Dear Friends of empower: abilities,

We are excited to announce the launch of our new website www.empowerabilities.org. Along with the name that connects to our mission, our website connects us to the world at large. The new site reflects how we continue to evolve with the times and seek new ways to provide relevant and quality services. This site is user friendly and is compatible with most screen readers.

Be sure to take a look at our new blog, Embrace This Ability, for all topics and resources disability related. Also featured on the new website are portraits of local people with disabilities shot by Randy Bacon. We are proud to share his work along with well designed, easy to navigate, and an accessible place to find essential information about our programs and services. I personally would like to thank those involved for making this new site come to life.

Shannon Porter
CEO

MISSION:

To remove barriers and empower independent living for all people with disabilities.

VISION:

To assist all people with disabilities to live their fullest life and participate in an accessible world of social equality.
COME CELEBRATE WITH US

Happy Anniversary

ADA!

Come celebrate the 29th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act!

July 26th 2019  1:30 PM to 4:45 PM
empower: abilities building B
1450 W. Cambridge

Dessert, snacks, games and more!
Movie screening of Music Within at 3:00 PM
RSVP to Shelby Butler (417) 886-1188 ext.214

"OUR VOICE" NEWSLETTER

If you have suggestions for stories or content you would like to see in the newsletter, please email cboyle@empowerabilities.org.
BE THE CHANGE YOU WISH TO SEE IN THE WORLD

Seth Cote - KPM’s Youth Leader of the Year recipient is doing just that!

Seth Cote is an 18 year old senior at Kickapoo High School in Springfield, MO. He started volunteering at empower: abilities in 2017 and has accumulated 479 volunteer hours to date. He works on building ramps, walker steps and handrails to help individuals have access in and out of their homes and to date has helped 75 individuals with this access. Seth has grown into a leader taking on that role in projects with fraternities, church groups and other nonprofits. Seth has been a huge part of the growth of this program run by his father Eric Cote.

In addition to his man hours, Seth has been a huge advocate for those with disabilities helping to bring awareness to the community and his peers. Seth is a straight “A” student with perfect attendance for 12 years. Seth was recently awarded the Youth Leader of the Year award by KPM and we couldn’t agree more! He is the recipient of the Board of Governors Scholarship and the Kickapoo U Scholarship. Seth is an inspiring individual that shows us all at a young age how to “Be the Change.”
New Support Group

Meet & Greet
July 12, 2019 1:30-3:30
(first Friday of every month)

Location: empower: abilities
Building B - Community Room
1450 W. Cambridge Street

RSVP Allison Robertson
417.886.1188 ext 240

Acceptance Begins with a Smile --

Life After Amputation

Post-Polio:
Even months - 3rd Mon 1:30 - 3:30
Contact csefiane@swcil.org

Youth Social Club Springfield
2nd Thursday 4:30-6:30
Contact bgober@swcil.org for dates

Circle of Friends Social Club
Wednesdays 1:30 - 3:30
Contact samschler@swcil.org for dates

Women Inventing Tomorrow
Odd Months - 1st Thursday 1:30 - 3:30
Contact samschler@swcil.org

Craft Group
Mondays 1:30-3:30
Contact samschler@swcil.org for dates

Spinal Cord Injury Support Group
Beyond Mobility
3rd Thursday 4:00 - 5:00
Contact bgober@swcil.org

Live and Thrive
Wednesdays 1:30-3:30
Contact samschler@swcil.org for dates

Cooking Club
Thursdays 11:30-1:00
Contact bhopkins@swcil.org for dates

July - September www.empowerabilities.org Page 4
The food was provided by empower: abilities and prepared by our amazing volunteer Marci Hinnen. The guests dined on sliders, meatballs, fruit, cheesecake bites, cupcakes and more. There were 64 youth that attended along with 61 staff/parents/guests. We had 16 volunteers and 6 empower: abilities staff on hand to make for one unforgettable night.

Swift Photos was on hand to capture all the magical moments along with a photo booth by Fun Pics. The Vintage Cupcake Co. did not disappoint with custom fairy tale cookies.
Ramps, Ramps and More Ramps
It has been a busy year for Eric and our RAMPS Program with 17 builds in May and June and 140 volunteers. Pictured above was United Way’s Day of Caring. empower: abilities, along with volunteers from John Deere, completed a ramp for a 17 year old girl with cerebral palsy. Ramps provide independent living for so many.

If you would like to volunteer to help build independence, please contact Eric Cote at 417.886.1188 ext. 318.

The ADA Poses New Expectations on Dentists
The American Dental Association recently revised its code of conduct to prohibit denial of care to patients with physical, developmental or intellectual disabilities. In cases where a dentist does not have the equipment or expertise, the code now requires them to refer to an appropriate dentist rather than turning them away.

Dr. James Smith, who leads the Ethics Council of the Dental Association stated "We recognize that addressing this and including this in the code of conduct helps to ensure that we are providing justice and equality for individuals with disabilities." Because of lack of access to dental care, advocates say people with disabilities are at higher risk for poor oral health.
The 2019 Missouri legislative session officially ended on Friday May 17th at 6:00 p.m. Over the last few months we have testified on bills, had meetings with key legislators and gone to the Capitol to advocate with legislators.

**CILs for the Win!**
- 1.5% provider rate increase.
- $500,000 increase in IL funding for CILs.
- Funding for additional IL waivers.
- Extension of the Ticket to Work Health Assurance program until 2025
- Extension of the Non-Medicaid Eligible program until 2025, pending funding. This program was at serious risk of ending and advocates reached out to their legislators and helped save the program!
- Passage of CDS reforms that will help ensure the integrity of the program.
- Successfully helped prevent Medicaid work requirements and block grants.

Contact sbutler@swcil.org for information

---

**Landlord Training**

**June 27th at 6 pm**
OACAC presents: Weatherization and Resources for Energy Efficiency

**August 29th**
5:00-5:30 PM
Presentation: Service Animals and High Barrier Tenants
5:30-6:00 PM
Light Dinner and Vendor Fair
6:00-6:30 PM
Service Animals by HUD

---

**Friday Forum meets**
July 26th and September 27th
1:30 pm -3:30pm Building B
Contact Shelby Butler 417.886.1188 ext 214
Main Office:
2864 S. Nettleton Ave.
Springfield, MO 65807

Voice/TTY: 417.886.1188
Toll Free: 800.676.7245
Fax: 417.886.3619
Email: www.empowerabilities.org

Please contact us to receive a copy of Our Voice.

Celebrating 5 years Transitioned

Delores transitioned from a nursing facility back in 2014 and at 90 years old she is celebrating 5 years of independent living. She is thriving, happy, safe and comfortable. The MFP (Money Follows the Person) program allowed her the opportunity to gain her independence back and start fresh with a new way to keep her disabled son close in her life. Empower: abilities Transitions Program transitions qualified individuals from nursing facilities or rehabilitation centers to the community. Transition coordinators will help people with the planning process, finding housing, applying for community supports and setting up the new household.

Contact Steve Wright for more information.
417.886.1188 ext.310

Go Paperless

Help make the world a healthier and greener place by going paperless. Email: ahumphrey@swcil.org to receive your electronic copy of Our Voice.

Follow us on Instagram @empower.abilities

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Springfield, MO
Permit No. 246