



The NOODLE

Open up and say AHHHH!!!



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Welcome to the October 2021 edition of *The Noodle*, written and published by the FYC. For this issue of *The Noodle*, members of the FYC were asked to write about Disability History and Awareness Weeks. This topic allowed members to share their thoughts on what it is like to have a disability and why kids in school should be taught about it. We hope you will take a few minutes out of your busy schedule to learn about our experiences and enjoy our thoughts and opinions in this edition of *The Noodle*!

Believe in yourself!!

Current Members:

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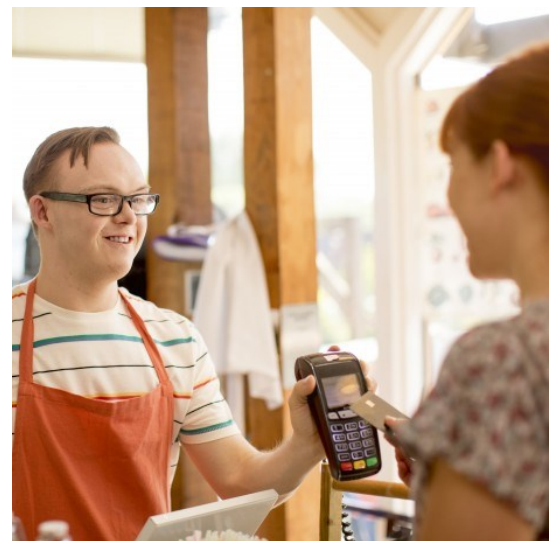
Let's Make Everyone Aware!

October is designated as National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM). Each October is a good time to educate people about disabilities and making sure that people with disabilities have the knowledge required to carry out a job. It is also a good time to celebrate the contributions of all of our workers with disabilities.

It is no longer enough just to know that disability discrimination is unlawful. Now, we must make sure we train and include a workforce that is welcoming to people with disabilities. On every day of NDEAM, we must make sure that employers know about us. In fact, this should be carried on throughout the year, not just in October.

We need to be mindful of the disabilities that people may have, whether they are physical or intellectual, and boost them up to their highest potential.

The 2021 NDEAM theme will be “America’s Recovery: Powered by Inclusion.” This theme is appropriate because, as the U.S. Department of Labor states, it advocates for “full access to employment and community involvement during the national recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.”



What can we do to observe the NDEAM? The Department of Labor provides many things to do and says we should plan to do something every day during the month. We can talk about disability awareness on social media, hold discussions about its importance, distribute the NDEAM posters in our towns and cities, employers can schedule special trainings and courses, and we can write articles about it in our newsletters – which is exactly what we are doing!

By John Howard Baldino



Disability History and Awareness Crossword

M B J O W M T R O L T Q H U T X S X F X F Z V L
 S S A F O P H O E G B K E S P V Y R P Y T K Y R
 L P R B D X O U X L J Y S Q O Y S B I T E C W R
 Q F Z G O R H G X W L N R Y A K J W S I Y F L D
 V I P A U K V D I Q T E G J U V O J S L Z P R N
 Z T R A D N I T S U J W K V P L W S J I P W E B
 F T Q Z C T M M L A B L I N D X H L M B P G O A
 A L Y Z L A O I W D J G B F E L C B J A O L O Z
 E B G J S E L R A H C Y A R O L V G S S X Q R X
 D L A N V F L A B S R D M K B L E B X I I E Q A
 E J T T O Z T F E U C P T E J U Q H E D A E R P
 S H V Y M K E P I L E P S Y R F D D C T Y F D C
 Y Q F V D M T L E V E S O O R D N I L K N A R F
 B B G Y F F F W L U S R A S E A C S U I L U J M
 S K F K M G K H E Y F L K Z D U W E T I V G D R
 O J T D I N H Q R A F H V G J M Y A I N Z N C G
 K F L U A G O O Q R K C N J F Y V V S F B G N J
 V C Y D V Q R M U H T V P R E S I D E N T I T T
 K T J M P E G R U C D D O F O U N Q X P M S L R
 K V G I P Q P Y J N B C F D U F H T A G V O B F
 L N N M G Q L L T Y Y P M V S O Y P D P Y O Q P
 L M E J D U U H E K R J V X I N V F C D Q S M P
 K O Q M K U C C X D I A C Z W I H L D N O V G S
 T H E F L O R I D A Y O U T H C O U N C I L N A



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|-------------|----------------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| Blind | Deaf | Disability | Emperor |
| Epilepsy | Franklin D Roosevelt | Helen Keller | Julius Caesar |
| Justin Dart | President | Ray Charles | The Florida Youth Council |



Learning from Our History

People with disabilities have not always been treated with respect. Historically, people with disabilities were often confined to their homes or institutions. The American Civil War resulted in over 30,000 amputees which brought disability issues forward to the public consciousness. Sadly, after the war and even into the 1970s, many cities across this country began to pass something called unsightly beggar ordinances, also known as ugly laws. Many people with disabilities were forbidden to be seen in public. These laws were applied to amputees, people with visible disease, and even something as simple as a limp. In some places, intellectual disabilities were also included in these reprehensible laws. Laws were even enacted preventing people with disabilities from marrying and having children.



Thankfully, The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 repealed these laws, and the ADA in 1990 prevented any of this type of law from being passed from that point on. Today, people like me with disabilities are able to appear in public, go to school, hold jobs, and generally go about our lives and participate in society. Because of these new laws, for the most part, we enjoy most of the same rights as other people. Unfortunately, there are still times when we can't do things we want. Maybe the second floor doesn't have an elevator. Maybe a family is asked to leave a restaurant because their disabled child is "bothering" someone. Sometimes people stare at us because we are different. So, it is important for us to fight for equality and our rights as others fought for the rights that we have today.

By Serena Wetmore

Disability (Employment) Awareness

As many of you know, or may not know, the first two weeks of October are designated as Disability History & Awareness Weeks in the State of Florida. During these two weeks, there are several special ceremonies, events, and other initiatives that take place.

I thought I'd share about one such initiative that's actually on the national level, and not only runs through our two weeks here in Florida but through the whole month: Disability Employment Awareness Month. It promotes and encourages employers to hire people with disabilities. This has been a long-time challenge, as the percentage of people with disabilities who are successfully employed traditionally has been on the low side.

Although this initiative is only for one month every year, there are countless resources that are available year-round that can help people with disabilities gain and keep meaningful employment. One such resource here in Florida that helps many in this area is Vocational Rehabilitation, commonly simply known as VR.

This is an aspect of disability awareness that is important, and that people need to be aware of.



By Derek Carraway



How Do I Become Part of The Florida Youth Council?

The Florida Youth Council is a group of youth (between the ages of 15 and 17) and emerging leaders (between the ages of 18 and 30) with disabilities or special health care needs that live in Florida.

The Florida Youth Council is all about getting youth and emerging leaders involved in self-advocacy, peer mentoring and other activities that will improve the quality of life for youth and emerging leaders with disabilities in Florida. The program empowers youth and emerging leaders to decide what issues are important to their generation, to discuss those issues in their state and local communities, and to develop strategies to address them.

We are seeking a group of enthusiastic, motivated youth and emerging leaders to participate. If you would like to take a leadership role in advocating for youth and emerging leaders in Florida, please visit The Florida Youth Council website at www.floridayouthcouncil.com. The program is open to application year round. We hope to hear from you soon!



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