 2007*



Multi-Cultural Martial Arts students Christian Mugwaneza and Richard Campbell do a warm up exercise during judo.

Photographer – Jennine Mann

What I Learned in Brownies

Cheri Sullivan, Director NH Connections

I did it! I made it through my first year as a Brownie leader.

When my daughter Katie expressed interest in being a Brownie, I was thrilled. When I was her age, I was a Brownie too. I signed her up and hoped that whoever called me back would be understanding when I explained about some of Katie's special needs. When I got the phone call, I was told there was a waiting list of girls wanting to join Brownies. If they found another leader they would be able to form another troop, would I be interested in volunteering?

I agreed to be a troop leader; I had already planned to attend meetings with Katie to provide the support she needs. Last year Katie was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes. Eventually, she will learn how to manage it on her own, but for now, she needs some assistance. Katie also has autism and I hoped that being a Brownie would provide her with opportunities to improve her communication skills. Most of all, I hoped that Brownies would be a place where she could make friends.



Photographer – Corrinne Hitt

Brownie Troop members and friends, Katie, Ashleigh, and Nicky.

Girl Scouts is open to all girls, including those who have disabilities. While many organizations share this philosophy, it can be difficult for an organization that relies primarily on volunteers to find people who are comfortable supporting a child who has special needs. It is so hard to hear that your child might not be welcome that there have been times when I haven't even asked that Katie be included. Fortunately, I have found that, for the most part, people are accepting.

I ended up leading the troop with two other mothers and was relieved that neither expressed any concerns about Katie's participation. Our troop quickly filled up with girls who had been

The Recreation ALLIES Network *(Activity and Leisure Links for Inclusion)*

"We are just looking for someone to hang out and do fun things with our sons and daughters, to help them feel more connected to their peers and their community."

Recreational Bridge Builders, part of the Under One Roof Project, have been working with families in the Eastern Monadnock region for several years. In this time, we have seen how effective peers can be as "bridges" connecting those who experience a developmental disability to the recreational and leisure activities in their communities. Listening to parents talk about their desire for their children to have more opportunities to form friendships inspired us to create the Recreation ALLIES Network at ConVal High School. Since 2007 we have been reaching out to ConVal students of all

abilities – those who need some support and those interested in being "bridges" of support – to be part of the Network.

Presently over 40 student Allies are "hanging out" and having fun enjoying a wide variety of recreational and leisure activities. All interested students attend a short training session to introduce them to the Network and to learn more about the responsibilities and the benefits of becoming an Allie. To ensure a strong connection with the ConVal student body, we have two student interns work who with us each school quarter; these interns communicate with fellow Allies, brainstorm ideas for events, and give us vital input on what's working well and what we can do to make the Network even stronger.

on a waiting list. I soon learned just how complicated and different from one another 7 year-old girls can be. It was fun getting to know these girls and figuring out how to get them to accept one another and bond as a group. I found that the key was to keep the momentum going and not to allow for much down time.

As a first time Brownie leader, these are some of the other lessons that I learned:

- ◆ Having a child with a disability, doesn't mean that I understand what that experience is like for another parent who has a child with special needs.
- ◆ Ask parents for permission to share information about their child's disability when it's appropriate. (In our family's situation, we have found it critical that other children understand what they can do to support Katie in managing her diabetes. Children need to know it's alright to ask questions. I've been surprised both by children's curiosity and their acceptance.)

- ◆ Ask parents what is needed in order for their child to have a successful experience. Talk about what strategies you should use if a challenging situation arises.
- ◆ It is important to gain parents' trust, but you also must be willing to set boundaries. Establish a process that allows you to exercise leadership.
- ◆ Ask parents what they hope their child will gain from being in your group and share your goals for the group with parents.
- ◆ Have a plan, but be flexible. Things happen and it's OK if the plan doesn't work. Be open to change and willing to make adjustments when they are needed.
- ◆ When the unexpected occurs, help the group to understand what happened and why. Remind everyone how much we all have in common. We all cry, we all get angry, and we all need help at times.
- ◆ Work to create an accepting and welcoming environment; set an example for others on how to make sure that everyone feels included.

We survived our first year and almost all of the girls are coming back in the fall. I am proud to say that, despite our differences, we all had a great time.

Empowerment & Success)

Recreation ALLIES have a vast range of interests; students can choose to pair up for an activity or join up with a group. Networking is done through a secure interactive website that includes, at its center, a calendar of events. Members of the Network post community events on the calendar that they are interested in attending or post their own suggestions for activities; for example Allies use the calendar to see if there are any students who would like to kayak and picnic at the local lake, go miniature golfing, attend a ceramics workshop, or simply get together for a "pizza and movie" night.

A parent whose children have been part of the Network talked about what this experience has meant for her family. "Recreation Allies is an integral part of my son's life. He now participates in community activities

Donna Brand, Recreation Bridge Builder, Under One Roof Project

without his parents by his side. He has become more independent and less lonely. My two daughters and exchange student's lives have been enriched by their participation in the Allies Network as well."

Encouraged by our success at ConVal, we are planning to expand the Network to other area high schools and middle schools; we also hope to create an Allies Network for adults.

If you would like more information about how Recreation Allies Network can help people of all abilities enjoy more opportunities for fun and friendship in our local communities please visit our website: www.RecreationAllies.org or contact: Donna donna@underoneroofproject.org 562-7195 or Molly Hajjar (molly@underoneroofproject.org) 562-7196



What a Difference a Knight Makes

Carol Stamatakis, New Hampshire Council on Developmental Disabilities

Today Frank Vinciguerra enjoys a full life, one filled with friendship and community involvement. But it wasn't always this way. Vinciguerra spent his childhood in orphanages and lived for years at the Laconia State School. When he returned to the community in 1970's to live with his mother, he didn't know how to read or write, couldn't speak up for himself, and did not have a single friend. Vinciguerra remembers, "I didn't know anybody."

Since his mother's death, Vinciguerra has lived on his own in Concord. A devout Catholic, he is an active member of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. In 1996, Jim Marshall, then the Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus, was looking for new members. The Knights of Columbus is a men's fraternal organization of active churchgoing Catholics. Marshall reached out to Vinciguerra and invited him to join the Knights.

At the Knights of Columbus Vinciguerra has found both friendship and acceptance. As he puts it, "The Knights of Columbus do nice things helping people in the community. They are a very good organization. I have been a Knight a long time." Currently a Fourth Degree Knight of Columbus, Vinciguerra takes his responsibilities seriously. He has been elected as an officer and was recently re-elected to the "Inside Guard." According Marshall, "Frank is very committed, one of the most committed members of the Council." Vinciguerra has been publicly recognized for his contributions and has received a number of awards for his work with the Knights.

Vinciguerra says that he especially enjoys the Knights social events. He loves the New Year's Eve dance and attends all the Knights' monthly dinner socials. At the monthly dinners he arrives early to set up tables



Frank Vinciguerra celebrates with the Knights of Columbus at their New Year's Eve Dance.

and stays late to help clean up. He is also an enthusiastic volunteer in the organization's many charitable fundraising activities. He enjoys running the Knights of Columbus' concession stand at Memorial Park on the 4th of July. He helps with rummage sales and works at the Holiday Craft Fair where he runs the popcorn maker.

The Knights have supported Vinciguerra in a number of ways. They have provided financial assistance so that he can attend conferences and written letters of recommendation to employers. On several occasions the Knights have helped Vinciguerra move and have helped him with household tasks in his apartment. Vinciguerra appreciates that friendship involves giving and taking, "They have done a lot of nice things for me; helping me out. I do things for them. We work both ways. They are friends with me and I am friends with them. I have met a lot of new friends."

A few years ago Vinciguerra was the victim of financial exploitation. This was a dark period for him; fortunately, he received legal assistance from the

Don't be a Couch Potato

Life on the Go After Retirement

Marion West

Disabilities Rights Center and was able to recover funds and property taken. During this difficult time in his life, the Knights of Columbus were there for him. Vinciguerra says, "The Knights supported me all the way. I couldn't have handled it myself."

In addition to his membership in the Knights, Vinciguerra has a number of other interests. He likes to go bowling and loves country music, attending concerts whenever he can. Vinciguerra cares deeply about politics and is a regular volunteer at the Democratic Party offices in Concord. During the New Hampshire primary he worked hard on the Obama campaign. An active member of People First, Vinciguerra is currently president of the Capitol City Self-Advocacy Group. He has testified before the legislature on issues impacting people with disabilities, most recently in support of legislation to remove the term "mental retardation" from State statutes.

At 62 Vinciguerra is still enthusiastic about learning. With the help of a tutor from his church, he continues to work on his reading. He is also learning other life skills, including leadership development. His friends at the Knights of Columbus have supported these efforts by providing financial support for him to attend self-advocacy conferences, including an upcoming national conference in September. Vinciguerra says this will help him "learn to be more independent and to speak for myself." He knows he has to be patient. According to Vinciguerra, "Learning to be a leader takes time."

I might be retired, but I keep myself on the go.

I like friends and I started to think of holding a bingo game so I could get to know most of the people in my building. I posted a sign downstairs and I was surprised that I got so many people to come. So on Tuesday nights there are now regular bingo games going on in Kennedy Apartments. On Friday nights I have card games with my friends. I hold the card games until 8:00 pm because at 8:00 pm I watch wrestling. I'm a big wrestling fan.

I like to do crafts. Sometimes I go to Michaels and participate in crafts classes. I also go to Fire and Burn to make ceramics once a week. In my spare time, I like to paint. It relaxes me. I like to go to concerts at the Capital Center for the Arts. Last month I went to the Johnny Cash concert, Ring of Fire. Now that I'm retired I have time to pursue my interests.

My church is the Salvation Army. Years ago, I got into a bit of trouble and I can't go back. So instead, my friends from the church come to my place and visit me once a month. I invite everyone and reserve the penthouse in my building and the people from my church come to sing, play games, and have refreshments. We are planning a pot luck supper next.

I turned to Community Bridges when I came out of Laconia State School. They lined me up with a group called Personal Touch. They help me out with some of the personal details of my life like cleaning, grocery shopping, and choosing healthy foods. I haven't had a Twinkie since Personal Touch has been with me! I also go to Weight Watchers once a week and have lost 9 pounds.

I have a balcony and I plant tomatoes. I water them every morning. Of course, like any planter, I check on them daily. When they are ripe, I thank God for food to eat.

I walk regularly at the cemetery where my mother is buried and around different places in the neighborhood like the Pillsbury Building and behind the Douglas Arena by the river. I like to go in the morning when I feel refreshed.

I spend time with my family now and then, and join the people from my old job at the Institute on Disability for their Giving

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A Star on the Rise

Jeff Keith, Lakes Region Community Services

Who among us hasn't stood before the mirror in their bedroom, belting out the vocals to a favorite song playing on the radio, dreaming of one day being able to perform in a packed club or concert hall? Come on, be honest. Nearly everyone can relate to this fantasy.

For one talented Lakes Region resident, this fantasy has become reality. His name is Bill Gage, and his star is on the rise.

Forty-two year old Bill Gage grew up and still lives in Laconia. His rock and roll journey started in his bedroom, where he would crank up the volume on his record player and sing along to his favorite rock bands. His older brother, John, vividly recalls how animated Bill was, "I would

look in, and not only would he be jamming along with the stereo, but he would have a couple of TV's going. If he wasn't singing, he would break into a skit mimicking what was happening on a show."

Music is a family passion for the Gages. John is a very talented musician who has been playing the club scene in and around Boston for more than 20 years. John would take his brother with him to practices and performances, even allowing Bill to jam with the band from time to time.

"Bill was clearly drawn to performing, and loved being around the band," said John. "Everyone agreed that Bill could really sing, and perhaps putting him out in front of the band and letting him perform on stage one night would be fun for him."

The band decided to give Bill the chance to hit the stage as their new front man at Chet's Last Call, a club that hosts an open mic night for aspiring performers. The band, which was appropriately dubbed "BILL," took to the stage without as much as a play list. They simply started playing background music in keys that were good for Bill and let him have at it. Suffice it to say that Bill took over the stage and things went remarkably well.

"When we were done playing, a guy came up to me at the bar," said John. "He told me that when we first took to the stage, he was a little taken aback. Once Bill started doing his thing, though, it was clear that he was talented and meant to do this. He said that once he let the music take over and stopped focusing on just Bill, he truly enjoyed our performance."

The man in the bar was taken aback because Bill has Down syndrome. Seeing a performer on stage with Down syndrome isn't something that people run into everyday and clearly some people are slightly uncomfortable the first time they encounter the band. As John will tell you, though, people quickly move past Bill's disability and focus on what's really important – a truly great performance by the band.

"The band was formed in order to give Bill an outlet to perform," said John. "Everything we do – from the name of the band (which was chosen because it's one of the few words Bill can actually read or write – allowing him to design the band's logo and sign autographs) to coming up with the songs we play at a given show, is all about Bill having fun. Most people realize this fact once they get into Bill's performance on stage and let themselves relax and enjoy the show."



The Band BILL's front man Bill Gage rocks on stage as his band performs a show at The Abbey Lounge in Cambridge, Mass.

After that first performance, Bill was absolutely on a high. Bill is generally not a very talkative guy but, following the show, he simply could not contain himself. "Bill was totally pumped up by the experience of going on stage and performing," recalled John. "Bill is a total natural on stage, and this was clearly something he needed to be able to do more of."

For the band, the first trick was learning how to best play with Bill. Over the next few gigs, they worked at communicating better with Bill to find the songs and lyrics he wanted to perform. In time, they hit a groove and things began to click.

Those who have seen the band perform say that Bill's singing is surreal. He belts out ever-changing lyrics in a variety of styles, from blues-inflected yowls to tender, Ray Charles like moans. His shows are described as unpredictable, hard rocking, and thoroughly enjoyable.

Not long after BILL began playing the Boston club scene, the band made their first album, titled Beatles Chinese. "Bill chose the playlist he wanted to do on the album," recalled John. "He gave us the name of songs and then sang the lyrics for us, and we worked as a band to build music around it. We learned to respond to the way he was singing and then jam along."

The band now has a second album, Bat Man. On this CD, all the backing tracks were recorded in advance. Bill first listened to the tracks, then sang over them, and named the songs himself. Bat Man is available for purchase online at www.grasshopperrecord.com

With their club dates and albums BILL is gaining a wider audience. You can learn more about the band on their MySpace page – www.myspace.com/badclothes. "What's really inspiring is when we get a

MySpace post from the mother of a child with Down syndrome telling us that Bill's story gives her hope that her child will one day find something they love to do and that they will do it well," explained John. "Bill's story is giving a lot of people a different perspective on the capabilities of people with disabilities, and that's really powerful."

The band is also beginning to garner some impressive media attention. Last month BILL was featured in a story in The Boston Phoenix and the band members recently conducted an interview that will be airing later this month on National Public Radio.

The band has no plans of slowing down; they have an upcoming gig in Providence and are currently working on tracks for their third album.

Bill's next goal is to take the band's act to the big time – New York City. I wouldn't bet against it happening, because anyone can plainly see that Bill's star is clearly on the rise.

A longer version of this article originally appeared in the Citizen of Laconia on April 18, 2008

(Continued from page 11)

Circle Lunch Club. I go to different people for advice. When I have questions, I talk with my sisters and they help me figure out what's a good idea.

I'm having a ball being retired. You don't have to sit and be a worry wart or a couch potato. Things are out there to do; you just have to look for them. I keep my eyes on what's going on around town and look in the paper. I am always figuring out who likes the same things I like and that's the way I spend time with my friends.

It relaxes you to think of things you like to do and go out and do them. I like to expand myself since I'm not tied down to a job. I'm free and floating free as a butterfly now that I can explore all the things I'm interested in.

If there's anyone who is afraid of being a couch potato and really wants to go out and do things, my advice is to venture out and do what you want. You feel great, it gives you a lift, and it's better than sitting home and watching TV – unless it's wrestling.



Getting there is the Hardest Part

Julia Freeman-Woolpert, Disabilities Rights Center

When people with disabilities talk about the obstacles they face to full participation, access to transportation is usually at the top of the list. Transportation, such as buses and taxis, is scarce in New Hampshire and what is available is largely inaccessible for people who use wheelchairs. While public transportation is required by law to be accessible, private companies, such as those providing bus tours to the public, are generally not required to purchase accessible buses. Arranging accessible transportation in some circumstances can require providing months of advanced notice to the bus company. Corporate friendly regulations and less than aggressive federal enforcement make finding accessible transportation even more difficult for people with disabilities.

John Van Buskirk was caught in this dilemma when he attempted to join the other members of the Rochester Senior Citizens Center on a trip to the Indian Head resort. Van Buskirk, who has cerebral palsy and uses a scooter to get around, was told he could only join the Indian Head tour group if he brought along a relative who could help him get on and off the bus. Van Buskirk didn't think this was fair and called the Disabilities Rights Center (DRC) to help him resolve the situation.

DRC intake staff contacted both the Senior Center and the bus company to explain Van Buskirk's right to accessible transportation. The company refused to provide an accessible bus and the Senior Center said it was unwilling to contract with a company that offered accessible transportation, as this would cost them more money. When this initial effort

failed, DRC Attorney James Fox met with Senior Center administrators to explain that the bus company was blatantly violating the rights of people with disabilities and in particular the rights of a member of their center. The Center agreed to use accessible buses for the trip to Indian Head and for other tours that Van Buskirk wanted to join.

"I loved Indian Head," said John after the trip. "It's like the Old Man of the Mountain. I probably never would have seen it if I hadn't gone on the trip."

Unfortunately, Van Buskirk's advocacy created resentment among some members at the Center. People who had previously been friendly and had helped Van Buskirk with simple tasks, such as carrying his tray at dinner, now refused to provide any assistance. "I want to live my life as normally as possible, I always have," said Van Buskirk. "I used to go out to clubs years ago and was treated like everyone else. So when this happened at the Seniors Group I was kind of shocked by the way I was treated by them." It took another meeting with Fox and some reflection by these members to realize that it was unfair for them to punish Van Buskirk for standing up for his rights.

The Senior Center is planning a trip to Foxwoods and Van Buskirk would like to go along. Those arranging for the trip are again showing some reluctance to schedule an accessible bus. The conflict has been hard on him, but Van Buskirk has persisted. "I like to think I'm helping other people that might come after me, so they won't have the same difficulty," he said.



DRC Attorney James Fox talks with John VanBuskirk

A Little Bit More

John Van Buskirk is in the process of writing his life story. Here is an excerpt from his memoir, *A Little Bit More*.

John sat in the parlor with his mother and father. It had to have been Saturday or Sunday, because nobody was allowed in the parlor except on weekends. You wore your best clothes in the parlor. His brother in law, later in life, would nickname his very best pants his "sitting in the parlor pants." John stood between his mother's legs, facing his father in the opposite chair. His mother held him under his arms.

"Walk to Daddy," she said. "Walk to Daddy."

John wanted to walk to his father and tried, but he fell back into his mother's arms over and over again. Like the beautiful colors of the autumn leaves waving back and forth on the background of blue sky that would remain with him for the rest of his life, so would the next words from his father's mouth.

"I should get a gun and put him out of his misery."

Once again, he was whipped up by his mother's arms and taken out of the room."

Van Buskirk is currently looking for a volunteer to type his manuscript; if you can help, please call Julia Freeman-Woolpert at 1.800.834.1721 or email juliaf@drcnh.org



DEDICATION

This Issue of the Rap Sheet is dedicated to Janet Krumm who passed away peacefully at home, supported by her family, on June 18th, 2008. Janet was a long time champion for the rights of people with disabilities. A graduate of the Institute on Disabilities first Leadership class, Janet founded and was the editor of the New Hampshire Challenge. Today the Challenge reaches over 10,000 people in our state, across the nation, and around the globe. Janet Krumm was an example of what an amazing difference one person can make. An inspiration to all of us in the disability community, Janet will be sorely missed. Donations in Janet's memory can be made to The New Hampshire Challenge, P.O. Box 579, Dover, NH 03821-0579



HOW TO HAVE THE MOST FABULOUS LIFE POSSIBLE

Sarah Cooley, Disabilities Rights Center

I grew up in Bradford, New Hampshire with my parents. When I was young, I met my best friend, Erica. We went on a lot of picnics together, went to beaches together, and just had a blast together. Growing up in Bradford I did a lot of activities around the area. When I started to go to school I got involved with cheerleading and sports. I took dancing, tap, and ballet lessons and I did gymnastics in Newport, New Hampshire. When I was a little girl I met friends through my activities.

When my parents enrolled me in public school, I wanted to learn about my dreams; what I want out of life, to discover who I am, and to become a successful writer. In 2005 my family and I moved to Concord, New Hampshire and I attended Concord High School. At Concord High School I met a new friend named Tammy. She gave me a tour of the high school and introduced me to more friends.

When I was attending Concord High School I also was searching for a job. I went with a friend to Franklin Pierce Law School. She was busy talking to a lawyer; I was bored and I started to look at brochures. I came upon a brochure about the Disabilities Rights Center. I went back to school and gave the brochure to the Job Coach. The Job Coach helped me to get an interview at the Disabilities Rights Center. I started at the Disabilities Rights Center as a volunteer and I worked up to become a student intern. After a while, I got hired as an Office Assistant – it wasn't so easy.

As an Office Assistant, I copy documents for the lawyers, I enter data into their database, I enter information from surveys, and sometimes I send faxes. I also sort the mail and put it into the lawyers' mailboxes and sign for packages that come to the office. I clean the office area and put away the paper on the shelves. I used to work

from 10:00 to 2:00. Now I work from 10:30 to 2:00. I have been searching for a second job for about a year and I still don't have one.

In 2005 on October 13th I went to a dance at the Cat 'n' Fiddle restaurant in Concord, New Hampshire. At the dance I met Levi. He and I became friends and have been friends for so long. In the next step we became boyfriend and girlfriend and now we are engaged to be married to become husband and wife. We are both really happy that this finally worked out between us. We are really happy that we will be together forever.

In our world, we can create many paths to make new friends. Sometimes it's hard to make friends. Here are some ways to make friends. You can always join a club that interests you to make friends or you can be involved with activities to make friends. You could also join charity programs to make friends or be involved with a church choir. Singing is a good healthy way of making friends.

Something about friends that I have learned when I was in Girls Scouts was a song.

*"Make new friends but keep the old, one is silver
And the other is gold."*

It is good to keep the old friends, but it's also good to make new friends. Good friends will never let you down; they always catch you when you fall.

The one thing that friends have in common with each other is their friendship. It is a good thing to have friends who are strong, brave, and not afraid to go after their dreams. Even when friends move on with their life or have boyfriends or girlfriends or jobs or even get married, the one thing that they still have is each other and their friendship will last forever.

* * * * *

BARRIER FREE

Children at Beaver Meadow public elementary school in Concord have been making models for a barrier free, natural playground the school is creating. The 400-student elementary school broke ground in June, 2008, on a \$135,000 playground that they hope will be a national model for accessibility. The



Photo by Dan Habibi/Institute on Disability

playground is designed to promote a love of nature, physical fitness, and social interactions. Children of all abilities will be able to go to every area and participate and be successful. In addition to being designed as a barrier-free playground for children with physical disabilities, the natural playground model has proven to be more welcoming to children with neurological disabilities like autism. Beaver Meadow is the most accessible school in the district, but currently has one of the least accessible playgrounds. The school's PTO is actively fundraising for the project. Donations can be sent to: Attn: Accessible Playground, Beaver Meadow School PTO, c/o Lauren Henry, Ph.D. & Tish Murphy, PTO CO-Presidents, 40 Sewall Fall Road, Concord, New Hampshire 03301. The Beaver Meadow Parent/Teacher Organization is an established 501 C 3 Non-profit Organization.

Giggles & Grins Family Resource Centers Jeff Keith, Lake Region Community Services

Have you ever wished that there was a place you could go with your children that would allow you to connect easily with other families in a supportive environment? Families raising a child today face a multitude of challenges. Increasingly, there are more single parent households, families where both parents work full time, blended families, and more grandparents who are raising their grandchildren. Nearly all families struggle to balance the demands of work, parenting, and running a household.

Fortunately, for families in the Lakes Region there is a place to turn. Supported by Lakes Region Community Services (LRCS), Giggles & Grins Family Resource Centers can be found in downtown Laconia, Alton, New Hampton, and Plymouth. The Centers offer weekly playgroups that provide children with a safe place to

play while their parents and caregivers have an opportunity to discuss concerns and share ideas with one another. Giggles & Grins hosts monthly educational workshops on a variety of topics, including: budgeting, nutrition, and parenting techniques. Parents and caregivers are invited to drop in any time to find out about resources, get information about effective parenting, and learn more about how to meet the challenges that come with raising children. Information about child care and child care referral services is also available.

In keeping with LRCS' mission, Giggles & Grins Centers are fully inclusive and welcome all families in the community. For more information on the programs and services offered through Giggles & Grins Family Resource Centers, please contact Mary Beshta, LRCS Resource Coordinator, at 524.8811, ext. 175, or at www.lrcs.org

Recreation Resources

Northeast Passage

Northeast Passage, founded in 1990, is a nationally recognized leader in the provision of innovative therapeutic recreation services. Northeast Passage delivers disability-related health promotion and adapted sports programs throughout New England.

Hewitt Hall
4 Library Way
Durham, NH 03824
Voice: 603-862-0070
Fax: 603-862-2722
TTY: NH Relay 800-735-2964,
ME Relay 207-955-3323
<http://www.nepassage.org/>

Northeast Passage has an extensive list of recreation resources, including adaptive sports, specific sports, adaptive equipment, and most anything else you can think of relating to recreation. <http://www.nepassage.org/resources.html>

National Center on Physical Activity and Disability has many helpful resources on their website, including:

Discover Camp: Considerations for Sending your Child to Camp for the First Time. <http://www.ncpad.org/get/discover/index.html>

Accessible parks throughout the United States: <http://www.ncpad.org/parks/index.php>

Accessible fitness and recreation programs throughout the United States <http://www.ncpad.org/programs/>

Accessible gardening http://www.ncpad.org/yourwrites/fact_sheet.php?sheet=244&view=all
and http://www.ncpad.org/fun/fact_sheet.php?sheet=301

New England Handicapped Sports Association

PO Box 2135
Newbury, NH 03255-2135
603-763-9158 – Ask for Tom Kersey, Director
Fax: 603-763-4400
Email: info@nehsa.org
<http://www.nehsa.org/index.cfm>

Enabling Devices: Toys for Special Children

A company dedicated to developing affordable learning and assistive devices to help people of all ages who have disabling conditions.

385 Warburton Avenue
Hastings on Hudson, NY 10706
914-478-0960
800-832-8697
914-478-7030 (fax)
<http://enablingdevices.com/catalog>

Camp resource guide for parents of children with a disability, <http://www.indiana.edu/~nca/discover/preparing/index.html>

Resources for Traveling

Access-Able Travel Source

Providing Access Information and Resources to the Mature and Travelers with Disabilities Since 1995

http://access-able.com/graphical_index.html

AbleData Travel Resources

<http://www.abledata.com/abledata.cfm?pageid=113573&top=16052>

AccessAnything.net

"Go anywhere. Do Anything!" This website has accessible travel information and tips. <http://www.accessanything.net/>

SUPPORT THE RAP SHEET!

For the past three years, the Rap Sheet has provided an in depth examination of issues affecting people with disabilities and their families. The federal grant dollars that have helped to finance the publication of the Rap Sheet are drying up. We are asking for your support to help ensure that we can continue to bring you the latest in disability research, advocacy, policy, and practice. To make an online donation, please go to: <http://www.drcnh.org/donate.htm>, or send your check to the Disabilities Rights Center, 18 Low Avenue, Concord, NH 03301. Donations are tax deductible. *Thank you!*



Second Annual Assistive Technology Summer Institute

ATinNH.org, in collaboration with Northeast Passage and Crotched Mountain, presents a fun hands-on summer workshop series.

- Mon., Aug. 4: Adaptive Golf Clinic, 9:00-11:30
 Tues., Aug. 5: It's Summer; Let's Play! Using Play to Increase Augmentative and Alternative Communication Success
 Wedn., Aug. 6: The Latest and Greatest Technology for Trainers and Teachers*
 Thurs., Aug. 7: Jammin' with Dave and Dan – Adaptive Music for All
 Fri., Aug. 8: IntelliTools Training Classroom Suite 4 *
 Date: August 4 - 8, 2008
 Location: Canterbury Woods Country Club, Canterbury, NH
 Time: August 5-8th workshops – 9:00- 3:00
 Cost: Monday – \$35
 Tuesday-Friday – \$75 each
 Entire institute \$300
 Presenters: Tom Carr, CTRS, Dr. Phyllis Watson, CCC-SLP, Dr. Therese Willkomm, Dan Herlihy, and David Kontak

*Laptop computers are required for workshops held on August 6th and August 8th. A limited number of loaner laptops will be available.

Third Annual Achievement in Dropout Prevention and Excellence (APEX) Summer Leadership Institute

Dropout Prevention: Reforming New Hampshire's High Schools with Leadership, Teamwork, and Data-Based Decision Making

- Dates: August 20–21, 2008
 Location: Attitash Inn and Conference Center, Bartlett, NH
 Time: Wednesday: 8:30-4:45, dinner at 6:30; Thursday: 8:30-1:30
 Cost: \$125 per person; \$240 per person with overnight accommodations
 Presenters: Paul K. Leather, LeDerick R. Horne, Hank Bohannon, Ph.D., Larry Kortering, Ph.D., and Howard Muscott, Ed.D.

Tenth Annual Autism Summer Institute

Emotion, Behavior, and Belonging: New Perspectives on Including Children and Youth with Autism Spectrum Differences in Schools and Communities

This 3½ day conference, presented by the New Hampshire Resource Center on Autism Spectrum Disorders, will feature

keynote presentations by individuals with ASD, opportunities to develop specific action plans, and breakout sessions on a variety of topics including: functional behavioral assessment, bullying, and the role of paraprofessionals. Participants will gain skills and knowledge to help them support the full participation of students with ASD in their schools and communities.

- Date: August 11–14, 2008
 Location: Holloway Commons, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH
 Time: Monday–Wednesday: 8:15-3:30; Thursday: 8:15-12:00
 Cost: Professionals: \$399; Parents/Full-Time Students/Self-Advocates: \$299; Groups of 3 or more (subject to verification): \$349; Keynote(s) only: \$30 each

Keynote: Amanda Baggs, CarolAnn Edscorn,
 Presenters: Ros Blackburn

*Reduced rate available for rooms at the New England Center and Holiday Inn Express until June 26, 2008.

Real Choice Systems Transformation Conference

Cultivating Real Choice for All: Partnerships for Inclusive Communities
 A one day conference to share ideas on how to make YOUR community more livable.

- Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2008
 Location: SERESC, 29 Commerce Drive, Bedford, NH
 Time: 8:00am-4:00pm
 Cost: Registration to be announced
 Sponsors: CMS Real Choice Systems Change Grants, NH Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Community Based Care Services, UNH Institute on Disability

4 EASY WAYS TO REGISTER!

- 1  online
WWW.IOD.UNH.EDU
- 2  call to register or to request a registration form
603.228.2084
- 3  mail a completed registration form
**INSTITUTE ON DISABILITY
56 OLD SUNCOOK ROAD, SUITE 2
CONCORD, NH 03301**
- 4  fax a completed registration form
603.228.3270

DISABILITIES RIGHTS CENTER, INC.

18 Low Avenue, Concord, NH 03301-4971

Voice and TDD: (603) 228-0432 ♦ 1-800-834-1721 ♦ FAX: (603) 225-2077

TDD access also through NH Relay Service: 1-800-735-2964 (Voice and TDD)

E-mail: advocacy@drcnh.org ♦ Website: www.drcnh.org

"Protection and Advocacy System for New Hampshire"

The Disabilities Rights Center is dedicated to eliminating barriers to the full and equal enjoyment of civil and other legal rights for people with disabilities.

INSTITUTE ON DISABILITY/UCED – UNIVERSITY OF NH

10 West Edge Drive, Suite 101, Durham, NH 03824-3522

Phone (Tel/TTY): (603) 862-4320 ♦ Fax: (603) 862-0555 ♦ Website: www.iod.unh.edu

Institute on Disability/UNH – Concord

56 Old Suncook Road, Suite 2

Concord, NH 03301

Phone (Tel/TTY): (603) 228-2084

Institute on Disability/UNH – Manchester

340 Commercial Street, 2nd floor

Manchester, NH 03101

Phone: (603) 628-7681

The Institute on Disability advances policies and systems changes, promising practices, education and research that strengthen communities and ensure full access, equal opportunities, and participation for all persons.

NH COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

21 South Fruit Street, Suite 22, Room 290

Concord, NH 03301-2451

Phone: (603) 271-3236 ♦ TTY/TDD: 1-800-735-2964 ♦ Website: www.nhddc.org

Dignity, full rights of citizenship, equal opportunity, and full participation for all New Hampshire citizens with developmental disabilities.

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New Hampshire

RAP Sheet

The Latest in Disability Research, Advocacy, Policy, and Practice

Summer Issue 2008

NH COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

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Concord, NH 03301-2451

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