



The NOODLE

Open up and say AHHHH!!!



Volume 16, Issue 7

July 2023

Welcome to the July 2023 edition of *The Noodle*, written and published by members of The Florida Youth Council! For this special issue of *The Noodle*, members of the FYC wrote about how The Americans With Disabilities Act has changed their life. This allowed members to ponder, share, express and explore their personal insights, experiences and memories. We hope you enjoy learning about our experiences and our thoughts and opinions in this edition of *The Noodle*!

Current Members:

Catalina Andonie
John Howard Baldino
Shevie Barnes
Derek Carraway
Alexander Gonzalez
Leah Gorman
Morgan Griffin
JJ Humphrey
James Kuhlman
Vanessa Muniz-Pellicer
Michelle Sandiford
Josue Tapia
Lilibeth Vega
Christina Waldron
Serena Wetmore



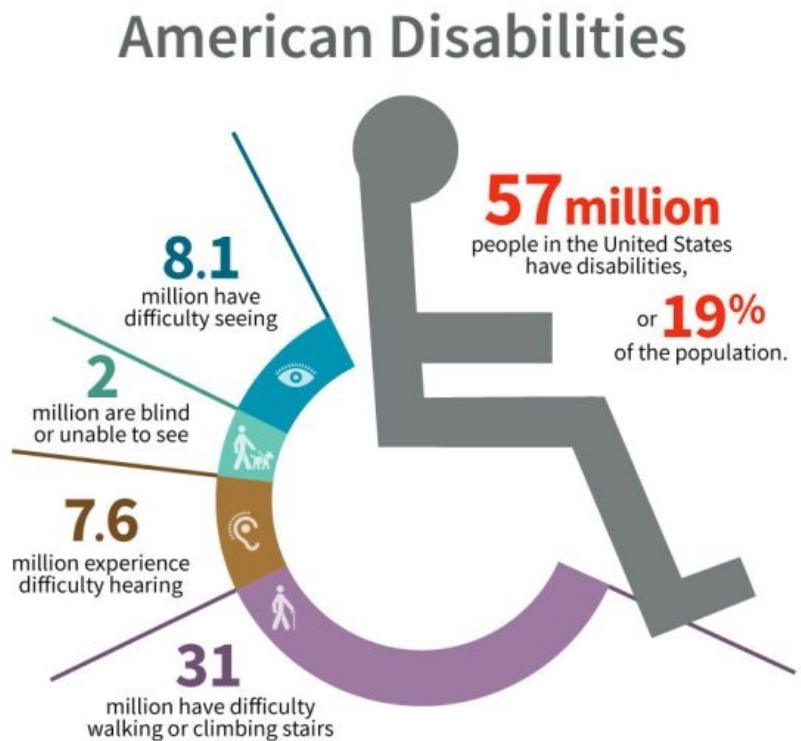
Americans with Disabilities Act

The ADA Changed My Life

Considering I have been disabled since birth I would say the ADA has changed and influenced my life in many positive ways. There are probably countless examples I could share on how it personally has affected me over the years but instead I will just touch on a couple of them that currently affect me at this moment in time. One is the mandate that all public transportation services offer a paratransit service with fixed routes. This allows me to take advantage of the Transportation Disadvantaged service where I live since my disability prevents me from being able to drive. It's not perfect (believe me it's not) but it's better than nothing and it is just one way how the ADA has changed my life because without it providing the provisions for transportation, I'd probably be up the creek.

Another way it has changed my life is the provision that an employer can't discriminate against a qualified individual with a disability and must provide reasonable and appropriate accommodations for them. When I graduated college and was looking for work while having a disability, this certainly affected me and came into play. The area of work I'm currently in is indoors sitting at a desk but if there ever is any lifting requirement or something similar, I require and receive some assistance and that is where the ADA comes in. I'll always be grateful for the passing of the ADA because it has changed not just my life but all people with disabilities and allows us to live our lives as normally as possible without the fear of unlawful discrimination.

By Derek Carraway





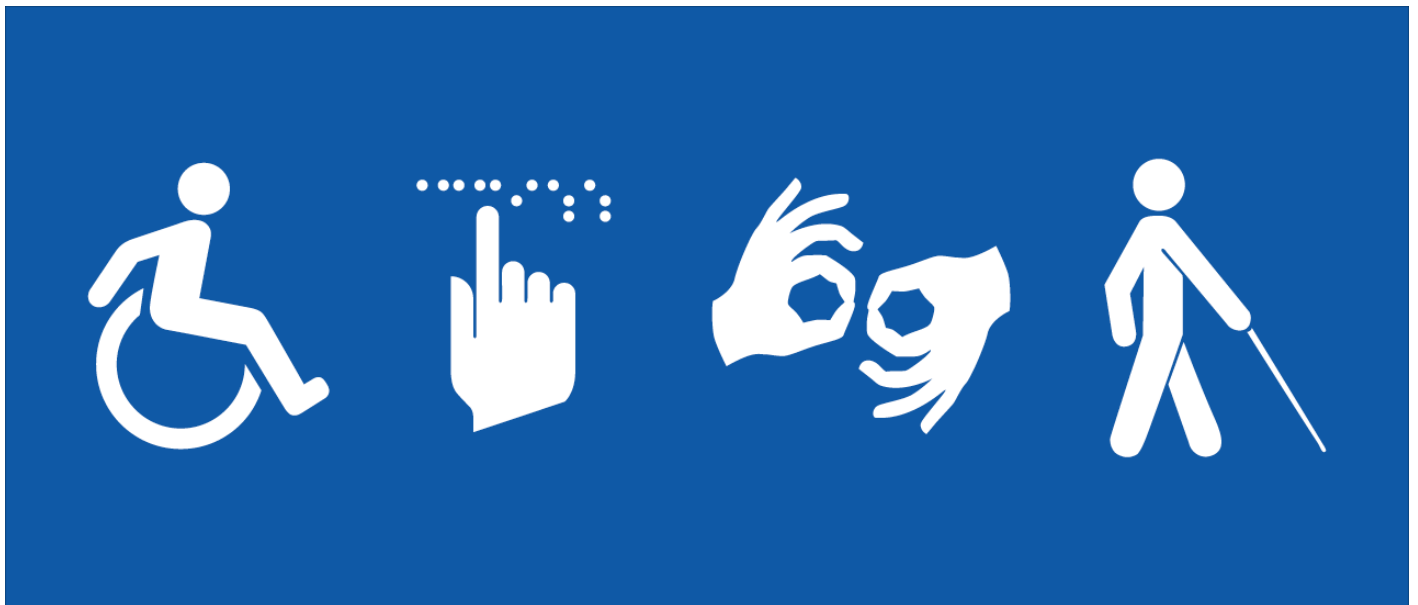
How the Americans with Disabilities Act has Helped Me

The restaurants and handicapped accessibility in January 26,1993 had to be readily accessible to people with disabilities unless it is structurally impracticable to meet the requirements. The standard applies to everything from the inside of the building all the way to the parking lot.

Restaurants that opened before the 1993 cutoff date do not have to be fully accessible. But they must remove architectural and communication barriers if readily achievable and, if not achievable, provide an alternative method of making goods and services available to people with disabilities.

In addition to equal opportunities for people with disabilities to be able to have a job at a restaurant. The ADA has allowed me to be able to go inside a restaurant without any discrimination. All of this could not have been possible without the help of the (ADA) law.

By Chelle Sandiford



Access and Education

As a person with cerebral palsy who needs a wheelchair, the ADA has changed my world in many ways. Since the ADA was put into action, it has paved the way for my education and my mobility. The ADA required public buildings to provide ramps and elevators; now I can get into most public buildings. In addition to those two most essential access tools, power doors make it much easier for people using wheelchairs or walkers to enter the actual building. And something else that people may not realize is that aisles need to be wide enough for wheelchairs to fit through, and those aisles need to be clear. Also, thanks to the ADA, most places have bathrooms that are large enough to comfortably accommodate a wheelchair and even some assistants. Another important thing I should also point out are those wonderful parking spaces with the striped access lane which provides space to load and unload a wheelchair.

The other side of the ADA is school accommodation. I have received paraprofessionals, alternate testing methods such as private rooms so I can talk out loud to a scribe, and extra time (within reason). Because I have some visual issues, I can even have an assistant read things to me if needed. And of course, the school bus which picked me up for several years to go to school made sure I got to school and was able to go on field trips.

There are still things which frustrate me at times. People who use disabled parking spaces unnecessarily or even illegally. Historical buildings which cannot be altered, making it impossible to go upstairs or even enter the building. Buildings that do not have power doors. No, the ADA has not fixed everything, but it sure has made the world a better place for people like me.

By Serena Wetmore



The Importance of the Americans with Disabilities Act in My Life

The U. S. Department of Labor states that “the Americans with Disabilities Act prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in several areas, including employment, transportation, public accommodations, communications and access to state and local government programs and services.” This act is important because everyone should be treated equally. Disabled people are as important as everyone else.

The section of the ADA that impacts my life is ADA Title I that deals with Employment because I want to have a job and establish a career. Title I requires an employer to provide reasonable accommodations. These could include a little more time to complete a task and occasional breaks for rest and job coaching. Sometimes I need time to rest because of my hypotonia and arthritis in my feet. I have been working to try to complete my tasks on time and I mostly can do it, but if I need a few minutes more, the ADA supports that need. I also have a job coach who helps me stay on task. I have a lot of duties where I work at the riding stable. With each new chore, my job coach instructs me about the best way to get it done. In the photo, I am finishing the painting of our red horse sign.



In addition to the ADA, I have gotten support from other laws. The National Voter Registration Act, also known as the Motor Voter Act, made sure I was registered to vote when I turned 18. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, or IDEA, helped me when I was in school with my Individualized Education Program or IEP. The IEP made sure I got therapies and services that I needed to get through school.

By John Howard Baldino



How the ADA has Impacted my Life

I recently started a job, and they have been training me in every station. One of the stations is taking the leftover food from the morning and placing it in a bag to donate. All I need to do is label it with what it is and how much is in there. It sounds like easy work, but for someone who has dyslexia, it's a lot. So, I simply explained that I would need the names written out for me to just copy it or if I could just focus on another station. They did listen and they put me in another station. That's just one example of how the ADA has helped me.

Another time is whenever I go on trips with family (especially with my grandma), we ask for a Wheelchair assessable room with a shower because it's hard for her to get in a bathtub. All those hotel rooms modified for wheelchairs are due to ADA.

By Catalina Andoine



How has the American with disabilities act impacted my life

The American with disabilities act, also known as the ADA, has impacted my life in so many ways that I don't know where to start.

It has all started with changes made to the law. These changes implemented ways that cities, counties, and businesses must retrofit, update, renovate or build accessible infrastructure. This has helped with things like sidewalks that are in bad shape or not accessible. Those issues can be a problem for people including myself that have accessibility issues that make it difficult to see or walk on uneven surfaces. Without being fixed they could cause people to fall and get injured badly. They would have to avoid that area or even walk on the road which is even more dangerous because of the traffic. People often do not pay attention and watch their surroundings because they're distracted by their phone or whatever is going on in their car.



The ADA also helps with ensuring that sidewalks are accessible to individuals in wheelchairs with cut away ramps. Not only does the ADA help with accessibility issues but it ensures that those with disabilities are not discriminated against and have adequate accommodations. This is just a small part of how the ADA has changed my life for the better.

By Morgan Griffin



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!



820 East Park Avenue, Suite F-100
Tallahassee, FL 32301

