



Artwork by Gary Murrell/Art Enables

DD Awareness Month Resource Guide

The intention of this resource guide is to help provide you with content for posting on social media during Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month (March 2019). There are no set guidelines for posting – feel free to share whatever you want, whenever you want! For more information about DD Awareness Month, or need help posting to social media, please visit:

<http://nacdd.org/DDAM>

Who to Follow on Social Media:

NACDD - <http://facebook.com/NACDD> and <http://twitter.com/NACDD>

AUCD – <http://facebook.com/AUCDnetwork> and <http://twitter.com/AUCDnews>

NDRN – <http://facebook.com/NDRNadvocates> and <http://twitter.com/NDRNadvocates>

- Remember to use the hashtag **#DDAwareness19**
- For every day throughout the month of March, NACDD will also be featuring the artwork of advocates on its social media. Visit NACDD's [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) to see and share some amazing artwork!
- This resource guide will be updated with new resources every Monday throughout the month of March. If you have or know of a resource that you want to be included, please email Jessica Misilo at jmisilo@nacdd.org
- To download the cover photo for DD Awareness Month, [click here](#) or please visit: <http://nacdd.org/DDAM>



WATCH/LISTEN:

- “Everyone Wins When Everyone’s Included!” from Informing Families. What inclusion means: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iUqFeg9pFLg>
- “Just Like You” from Informing Families: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uVCPTvh0Kcc>
- “Claws and Wings” from the Delaware DD Council. A collection of personal oral histories as shared by 22 disability advocates: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL5FakxxJJST65NLH2OXg9GJjY5LKk-Pm>
- “Hear Me! People with Developmental Disabilities Speak Out” from the Nevada DD Council is a powerful discussion with advocates where they share stigmas they encounter every day, as well as their key relationships, experiences with education, and unique pathways to employment. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FLthNFGjne8>
- “My Transition Story” from the Wisconsin Board for People with Disabilities. Meet Ben, a self-advocate out of Wisconsin who shares his Transition story. Follow Ben Fleischman on his journey as he transitions from high school to the workforce. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WXqkuZkJ5Xo>
- “That Was Hope to Me” from ScenicView Academy. Watch Reby Duncan’s story of overcoming barriers and becoming connected with her community through employment: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y6j1jJDAg10>
- “My Autistic Friend Explains Autism (And Why He’s Proud to be Autistic) by Special Books by Special Kids. Ryan explains why he is proud to advocate for the autism community: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ko5gyFwtf8>
- “Living with Disability: 5-part TALKS Conversation Series” from THINK+change. Designed to provide community partners with an understanding of living with disability from the perspective of those who know it best: a parent of children with disabilities; a sibling of a person with disabilities; a person living with disability his entire life; a person with an acquired disability: <https://vimeopro.com/thinkchangettt/living-with-disability>
- Washington State advocate and leader, Ivanova Smith, kicks off National Developmental Disabilities Awareness month with all the reasons people with I/DD are awesome: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qOvn_DLyhl
- “Niko’s Story” from Disability Rights Oregon. Niko won an essay contest and was selected for a trip. But when the program learned that Niko experiences autism and uses a letter board to communicate, it withdrew his prize. Niko protested this discrimination with the help of Disability Rights Oregon: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wq1RkO5_ZDc
- “It’s All About Attitude” produced by the Institute on Human Development and Disability at the University of Georgia (UCEDD) Dr. Tracy Rackensperger works at the Institute on Human Development and Disability at UGA as a Public Service Faculty member. Tracy enjoys being outdoors and she is always looking for an adventure: <https://tinyurl.com/yxpgg8ac>
- “Disability Inclusion in the Workplace” from New York State Developmental Disabilities Planning Council. A series of videos dedicated to workplace inclusion: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL4SGW2Ye1tFiM3da3pZnhMbWDZyhv_VMQ
- “What Women with Autism Want you to Know” from Iris. Learn what a group of women with autism want you to know: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NwEH9Ui4HV8&t=1s>
- “Accessibility is for Everyone” from the Nevada DD Council. Accessibility is not a privilege, it's a right. We all know there are laws about making things accessible for people with disabilities, but why is it such a big deal?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cRJ6I28z8Ig>

- “National Trends In Disability Employment (nTIDE) Lunch & Learn Monthly Webinar Series” from project of the Institute on Disability UCEDD at the University of New Hampshire, AUCD, and the Kessler Foundation. On the first Friday of every month, corresponding with the Bureau of Labor Statistics jobs report, join a live broadcast via Zoom Webinar to hear the results of the latest nTIDE findings. In addition, the webinar will provide news and updates from the field of Disability Employment, as well as host an invited panelist who will discuss current disability related findings and events.
<https://researchondisability.org/home/ntide/ntide-home>
- “Down Syndrome Didn’t Stop Me Becoming A Cheerleader” From BORN DIFFERENT. AC’s story about being the only collegiate cheerleader in the United States with Down Syndrome:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2FeuP-xwAeo>
- “I am Micah. I have Autism.” From Postive Autism! Micah talks about his experience with autism:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3SazeoQdx0o>
- “The Accessible Stall” Podcast by Emily Ladau and Kyle Khachadurian. This podcast keeps it real about issues within the disability community:
<https://www.theaccessiblestall.com/>
- “Inclusion Today, Community Living for Life” from Georgetown UCEDD. When Megan Scully's four month old son, Danny, was diagnosed with a developmental disability resulting from genetic brain lesions, two of the first questions she asked the doctors were, "Would he ever go to school?" and "Would he ever make friends?"
https://www.aucd.org/template/news.cfm?news_id=13907&id=17
- “Redefining Inclusion” from Taishoff Center. What's it like to hire someone with an intellectual or developmental disability? Hear what employers are saying:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RpBkyTF02c8>
- “Voices of Self-Advocates” from Supported Decision-Making New York. Three videos about Supported Decision-Making featuring actors with disabilities from a theater group called “Outside Voices:”
<https://sdmny.org/sdmny-videos-voices-of-self-advocates/>
- Indiana Disability Awareness Month
<https://www.indianadisabilityawareness.org/>
- Watch Wilbert “Will” Johnson, a current Partners in Policymaking participant, share how he landed his dream job at the Audubon Zoo!
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vF5PPSWr8BU>
- Learn about Chris Benedict and his path toward becoming a professional DJ
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aEhuAQ1UZjY>
- “Assisting people with disabilities to be a part of RI’s workforce is a area of focus for the RI Developmental Disabilities Council.”
<https://www.wpri.com/rhode-show/assisting-those-with-disabilities-find-a-job/1862865737>
- “Small Business Saturday ShopRI is the first pop-up mall in the country. It showcases more than 100 Rhode Island individuals with disabilities, small businesses and vendors”
<https://youtu.be/qcKODoZex-c>
- Indiana’s #BeCoolWeAre Disabilities Awareness Month Campaign features a series of 31 tips throughout the month of March
<https://www.facebook.com/224161311345/posts/10156776671121346?sfns=mo>

Do you have or know of a video or podcast that you would like to be included in our DD Awareness Guide? Send to Jessica Misilo at jmisilo@nacdd.org. We will be updating the resource guide every Monday throughout the month of March.

READ:

- “Should Your Concerns for Your Child Limit their Pursuit of a Fulfilling Life? My Experience After Several Public Meltdowns” by Russell Lehmann:
<https://www.autismparentingmagazine.com/concern-for-child-with-autism/>
- Pittverse Magazine is a quarterly publication written exclusively by adults diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder that aims to increase inclusion and broaden the general understanding of autism
<https://www.pittverse.org/>
- “Stephen Soares’ Story” from Community Access Unlimited. Read Stephen’s story about perusing his lifelong goal of being a truck driver:
https://www.tapinto.net/towns/elizabeth/articles/after-years-of-adversity-elizabeth-man-overcomes-road-bumps-to-achieve-career-goals?fbclid=IwAR0ZKzTVy7J28Cp-Mu5JVITv7t9cFrEK3O0WZso2nrk_EhoYg3LLCV91s0
Intelligent Lives resource library. Browse over 50 downloadable resources ranging from employment, education, self-determination, and more:
<https://intelligentlives.org/resource-library>
- “People First Language: A Guide for Writing and Speaking About People with Disabilities” from the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities:
https://gcdd.org/images/Blogs/2016/GCDD_PeopleFirstBrochure20161.pdf
- “Talking about Healthy Relationships” from Elevatus Training
<https://researchautism.org/talking-about-healthy-relationships/>
- “Ohio Technology First Council” from the Ohio DD Council
<http://dodd.ohio.gov/Communications/SiteAssets/Tech%20First%20Council%20Recommendations%20Report%20Draft%203.pdf>
<https://ddc.ohio.gov/dd-council-connection-11-2018#atreports>
- “Oh Yes, I CAN Work! Competitive Employment for Persons with Significant Disabilities” In September, the Arizona University Center on Development Disabilities (AzUCD) at Northern Arizona University partnered with the Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council to host two half-day trainings and a simultaneous webcast designed to advance an interagency approach to the concept that competitive, integrated employment is achievable for people with significant disabilities
https://www.aucd.org/template/news.cfm?news_id=13759&id=17
- “Vanderbilt Kennedy Center (TN UCEDD, IDDRC, LEND) Provides Educators with Mindfulness Tools and Techniques” Special educators have demanding jobs: long hours, few breaks, and countless responsibilities throughout the school day teaching students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The work can be stressful, and that stress can take its toll if it is not addressed in a timely manner. The need for self-care was the impetus behind the mindfulness training offered through the Spring 2018 Britt Henderson Training Series for Educators at the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center
https://www.aucd.org/template/news.cfm?news_id=13524&id=17
- “One Workforce: Inclusive Employment in North Carolina” a digital lookbook from the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities
<https://lookbook.nccdd.org/>
- “Inclusion Today, Community Living for Life” Early childhood inclusion sets the stage for a lifetime of community living.
<https://acl.gov/news-and-events/acl-blog/inclusion-today-community-living-life>
- Self Advocates Becoming Empowered – Self Advocacy Start-Up Toolkit: More Power, More Control Over our Lives!

<http://selfadvocacyinfo.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Self-Advocacy-Start-up-Toolkit-more-power-more-control-over-our-lives-2018.pdf>

- National Resource Center for Supported Decision Making – Stories of Supported Decision-Making
<http://www.supporteddecisionmaking.org/impact>
- “It’s My Life” People with disabilities are challenging assumptions to live on their terms – and in their communities from the Governor’s Council for People with Disabilities in Indiana
https://issuu.com/news_review/docs/indy_022719?e=2059002/68195960
- “Raising the Bar for DD Awareness Month by Julie Hocker, Commissioner, Administration on Disabilities
<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USACL/bulletins/2345317>
- “Jared: Full-Time Employment with the Right Expectations and Supports”
https://www.thinkwork.org/jared-full-time-employment-right-expectations-and-supports?fbclid=IwAR2LOLUjtjBPYScBRjqbJrMvwILJM3BO88c8nuLkw2P22_UT0vjzkm7bc

Do you have or know of a news article, blog post, personal story, toolkit, etc. that you would like to be included in our DD Awareness Guide? Send to Jessica Misilo at jmisilo@nacdd.org. We will be updating the resource guide every Monday throughout the month of March

PARTICIPATE:

See what others are doing to celebrate DD Awareness Month!

- **Wyoming DD Council March Disability Awareness Luncheon and Advocacy Events**

On March 1, There will be multiple displays by local and statewide artists showcasing various talents and artwork, as well as an advocacy panel, presentation and video.

<https://wgcd.wyo.gov/>

- **DD Awareness & Advocacy Day at the Ohio Statehouse**

Our primary activity during DD Awareness Month is an annual “DD Awareness & Advocacy Day” which is held at the Ohio Statehouse on March 5. An hour-long event is held with several speakers, including the Governor and people with disabilities. This is followed by people with developmental disabilities making scheduled visits to their Ohio representatives to talk about the importance of a specific topic. This year, the topic is “Supports Matter.” More information about this can be found on our website at:

<https://ddc.ohio.gov/Home/DD-Awareness-and-Advocacy-Day-2019>.

<https://www.facebook.com/OhioDDAwareness/>

- More than 400 individuals with developmental disabilities, their family members, service providers and advocates from all islands will come together at the Hawai’i State Capitol to celebrate their abilities during the 19th annual Day at the Capitol on Thursday, March 7, 2019, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event will highlight national Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in March.
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- The all-day event will include a proclamation signing by Gov. David Ige at 9 a.m. in the Governor’s Ceremonial Room. Gov. Ige will proclaim March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in Hawai’i, urging the public to recognize the abilities and contributions of people with developmental disabilities, engage with them and encourage them in their endeavors. Participants from across the state will attend the proclamation signing.

- **AUCD for All Gala to celebrate Leadership in Civil Rights on March 19**

We believe that disability is a natural part of the human experience, that self-determination and community integration are fundamental human rights, and that everyone should be able to participate fully in their communities and be treated with dignity and respect. On this night we will bring together leaders from all sectors who are tireless advocates for disability rights, equity, and inclusion. We will honor those who stand up for civil rights and lead the way toward inclusion, opportunity, and social justice for all. Honorees and speakers include the Honorable Tom Ridge, the Honorable Bobby Scott, Catherine Lhamon, and Claudia Gordon. Tickets, including reduced and a free list for advocates and students, are available at

<https://aucd4all.org/>

- **Capitol Hill Screening of Intelligent Lives and conversation with award-winning filmmaker Dan Habib**

In cooperation with Sen. Chris Murphy, and in recognition of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, AUCD, NACDD and NDRN are hosting a screening of Intelligent Lives, on March 20, from 3:00 - 5:00 PM, in CVC Room 200. After the film screening, there will be a panel discussion with Dan Habib and other experts to talk about the importance of maintaining support for the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (DD Act) programs. We hope you will come out to experience the film and learn more about the great work being done through the DD Act. Please RSVP to info@nacdd.org by March 1. [Screening Flyer](#)

- **Developmental Disabilities Month Resource Fair on Capitol Hill**

NACDD and the CCD Autism, Developmental Disabilities, and Family Supports Taskforce is cosponsoring a resource fair in cooperation with Rep. Jim Langevin on March 26, 11am-2pm in the Rayburn Foyer (see attached flyer). CCD member organizations are invited to set up a table at the resource fair with information you feel would be most helpful to congressional staff. Table opportunities are limited due to space concerns, so please register at [this link](https://nacdd.typeform.com/to/mlF4Uf) to reserve your space today. Or copy and paste this link

<https://nacdd.typeform.com/to/mlF4Uf> into your browser. If you have any questions, please contact Erin Prangley, NACDD at eprangley@nacdd.org [Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Flyer](#)

- **Maine DD Council Inclusion Contest**

The MDDC Inclusion Contest is an essay and artwork contest that provides awards to schools, teachers, and high school students who demonstrate an exceptional understanding of the meaning of Full Inclusion in which all people are valued members of the community. The essay and visual arts contests are open to high school juniors and seniors who reside in Maine:

<https://www.maineddc.org/inclusion>

- **2019 Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day at the Nevada Legislature**

The Nevada DD Council will be hosting the 2019 Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day at the Nevada Legislature on March 29th, in Carson City, NV. (Tentatively 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM, as meetings are still being scheduled. We invite Self-Advocates and their parents/caregivers to attend the Day at the Legislature to learn more about the Nevada Legislative process, meet with key policy makers/Legislators, sit on the Assembly and/or Senate floor and witness testimony on key issues, and explore Legislative grounds. Lunch will be provided. Date: March 29th, 2019. Location: Nevada Legislature | 401 S. Carson Street | Carson City, NV 89701-4747 | Legislative Building Front Foyer. This is a FREE event! Registration is required and will close on March 22nd, 2019. Please fill out the Registration Form on Google Forms

at <https://goo.gl/forms/ioLmo3oCbNi0v4Xf1>. For more information, please visit

<http://www.nevadaddcouncil.org/2019ddawarenessdayatthelegislature/>

- **Transition Skills Day in Saint Joseph, Missouri**

The Regional Transition Network in Buchanan County partnered to bring a day of fun and learning for students with IEP's on March 29. The focus of this day is designed to empower highschool students to prepare and plan for life after highschool. Students will have opportunities to learn from others who have "been there" and gain some valuable resources.

<http://transitionskillsday.eventbrite.com>

- **I heART Miami**

The WOW Center Miami, an Adult Day Training Center (ADT) that provides quality programs and support to individuals with developmental disabilities, in collaboration with five Miami-based ADTs, will debut "I heART Miami" at the Coral Gables Museum. This Art Exhibition will showcase the art of all the talented students and highlighting the beauty of several Miami neighborhoods

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/i-heart-miami-tickets-57048992071>

- **"Intelligent Lives" film screenings**

States all across the country are screening Dan Habib's award-winning film, "Intelligent Lives." "Intelligent Lives" stars three pioneering young adults with intellectual disabilities – Micah, Naieer, and Noamie – who challenge perceptions of intelligence as they navigate high school, college and the workforce. Find, or host, a screening near you:

<https://intelligentlives.org/screenings-by-date>

- **2019 Disability Policy Seminar**

Register for the 2019 Disability Policy Seminar on April 8-10 in Washington, DC. What better way to make your voice heard than to speak directly to your Members of Congress about the disability issues that are most important to you! Join hundreds of advocates from around the country on a three day event that cultivates champions on Capitol Hill and advances the grassroots movement for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). Learn more at <https://disabilitypolicyseminar.org/>.

Would you like your DD Awareness Month event to be included in our DD Awareness Guide? Send to Jessica Misilo at jmisilo@nacdd.org. We will be updating the resource guide every Monday throughout the month of March.

DD Awareness Month Proclamations

Need help preparing a proclamation for DD Awareness Month?

[Click here to see examples of proclamations and resolutions](#)