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*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has."*

*—Margaret Mead*

## Membership Renewals 2015

October is membership renewal time. If you were a member of the Fair Shake Network in 2014 we hope that you will renew your commitment in working to assure that people with disabilities get a fair shake. Individual membership starts at \$20.00 for one year and organizational membership starts at \$150.00 for one year.

Membership dues support the important work/activities that the FSN engages in to protect and improve the civil rights of people with disabilities and to promote best practices in public policies.

If you have already renewed your membership we thank you so much for your dedication and support.

If you have never been a member of FSN we hope that you will consider joining today.

You will get a full year's membership and the full benefits that come with being a member of the Fair Shake Network such as,

- updates and alerts on state and national legislative actions and issues
- access to training on self-advocacy, leadership, and a range of disability issues
- being part of the larger voice of the disability community in West Virginia and the United States.

To become a member fill out the membership application included in this publication and mail it along with your payment to:

Fair Shake Network  
PO Box 354  
Institute, WV 25112

You can also download an application online at [www.fairshake.org](http://www.fairshake.org)

## *In This Issue...*

- **Membership Renewals**
- **Trainings and Events**
- **New Member Highlight**
- **Family Supports**
- **Including Samuel**
- **FSN Movie Event**
- **Combating Autism Act**
- **And More....**

## New Member Highlight

I am a native of Huntington, WV, my career began in 1980 in the coal industry. I have an Associate's Degree in Office Administration from Marshall University and returned to school to pursue a bachelor's degree in Business Management. I was recently recommended and accepted into Omicron Delta Kappa National Honor Society and served as local chapter historian. I have worked in accounting, marketing, healthcare, caregiving, the computer industry and currently manage the WV Senior Medicare Patrol program in West Virginia at the national non-profit AARP Foundation.

My other work experience includes recruiting and working with volunteers; developing and attending expositions; copy and ad design; and even a career in computer sales and repair. I've done public speaking and held several positions that addressed issues for seniors and people with disabilities over the past 34 years.

I am passionate about equal rights for all people especially those who have a disability. I was diagnosed late in life with ADD and finally had some insight as to why I always struggled with school even though I was smart and made good grades. In addition, my family's lives have been touched with several types of disabilities such as Polycystic Kidney Disease and Spina bifida. My family, as most boomers can attest, is currently caregiving for an aging parent, our mother. The responsibility I feel toward making sure the rights of anyone with a disability are heard is very strong. As part of the FSN, I have joined a committed group of people who are making a difference by standing up for fair and equal rights for all West Virginians.



**Kimberly W. Riddle**  
Senior Program Assistant  
AARP Foundation

## Combating Autism Act of 2011 is now *Autism CARES*

On August 8, 2014, President Obama signed the Autism Collaboration, Accountability, Research, Education, and Support (CARES) Act of 2014. This law reauthorizes the Combating Autism Act of 2011 for five years and adds improvements to the original Act.

Since this law's original enactment in 2006, the law has significantly advanced the science and practice in the disability field by increasing the number, scope, pace, and coordination of research, surveillance, public awareness, and professional training efforts. A huge improvement with the reauthorization is the name change that uses more sensitive language. Additional improvements include:

- An increase in the proportion of infants screened for autism spectrum disorder (ASD).
- An increase in the proportion of children diagnosed by the age of three,
- Continuing improvements to decrease the time between diagnosis and intervention.
- A designated ASD position in the Department of Health and Human Services to oversee the law's implementation.

*(Continued on page 6)*



## *Including Samuel*

### author appointed to President Obama's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities

Dan Habib is a Filmmaker and Project Director of the Inclusive Communities Project at the University of New Hampshire's Institute on Disability, where he has worked since 2008. Mr. Habib created a nationally broadcast film about his son, *Including Samuel*, and has made many other documentaries on topics related to disability and education. He received the Justice for All Grassroots Award from the American Association of People with Disabilities in 2013 and the Champion of Human and Civil Rights Award from the National Education Association (New Hampshire) in 2012. Mr. Habib received a B.A. from the University of Michigan.

Established by President Johnson in 1966, the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities (PCPID) aims to ensure the right of a "decent, dignified place in society" for people with intellectual disabilities. The PCPID promotes policies and initiatives that support independence and lifelong inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities in their respective communities.

The committee's duties include advising the President and Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on issues concerning people with intellectual disabilities such as:

- Expansion of educational opportunities
- Promotion of homeownership
- Assurance of workplace integration
- Improvement of transportation options
- Expansion of full access to community living
- Increasing access to assistive and universally designed technologies

(Continued on page 8)



INCLUDING  
SAMUEL



A DOCUMENTARY BY DAN HABIB

# Save the Date

EDUCATING ADVOCATING  
DISABILITY CAUCUS  
EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES

# 2015

# Disability Caucus

# June 22-26

Sponsored by:

Charleston Marriott



Watch for more info [www.wvsilc.org](http://www.wvsilc.org)

### Plans Include:

- Focus on Youth June 22-23, 2015
  - State and National Speakers
- Policy Issues for West Virginians with Disabilities
  - Hands on Strategy development and implementation
    - Sessions on:
      - Leadership
      - Influencing Policy
      - Roles you can play
- ADA 25 National Tour Stop
- ADA Celebration
- Caucus Awards



## FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM

*By Christy Black, Advocacy Specialist at WVDDC*

In the fall of 1989, the WV Developmental Disabilities Council organized the state's first task force on family support. This was in the response to the national movement away from institutional care. The Council proposed that the WV Department of Health and Human Resources shift funding to family support efforts. In 1991, the WV Legislature found that families are the greatest resource available to individuals with developmental disabilities, and mandated this shift with an initial appropriation of \$200,000 to support four regional programs. Until recently we had 14 behavioral health regions and a budget of over a million dollars.

The program provides funds to families to purchase goods and services included in the family's service plan and that are related to the care of the person who has a developmental disability. This includes things such as: respite care; home and vehicle modifications; specialized clothing; equipment and supplies; special utility costs; and health related costs that are not covered by others means. To maximize the number of families supported by this program, each family would contribute to the cost of goods and services based on their ability to pay, taking into account their needs and resources.

The Family Support Program funds are "funding of last resort," so that needs which can be paid for through other programs are not funded. Families who need the services offered by the Family Support Program do not necessarily qualify for other government assistance programs, such as Medicaid. Families who have private health insurance often have unmanageable out-of-pocket expenses related to the needs of their family member, and many of the needs listed above are not

covered by health insurance. The Medicaid insurance program also does not cover many of those needs, and coverage is very limited for many items.

Unfortunately during the 2015 legislative session, the legislature cut the Family Support Program funding 75% to \$251,000. Because of this funding cut the WV Bureau for Behavioral Health and Health Facilities is restructuring the program into a blended program called the Family and Community Support Program. A purpose of this program is to assist families who have a family member with an intellectual and/or developmental disability living at home to address many of the unique needs that arise in order to help those individuals thrive in the community. It will blend these services with those to develop care coordination services to strengthen the service system in WV and reduce commitments to inpatient psychiatric hospitals. This part of the program is comprised of staff, recently retitled Community Engagement Specialists, who provide community based and person-centered linkage services, and flexible supplemental funds to address emergency needs (medication, personal supplies, temporary housing) as well as pay for goods and services needed to live a safe and stable life in the community.

The WV Bureau for Behavioral Health and Health Facilities issued an announcement of competitive funding availability for six regional Family and Community Support Councils. More will be known about the restructured program once the grants are awarded and the Family and Community Support Councils are in place.

**NOTICE:** The Fair Shake Network reserves the right to edit articles or not print content that does not reflect the mission and values of the Fair Shake Network.

## **VOTE: Let Your Voice Be Heard!**

**By Jan Lilly-Stewart**

West Virginia will hold its general election on Tuesday, November 4, 2014. Although this year is not a Presidential election year it is important for people with disabilities and their family members to vote this November. No matter where you live or what your politics are as a WV citizen and as an American you have the right and responsibility to vote and let your voice be heard! You will have the opportunity on November 4<sup>th</sup> to vote for candidates to represent you in the Senate and House of the WV Legislature and in the US Senate and the US House of Congress.

### **Why Vote?**

- ✓ Vote because you can!
- ✓ Never surrender your right to speak your mind via the vote!
- ✓ Vote because decisions /changes are made by a majority of those who make themselves heard!
- ✓ The reality is, your vote counts!

As citizens with disabilities, it is the responsibility of our community to educate ourselves on the issues that affect our lives. Find out where the candidates stand on the issues and challenges facing citizens with disabilities. Justin Dart, the Godfather of the disability rights movement in this country, said “Get involved in politics as if your life depends on it because it does”. Nothing is truer in this day and age than the first time Justin spoke these words. An activist, Eldridge Clever said, “You are either part of the solution or you are part of the problem”. Voting in this election will make you part of the solution. Let your voice be heard!

If you would like information on voting rights and resources for people with disabilities, voting rules and regulations, where to go to vote, or how to register to vote contact:

WV Secretary of State’s Office at 1-888-SOS-VOTE and/or visit them online at [www.sos.wv.gov](http://www.sos.wv.gov) or contact WV Advocates at 1-800-950-5250 and/or visit them on line [www.wvadvocates.org](http://www.wvadvocates.org) and click on the Voting Rights Video at the bottom on the home page.

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### **Deadline to Register to Vote is October 14, 2014**

The next general election is Tuesday, November 4, 2014 and your best tool for advocacy is to vote. If you are not sure if you are registered to vote you can call your County Clerk’s office or visit the website: <https://apps.sos.wv.gov/elections/voter/Default.aspx>

***In order to be eligible to vote you must register on or before October 14, 2014***

#### ***You must be:***

- A resident of West Virginia and the county where you register,
- An U.S. Citizen
- At least 17 years old and 18 before the next general election on November 4, 2014, and
- Not currently under conviction for a felony, including probation or parole, or a court ruling of mental incompetence. Voting rights are restored when the term of the conviction ends.

Also, any registered voter may cast their ballot during Early Voting at their County Clerk’s office from October 22, 2014 through November 1, 2014.

## Fair Shake Network participates in the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual People First Conference

People First of West Virginia held its annual Self-Advocacy Conference at Jackson's Mill September 3-5, 2014. The Fair Shake Network was one of 4 community organizations that exhibited at the three-day conference. There were 275 self-advocates in attendance. Participants with intellectual, cognitive, and related developmental disabilities attended workshops that were designed to provide knowledge and skills needed to help them successfully advocate for themselves on a variety of issues.



This year's Keynote speakers were Ricardo and Donna Thornton from Washington, D.C. along with Shirley Rees. They showed a 2003 film, "Profoundly Normal" starring Kirstie Alley, which tells the story of Ricardo and Donna who were institutionalized as young children at Forest Haven located in Laurel, Maryland. Forest Haven was a children's developmental center and mental institution which opened in 1925 and closed in 1991 after facing lawsuits and a decline in a need for asylums in the United States as part of the de-institutionalization movement. The film told their heart warming and inspirational story as self-advocates and the barriers

they were able to overcome as they married, lived independently, worked, and became parents themselves. Ricardo pre-recorded a message for the audience, since he was not able to attend in person due to his newly assigned position on the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities. His message and the message of the entire conference was loud and clear: The time to advocate for our rights and our lives is "Right Now!"



Christy Black with the WV Disabilities Council

## Combating Autism Act of 2011 is now *Autism CARES*

*Continued from page 2*

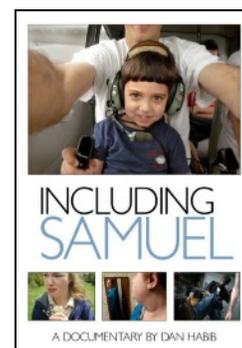
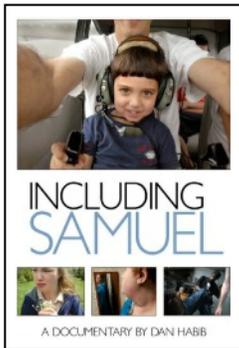
Increased representation of self-advocates and family members on the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee (IACC), and requiring a report on the needs of transitioning youth. According to Peter V. Berns, CEO, The Arc, "health professionals are increasingly better able to serve people with ASD and other developmental disabilities. Greater public awareness and professional education on screening, diagnosis, and appropriate interventions promise to improve the quality of life for millions of Americans with disabilities."

Lead sponsors of this legislation were Senators Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and Mike Enzi (R-WY) and Representatives Chris Smith (R-NJ) and Mike Doyle (D-PA).

For more information on the accomplishments of the prior legislation see, "[Report to Congress on Activities Related to Autism Spectrum Disorders and Other Developmental Disabilities Under the Combating Autism Act of 2006 and Combating Autism Reauthorization Act of 2011 \(FY 2010-FY 2012\)](#)".

FSN and WVSU will be presenting a showing of the film "Including Samuel"

on Oct. 16, 2014 from 3:00pm - 5:00pm at the WVSU Student Union Building Room 134. There will be a panelist discussion and Q&A following the film. Admission for the film is FREE for Current FSN Members. Admission for non-members is \$20.00. This includes a one year membership in the Fair Shake Network and refreshments.



Please RSVP/Register By filling out the registration below by October 6, 2014

Email: FSN@fairshake.org,

Fax: 304-766-4721 or by Mail

Fair Shake Network PO Box 354 Institute, WV 25112

You may also contact our office for a registration form or download one from our website

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

I am a current Member of FSN

I am not a current Member of FSN

I am including my payment with my registration

I will pay at the door

I need alternate format or an interpreter: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please indicate what type)

## ***Including Samuel Continued from page 3***

### **Habib's Film, *Including Samuel*:**

Before his son Samuel was diagnosed with cerebral palsy, Habib rarely thought about the inclusion of people with disabilities. Now he thinks about inclusion every day. Habib's award-winning documentary film, *Including Samuel*, honestly chronicles the Habib family's efforts to include Samuel in every facet of their lives. The film also features four other families with varied inclusion experiences, plus interviews with dozens of teachers, young people, parents, and disability rights experts. *Including Samuel* is a highly personal, passionately photographed film that captures the cultural and systemic barriers to inclusion.

The film aired nationwide on public television and has been screened at universities, national conferences, and independent theaters across the country. *Including Samuel* has also been featured on NPR's "All Things Considered" and "Good Morning America," as well as in *The Washington Post*, *Education Week*, and *The Boston Globe*. *Exceptional Parent Magazine* said "*Including Samuel* is a must see film." The film won the Positive Images in Media award from TASH, an international group committed to the full inclusion of people with disabilities. The film has been translated into 17 languages and used throughout the world to support disability rights and inclusion.

### **The Benefits of Inclusion:**

*For 30 years, researchers have been studying the impact of inclusive education on student performance, professional achievement, and social success. Students with disabilities, educated in general education classrooms, are more likely than their peers who are educated in separate classrooms to:*

- *Acquire reading and math skills*
- *Graduate from high school*
- *Go on to post-secondary education*
- *Have better communication skills*
- *Obtain meaningful employment*
- *Have friends and meaningful social relationships*
- *Be welcomed and contributing members of their communities*



Some content in this article was adapted from the Paths to Inclusion resource guide at [www.IncludingAllKids.org](http://www.IncludingAllKids.org) and [www.includingsamuel.com](http://www.includingsamuel.com).

**Do  
You  
Have  
A Cell  
Phone?**

**Did you know that you can get  
Text Alerts from FSN?  
Just text fairshake to 84483  
And start receiving Alerts Today!**

*Message and data rates may apply.  
Text HELP for help.  
Text STOP to cancel alerts at any  
time.  
For additional assistance,  
contact [support@omnilert.com](mailto:support@omnilert.com)  
[Privacy Statement](#)*

FAIR SHAKE NETWORK
Membership Application

Please complete all sections of this form.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: Day # \_\_\_\_\_ Evening# \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Due to the time sensitivity of some information will be sent by e-mail unless you prefer another method. If you cannot receive information by email please fill out the information below.

- \_\_\_ Fax #:
\_\_\_ I do not have a fax machine, but can receive faxes at Fax #:
\_\_\_ I do not have access to a fax, please mail me the information.

I need materials in the following alternative format:

This section is optional and is for grant and statistical data purposes only. Please mark all that apply:

- \_\_\_ I am a person with a developmental disability (DD)
\_\_\_ I am a person with a disability (Not DD)
\_\_\_ I am a parent/family member of person with a developmental disability (DD)
\_\_\_ I am a parent/family member of a person with a disability (Not DD)
I am from an agency/a friend/an advocate/an interested person (Circle one)

DUES/CONTRIBUTIONS:

- \_\_\_ Advocate Membership: \$20 per year \_\_\_ Independence Membership: \$250 per year
\_\_\_ Assembly Membership: \$50 per year \_\_\_ Freedom Membership: \$750 per year
\_\_\_ Alliance Membership: \$150 per year \_\_\_ Justice Membership: \$1,500 per year
\_\_\_ Liberty Lifetime Membership: \$5,000 One-time Lifetime payment

\*\* I would like to set up an installment plan – please contact me

I am not interested in joining at this time but would like to make a donation to support the Mission and goal activities.

Your contribution supports the important work/activities the FSN engages in to protect and improve the civil rights of West Virginians with disabilities and to promote best practices in public policies.



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# **FSN**

## **2014 Fall Edition 2014**

### **Newsletter**