

DISABILITY RIGHTS **IN ACTION**

A Newsletter of the Center for Disability Rights, Inc. / Fall 2017

The Fight to Save Our Lives & Liberty Continues!

In our last two newsletters we've told you about all of our efforts in Washington, D.C. and across the nation to fight the Medicaid cuts that keep appearing in every proposed healthcare reform bill. In March we joined ADAPT in D.C. to fight the House version of the bill, and throughout this past summer we travelled across the U.S. to fight the Senate bill. Our efforts paid off as the Senate bill did not receive enough votes back in July.



Susan Stahl and other ADAPT protestors in Washington during the fall action trip.

Unfortunately, a new bill with the same drastic cuts to Medicaid was proposed in September. This bill, known as the Graham-Cassidy bill, threatened the lives and liberty of all disabled people who rely on Medicaid for our long term community based services, such as attendant services.

In late September, about 40 people from Rochester traveled to Washington, D.C. for the annual Fall ADAPT Action. During this weeklong action we joined over 150 other activists to fight for Disability Rights. During the week we protested many places, including one very long day at the Senate Finance Hearing on the Graham-Cassidy bill. We marched to the Senate offices at 4:30am so that we could be the first people in line to get into the hearing room. Because the hearing did not start until 2pm, hundreds of us lined the hallways to the hearing room to wait. When they finally opened the doors, not all of us ADAPTs could fit into the room, so many of us still lined the hallways.

When the hearing began, ADAPT began chanting "No cuts to Medicaid! Save our liberty!" The ADAPT members in the hearing room were removed from the room and arrested, but the rest of us in the hallway continued chanting. Our chants could be heard very clearly in the hearing room and individuals watching the hearing online reported that they could hear ADAPT chanting to save Medicaid!

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Roberta Wallach
Board Chair

Bruce E. Darling
President/CEO

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www.cdrnys.org

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Center for Disability Rights works to ensure the full integration, independence and civil rights of people with disabilities and seniors in the community.

Dear Friends,

Our fall ADAPT action coincided with an attempt to push yet another health care bill through the Senate, which included the same drastic Medicaid cuts. ADAPT's protests at the Senate committee hearing went viral, and the bill was pulled from going to a vote. This provided us with opportunities to pursue other means of advocacy, such as obtaining support for the Disability Integration Act and protesting to Cabinet matters on disability issues at hand.

On a sadder note, one of our Board members, Nicholas Jones, passed away on September 11, 2017. He served us for many years, and was the leader of our Development committee. Please be sure to read more about him on page 6 of the newsletter.

Please contact us to learn more about CDR and how you can get more involved with us. Stay tuned for more fun events and exciting news for this year and beyond!

Bruce E. Darling

CDR's Staff Highlight: Tim Rowe

As you can imagine, there is a great deal of work that goes on behind the scenes at CDR to keep everything running smoothly. Keeping our building clean and safe for both our staff and our consumers requires a great amount of work each and every day.

Tim joined CDR in October 2016 on a part time basis, and four months later, he became full time on a moment's notice. He immediately jumped in and assumed the lead responsibilities of maintaining the building, including organizing the mechanical rooms and our off-site storage. Whether it is cleaning the restrooms and floors, or our entire facility after our Accessible Trick-or-Treat event, we depend on him to do it all. He is ready to put in long days and weekends to get the job done.

In addition to being willing and ready to go the extra mile for our events and day-to-day needs, Tim does it all with a smile on his face. We want to thank him and acknowledge his hard work, positive attitude, and commitment to CDR.



Tim sporting an ADAPT t-shirt.

Accessible Halloween Trick or Treat

Big thanks to our sponsors for their generous contributions to our annual Accessible Trick or Treat event on Thursday, October 26, 2017. Your support means a great deal for the inclusion of children with disabilities of the Rochester community, in celebrating Halloween. It was a fun night for families to treasure.

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for a fun, safe, & fully-accessible Halloween!

MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!

December 15, 2017

Secret Santa Gift Exchange/Lunch, 12-2:30pm

Golden Corral, 450 Jefferson Rd., Rochester, NY

RSVP to Kelly Peeso at kpees@cdrnys.org or 585.546.7510

December 2017

End of Year Party, Details to be announced soon!

Contact events@cdrnys.org or 585.546.7510

Updates From Advocacy Team

The last few months the Advocacy Team has been working on very little sleep in our fight to #SaveMedicaid while putting on some great events!



In July, the Advocacy Team joined 200+ people on the National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) march on Capitol Hill, where we gathered in the atrium of the Senate Hart building to protest the vote on Medicaid cuts that would happen that same day. Chants like “No Cuts to Medicaid, Save our Liberty!” could be heard echoing through the atrium as advocates fought passionately for their lives and freedom.

In July and August, we held two Legislative Breakfasts - one in Rochester, and one in our

Geneva office - where constituents had an opportunity to speak with their legislators about important disability issues. On both occasions we had a packed room and some great conversations.

Also in August, CDR held the Free Our People Film Contest at The Little Theatre to show the results of many months of hard work. The films were all focused on deinstitutionalization. We had some really great showings and CDR thanks everyone who participated in making this event successful!

In September, CDR hosted a Core Advisory Group briefing with FEMA to come up with real solutions to emergency management in the Disability Community in Monroe County. As a result, the group will continue to meet and talk about issues like proper captioning and access to interpreters during emergency situations. Stay tuned to see what we do next!

Want to join us on our Advocacy Trips? Call us at (585) 546-7510 or email us at advocacy@cdrnys.org to join our Advocacy Group!

The Fight Continued From Page 1

In the end, those of us chanting in the hallway were also arrested. Over 115 ADAPT members were arrested that day because we chose to fight to save Medicaid so that disabled Americans do not lose their vital Medicaid funded services and supports.

Our efforts and arrests paid off though! Within 24 hours of our protest, the bill was dead! We are celebrating this victory now as we prepare for the next threat to Medicaid.

To see how you can help, you can contact the Advocacy Team at: (585) 546-7510.

What's New In Albany

The Advocacy Team met with Paul Francis, Assistant Deputy Secretary for Health & Human Services (New York State) to discuss some of the Disability Community's priorities, including filling and staffing the Office of the Advocate For People with Disabilities, Wages, Visitability.

The Advocacy Team also had been working on getting the Governor to sign the Visitability and CRT reimbursement bills; unfortunately, both were vetoed. We are continuing to encourage support for the Pooled Trust bill.

Local & National Updates

The Advocacy Team has returned from a week long advocacy trip with National ADAPT; their actions along with all the people who called and emailed their legislators resulted in the Medicaid bill not passing once again!

Rochester's City Council has approved a closed captioning ordinance that will require any business that provides television access to its patrons to utilize the closed captioning option. This was as a result of persistent advocacy from the Advocacy Team!

Contact Advocacy



(585) 546-7510
Ask for Advocacy!



advocacy@cdrnys.org
Email Our Team!

Get Involved With Us Today!

Social Adult Day Services

Our recreation offerings provide many opportunities that tie into the present and upcoming autumn and winter holiday seasons. These include a fall foliage boat ride on the Harbor Town Belle, our annual Thanksgiving lunch, and the Christmas party. Other highlights will include a trip to Wickham farms, crafts, baking, making cards for our military members, and a Secret Santa Gift exchange. And our Canandaigua Social Adult Day Program is settled into its new space.

The Canandaigua Social Adult Day Program welcomes Sarah, a Canandaigua Academy work study student, who conducts fitness classes. Additionally, she leads the arts and crafts activities, and helps with lunch and cleanup. We are grateful to have Sarah help out this school year, as she and her teacher aid Sue are both the perfect addition to the Day Services team! We are also very happy to offer young adults this intergenerational experience.

*Sarah (at left), and her
teacher aid, Sue (at right)*



Service Coordination

Service Coordinators are an essential support to countless consumers served by CDR. Service Coordinators perform many “behind the scenes” functions that are vital to making sure members of the disability community have every opportunity to live free, independent, and enriched lives. One Waiver participant who lives in the Rochester area was unable to leave her home for many months, isolated from her family, friends, and community. She uses a wheelchair and her home was inaccessible, and it was becoming increasingly difficult for Medicaid transportation staff to carry her up and down the stairs, often unable to do so at all.

Her Service Coordinator located a doctor who would visit her at home, but this was not a long-term solution. Her Service Coordinator continued to seek solutions and applied for an Environmental Modification through the Waiver program which was subsequently approved. Due to the perseverance of her Service Coordinator, and the Waiver Program, she now has a ramp for her home, is able to regularly attend her medical appointments, and can see her family whenever she wants.

CDR Wins 2017 Local National Disability Employment Awareness Month Award

To celebrate National Disability Employment Awareness Month this October, the Rochester Area Employment Network held an employer recognition event on Wednesday October 25, 2017 at the Kodak Center for the Performing Arts. During this event, a number of organizations were recognized for their commitment to providing employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities, showcasing the importance of inclusion in the workplace. We are honored to have Center for Disability Rights (CDR) acknowledged as a local winner, and we were presented with a 2017 Business Certificate during the event. We at CDR strive to promote equal employment opportunities for all, and thank those organizations who value the importance of inclusion. We would also like to thank Julia Rood (ACCES-VR), for nominating CDR for this award.

A Tribute to Nicholas Jones



We are grateful to Nick Jones, pictured smiling in blue shirt and eyeglasses, for his service to CDR.

Nicholas Jones passed away in Rochester, NY, on September 11, 2017. Nick Jones's service to CDR and RCIL is truly memorable. Nick joined the CDR board in 2011, having previously served on the RCIL board. He chaired the Development Committee, and was a member for over eight years.

Nick, the retired Director of Development for Fairport Baptist Homes Caring Ministries (FBH), worked in health care administration, fund development marketing, and public relations for more than 30 years for FBH, St. John's Home, and the University of Rochester Medical Center. Prior to entering the health care field, he was the general manager of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, and Assistant to the General Manager, Tour Manager, and Director of Development for the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra. In his "prior" life, he was a reporter and editor for the Indianapolis News.

Nick had been a part-time faculty member in the Department of English at RIT since 1977, and at Genesee Community College since 2003. He also taught at Monroe Community College, Nazareth College, Indiana University / Purdue University at Indianapolis (IUPUI), and Ohio University. He held a Bachelor of Arts degree from DePauw University (Indiana), and a Master of Arts degree from Ohio University.

Nicholas Jones's Obituary

Brighton: Nicholas L. Jones, son of Charles and Mary Jones, was born March 24, 1935 in Indianapolis, IN, and died in Rochester, NY on Sept. 11, 2017. He is survived by his wife Susan Hart Jones, his children; Geoffrey and Lisa Jones (wife), Michael Jones, Elizabeth and Adam Newton (husband), Katherine Jones and Renee Tripp (wife), his nine grandchildren William, Charles, Nathan, Elias, Owen, Brannon, Collin, Kate, Kris, sister-in-law Nancy Hart Brendsel, sister Nancy and Edward Madison (husband), and their family.

He received his BA from DePauw University and his MA in English from Ohio University. Nick worked at the Indianapolis News from 1962-66. He was assistant manager of the Indianapolis Symphony from 1966-70 and GM of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra from 1970-76. Nick then had a distinguished career in PR and development. He was a revered adjunct professor at R.I.T. for 40 years and G.C.C. for 14 years.

Nick was a long-time member of St. Thomas' Episcopal Church. He served as Senior Warden and on the Board of Trustees of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester. He was a dedicated husband in his 57 years of marriage to Susie. Nick was a devoted family man and loyal friend. He instilled a love of music, literature, sports, and travel in his children. Nick will be greatly missed by all.

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Upcoming Board Meeting

December 21, 2017
11:00am-1:00pm

For dates of upcoming board meetings, please contact Linda Taylor:
Ltaylor@cdrnys.org

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Ltaylor@cdrnys.org

WAYS TO SUPPORT & JOIN US

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START YOUR CAREER WITH CDR TODAY! JOIN OUR TEAM

Interested in starting your career with Center for Disability Rights?

Visit www.cdrnys.org for a complete list of our current job postings! Apply online and join the CDR family!

All About You Homecare, AAY, is looking for talented individuals to join the AAY team! They also provide PCA trainings! Contact us to learn more about both opportunities! Job postings for AAY can be found on CDR's website.

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING WITH CDR? LET US KNOW!

CDR has a variety of events and other volunteer opportunities throughout the year. Whether you are interested in a one time volunteer experience or an ongoing weekly/monthly opportunity, please contact us today and see what we have available!

CDR collaborates with the Regional Center for Independent Living, so there is always a need for volunteers on a variety of projects!



This year, give a gift that lives on year-round.

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