



Issue No. 2 2010-11

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND FAITH COMMUNITIES

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to this issue on a sensitive topic that touches the lives of many individuals with disabilities and their families – their relationship in a faith-based community. This topical e-journal is part of a series published by the Utah Parent Center (UPC). We are partnering on this issue with the Autism Council of Utah and the Center for Persons with Disabilities at Utah State University. It is our hope that this information will be a valuable resource for parents, families, individuals with all disabilities, religious leaders, and members of faith-based organizations. We offer our heartfelt thanks to the individuals who have authored articles or given permission to include previously published work.

We welcome feedback and suggestions from readers and your ideas for future issues. Our goal is that this information will help families help their children live included productive lives as members of the community.

We encourage readers to share the contents of this issue with others who can benefit from the information. Electronic copies of this e-Journal and other related information is available on or through the UPC's website at <http://www.utahparentcenter.org>.

The **Utah Parent Center** has been serving Utah families of children, youth, and young adults with all disabilities since before 1984. We provide free resources such as publications, workshops, and individualized assistance to help families make decisions about education, support services, vocational training, employment, and other services for their child and family.

Celebrate Utah's First
Autism, Disabilities
and Faith Week
April 26 – May 2, 2010

More information inside!

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Utah Parent Center Information Disclaimer

*Utah Parent Center • Serving Utah families since 1984!
 Utah Family Voices - Family to Family Health Information Center
 Autism Information Resources at the Utah Parent Center*

*Family to Family Network – A Network Supported by the Utah Parent Center
 Phone: (801)272.1051 • Toll Free Utah: (800)468.1160 • Fax: (801)272.8907
 Email: upcinfo@utahparentcenter.org • Website: www.utahparentcenter.org*

Our Mission: To help parents help their children with disabilities to live included, productive lives as members of the community. We accomplish this through the provision of information, training, and peer support.

The Utah Parent Center is a private, nonprofit organization. This publication was produced with private funds. Endorsement of the content of this publication by any funding source is not implied.

The Utah Parent Center (UPC) does not represent or endorse any particular point of view, unless expressly stated. Every effort is made to provide accurate and complete information. The content of this e-journal is provided as an informational resource ONLY. For items from other individuals or organizations, we encourage readers to contact the original source with questions or concerns. Approved items will be posted. The UPC is not responsible for content contained on, distributed through, or linked, downloaded, or accessed through this publication. Permission to share, forward and reprint the information herein is granted with complete attribution. Please share this information with your friends and colleagues that may be interested in subscribing to our listserv.

THE PROBLEM

The National Organization on Disability (NOD) found that both 65% of people with and without disabilities state their religious faith is important in their lives, but only 47% of people with disabilities attend church at least once a month, most likely due to architectural, programmatic, communication and attitudinal barriers. Of all the barriers to full participation and inclusion, the barrier of unexamined attitudes is the most difficult to address," states Ginny Thornburgh, director of the American Association of People with Disabilities' Interfaith Initiative.

BARRIERS EXIST IF:

- * I avoid you because your speech is hard to understand and I feel inadequate.
- * I am seen as an object of pity or a superhero because I have a disability, instead of a person with potential.
- * I believe your lack of faith is the reason your disability is not healed.
- * You suspect my [disability] may be a punishment for sin (NOD, 2001).
- * You think that my child's behavior is caused by bad parenting.
- * My child is disruptive and I get disapproving looks.
- * No one invites my children to birthday parties or other activities.

Outside the door of every congregation, there are those who cannot enter, or once in, do not feel welcome.

Through your outreach, you will be fulfilling God's mandate to make the House of God fully inclusive for ALL people of God!

*Reverend Harold H. Wilke
Founder and Director
The Healing Community*

Becoming an accessible church means much more than simply installing an entrance ramp, it involves design choices so anyone can access the platform, sound systems, and Bibles, hymnals, prayer books and bulletins available in alternative formats including large print, Braille and electronic. It also means inclusion in all services and activities.

From www.disabilitiesandfaith.org Used with permission

BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITIES OF FAITH

Barriers to participation in communities of faith include:

- 1) Architectural barriers that do not allow individuals with physical disabilities to navigate the space;
- 2) Attitudinal barriers based in a community's fears and misunderstandings about disabilities;
- 3) Communication barriers that disallow participation (e.g., issues of sight, sound, and language);
- 4) Programmatic barriers that do not allow individuals with disabilities the opportunity to share their gifts and talents with the community; and
- 5) Liturgical barriers, such as sacraments or rituals, that may not be adapted to meet individual needs.

From: Carter, Erik. (2007). Including people with disabilities in faith communities: A guide for service providers, families, and congregations. Baltimore, MD: Paul H. Brookes Publishing.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is working to provide easier access to its buildings for people with disabilities. . . .

But there is an even greater need to reduce the barriers imposed by a lack of understanding and acceptance of those who have disabilities.

We urge leaders, teachers, friends and families to: help increase awareness and understanding of disabilities; accept those with disabilities as children of God and help them to feel respected, loved and understood; and provide meaningful opportunities for members with disabilities to serve, teach and lead others.

LDS Church News, Apr. 29, 1989, 7

**Celebrate Utah's First
Autism, Disabilities and Faith Week
April 26 – May 2, 2010**

**AUTISM, DISABILITIES, AND FAITH CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2010 GENERAL SESSION, STATE OF UTAH**

**Chief Sponsor: Ronda Rudd Menlove
Senate Sponsor: Howard A. Stephenson**

This resolution designates April 26 - May 2, 2010, as Autism, Disabilities, and Faith Week in the state of Utah; and recognizes the importance of fully integrating persons with autism and disabilities and their families into all Utah faith-based organizations.

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:

WHEREAS, there is an increasing number of persons with autism and other disabilities living in the state of Utah;

WHEREAS, there is an increasing percentage of children, youths, and adults in Utah's population that is impacted by autism and other disabilities;

WHEREAS, these individuals and their families would benefit greatly from the support offered by Utah's faith-based organizations;

WHEREAS, these individuals and their families have unique needs that must be recognized and accommodated in faith-based organizations;

WHEREAS, faith-based curriculum, instruction, and worship services may need to be adapted to include persons with autism and other disabilities and their families;

WHEREAS, faith-based instruction and worship are not intended to replace in any way other services provided to support persons with autism and other disabilities and their families;

WHEREAS, Utah's faith-based organizations will greatly benefit from the inclusion of persons with autism and other disabilities in their congregations and organizations;

WHEREAS, families affected by autism and other disabilities should be welcomed and offered an invitation to participate in faith-based organizations free of judgment;

WHEREAS, faith-based organizations and their members would profit from being educated about autism and other disabilities;

WHEREAS, faith-based organizations and their members would benefit from having knowledge of the appropriate resources to assist them in their relationship with persons who are autistic or have other disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the first Utah Autism and Faith Summit, Empowering Faith Communities to Include Individuals with Autism, was held September 17, 2009:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein, designate April 26 - May 2, 2010, as Autism, Disabilities, and Faith Week in the state of Utah.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor recognize the importance of fully integrating persons with autism and other disabilities into Utah's faith-based organizations and communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Coalition of Religious Communities, the Salt Lake Interfaith Roundtable, the Utah Parent Center, the Autism Council of Utah, Family Voices, the Utah Developmental Disabilities Council, Allies with Families, the National Alliance for Mental Illness Utah, the Autism Initiative and the Children with Special Health Care Needs Bureau at the Utah Department of Health, the Utah Statewide Independent Living Council, the Disability Law Center, and the Legislative Coalition for People with Disabilities.

*Passed by the Utah State Legislature during the 2010 Session.
Signed by Governor Gary R. Herbert, Monday, April 19, 2010.*

Religion offers community
to our lonely human souls.
The house of worship represents one
place where the barriers fall and we all
stand equal before God.

*Rabbi Harold Kushner
NOD, 2001*

WHERE TO GET HELP

Faith communities can receive free training to become more welcoming and accessible for families with disabilities, including autism.

- ✓ The Center for Persons with Disabilities at Utah State University in cooperation with the Utah Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing will send trainers statewide. For more information, contact Marilyn Hammond at 435-797-3811 (e-mail: mhammond@cpd2.usu.edu) or Sachin Pavithran at 435-797-6572, 800-524-5152 (e-mail: sachin.pavithran@usu.edu).
- ✓ The LDS Church's Web site, disabilities.lds.org, links to information about disabilities and ministering to families with children with disabilities.
- ✓ A helpful booklet, *Autism and Faith: A Journey Into Community*, published in 2008 by the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, is available for download at http://www.djmiddlefoundation.org/userdocs/Autism_&_Faith_final-1.pdf.

HOW TO HELP AT CHURCH

Here are suggestions for clergy and faith communities, from parents of autistic children, and professionals who work with them:

- Help parents cope, spiritually, with the diagnosis. They often will ask, "Why me?"
- Don't judge parents who cannot control their children. Offer to take care of the child for one day to understand the family's burdens.
- Provide parents respite by offering to take care of the child while they worship or handle church assignments. Think carefully about any church assignments for parents.
- Don't believe parents when they tell you everything is fine. It isn't. "This is the quiet tragedy within the walls of the home," says Brent Petersen, psychiatrist and LDS stake president.
- Ask parents to help you tailor a spiritual-education program for the child.
- Take a team, such as teenagers, into the family's home now and then to give the parents a night off.
- Ignore inappropriate behavior from autistic children, but intervene if they become destructive or run.
- Make inclusion of the family a priority. "The offer is very important," says one mother, "even if it's not accepted."

Allah does not judge according to your bodies and appearances, but He scans your hearts and looks into your deeds.
Prophet Muhammad, Founder of Islam

FRIENDSHIP AND INCLUSION IS CRITICAL

- * Include individuals with disabilities in all church and social activities.
- * Ask parents what they hope for.
- * Don't allow teasing or insults for any reason.
- * Help teachers not to be frightened. Ask parents for a set of rules and consequences. Use positive reinforcement and ignore negative behaviors, unless it is aggression or running away.
- * Be creative and try new ideas with the parent's permission.
- * Seek inspiration. Creative ideas often come from pondering, prayer and reflection.



WAYS TO BE MORE INCLUSIVE AND WELCOMING

- ✓ Use people first language in sermons, homilies, bulletins, and newsletters.
- ✓ Use access symbols in announcements, advertisements and signage.
- ✓ State that “all are welcome” and provide a phone number to provide any needed accommodations in all event announcements.
- ✓ Personally invite children and adults with disabilities to participate in ministries, clubs, religious education programs and events. Ask what accommodations are needed and make arrangements.
- ✓ Make materials available in audiotape, large print, Braille and electronic formats.
- ✓ Install amplification systems and provide listening devices for those with hearing loss. Create a list of qualified sign language interpreters and provide their services when needed.
- ✓ Keep individuals who are blind or visually impaired informed by announcing information from the printed information bulletin at the end or beginning of worship service or individually depending on the preferences of the individual.
- ✓ When new members join, ask in a sensitive and dignified way if any accommodations would enhance their participation in the faith community.

Adapted from Pathways Awareness Foundation



A WELCOMING CHURCH OFFERS EMPOWERMENT, NOT PITY; ADVOCACY NOT AVOIDANCE; AND SUPPORT NOT STIGMA.

- ✓ To the extent possible, eliminate all barriers that keep members with disabilities from attending meetings and activities. A welcoming attitude with easy access, handrails, materials in alternative formats, audiovisual equipment and parking makes full participation possible.
- ✓ Seek and discuss ideas to promote understanding and better inclusion of children and adults with disabilities.
- ✓ Remember that all can contribute to the building of the kingdom of God and should receive the blessings of giving and receiving. All members need a friend, an assignment or calling, and nourishing by the word of God.

*From The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
Used with permission.*

When we think of persons with disabilities in relation to ministries, we tend automatically to think of doing something for them. We do not reflect that they can do something for us and with us...they have the same duty as all members of the community to do the Lord's work in the world, according to their God given talents and capacities.

*Pastoral Statement of U.S. Catholic Bishops on Persons with Disabilities
No. 17, NOD, 2001*

INCLUSION IN FAITH COMMUNITIES:

SOME TIPS FOR PARENTS TO GET STARTED

By Bill Gaventa, M.Div., and Mary Beth Walsh, Ph.D.

- * Introduce yourself and your child to your religious leaders before you attend, if possible. Ask if there are other children or adults with autism in the congregation. Explain what autism is, and your child's limitations and potential. But first, let them know how important participation in a religious community is to your family, and that this is an area of concern for many families.
- * Offer to help provide information, educational opportunities, or people who can assist religious educators to include your child. Professionals may be quite willing to give guidance to religious educators and to help figure out how to adapt a curriculum. There may be other ways that you as a parent can volunteer in the religious education program to help overall teaching and staffing resources. There are also online resources and materials.
- * Find a family-oriented worship service where a little noise is not uncommon.
- * If your child is too young to pay attention to the service, bring books or other engaging toys to occupy him or her.
- * If the expectations are for children to sit in a religious service for 45-60 minutes or more, make sure the child is able to do this at home first, or has an opportunity to practice.
- * Figure out a way to come to the sanctuary with your child and go through the steps of the service so it is familiar space. Practice can happen outside the service and at home. Video modeling, a video of what happens in the service and what people do, can be a way of helping a child learn visually.
- * Use concrete language and visual aides when instructing your child.
- * Use a digital camera to make a picture book of your worship service and space, important parts of the service, key people, etc. You can use the pictures to help a child learn the names of the places, actions, and people. Practice at home, and reward the child when he/she labels them in public.
- * Find something in the worship service that your child enjoys and can participate in and succeed at to make attending services fun for your child.
- * Learn how to use a motivational system and then make it as discrete as possible.
- * Use this booklet as a resource and provide it to your congregation and other parents and families.
- * Use the resources in the next sections. There are some excellent ones for congregations.

Source: *Autism and Faith: A Journey into Community* manual by Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, Department of Pediatrics and the New Jersey Center for Outreach and Services for the Autism Community and The Daniel Jordan Fiddle Foundation.

MAKING IT THROUGH A SERVICE... *Making it through a worship service with a child with special needs can be a true test of faith. Between keeping your child under control and warding off the evil eye of fellow pew-sitters, you may feel that no one in your family is getting anything out of the service. If you have your heart set on some kind of Ideal Worship Experience, wherein your neatly dressed children sit quietly for every minute of the service, you're probably out of luck. But that doesn't mean your family should give up and stay home. Try these tips for getting more than a headache out of worship time.*

It's not all or nothing. You don't have to make it all the way through a service for it to be a positive experience. Sometimes planning for success involves knowing when to leave. If you have noticed your child can be good for the first 15 minutes and then loses it, leave after 15 minutes and make a big deal about how great that was; set 20 minutes as the next goal, not 60.

Give short-term rewards. Big rewards with long time frames often backfire; if your child feels unable to comply after a short while, he or she may decide the reward is unattainable, and then have no incentive to behave at all. Offer your child very small reinforcements after very short intervals of successful behavior control -- maybe a sticker or a cracker or a chance to play with your keys every five minutes, perhaps a short walk every 15.

Don't offer incentives to be bad. Be careful that what you're offering as an incentive actually encourages good behavior. For example, threatening to leave if behavior does not improve may backfire if leaving that house of worship is exactly what the child wants to do. Make sure the alternative to sitting through the service is even less pleasing -- sitting in the car saying prayers, not playing, until other family members are done worshipping may be one unattractive alternative, and has the added benefit of providing a spiritual experience either way.

Bring reinforcements. If drawing or writing or crackers or small playthings or fidget toys or a stuffed animal or a chewy tube or a weighted vest or anything else helps your child control impulses and stay calm in other settings, bring it along to your worship service. You may see a few raised eyebrows, but not so many as you will if your child loses his or her cool during worship.

Keep your expectations realistic. If your child is unable to sit still and be quiet and behave appropriately in any other place, don't expect a place of worship to have some sort of magical transforming effect on him or her. Prayer can work miracles, but probably not in the short term of turning your jumpy, twitchy, noisy, impulsive, compulsive, uninhibited little devil into a perfect angel for an hour a week. Don't set your child up for failure by setting goals he or she is unable to achieve.

Pray. Praying for your child to be quiet right now may be ineffective, but praying for your own spiritual peace with your child's special needs, and for guidance in finding a way to help him or her find faith and comfort in God's house, is always worthwhile. Don't neglect your own needs in the rush of keeping your child quiet and contained. Put less emphasis on having the Ideal Worship Experience, and more on experiencing worship.

Source Unknown

Disability and Faith Resources

LISTS TAKEN FROM DISABILITIESANDFAITH.ORG. USED WITH PERMISSION.

If you are viewing this document electronically, you can link directly to the resources and sites listed below.

Simply hold down the "CTRL" button on your keyboard while you click on the link.

UTAH INTERFAITH RESOURCES

- * <http://www.utahfaiths.org>
- * <http://www.ldsability.org/>

FAITH AND DISABILITY

- * Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints disabilities information
<http://www.disabilities.lds.org/disabilities/eng/>
- * Disability ministry training, bible studies, curriculum: <http://Joniandfriends.org>
- * Lutheran Disabilities Ministry: <http://www.ldminc.org>
- * Methodist Disability Website: <http://new.gbqm-umc.org/umcor/work/health/disc/>
- * National Catholic Partnership on Disability: <http://www.ncpd.org>
- * National Apostolate for Inclusion Ministry: <http://www.nafim.org>
- * National Jewish Council for the Disabled: <http://www.njcd.org>
- * United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministries: <http://www.uccdm.org>

INTERFAITH INITIATIVES

- * AAPD (American Association of People with Disabilities) Interfaith Initiative:
<http://www.aapd.com/Interfaith/Interfaith.html>
- * National Organization on Disability, Religion and Disability Program:
<http://www.nod.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=page.viewPage&pageID=1596>
- * Interfaith Disability Connection: <http://www.interfaithdisability.org>
- * Disabilities and worship by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Days Saints: www.disabilities.lds.org
- * National Catholic Partnership on Disability: www.ncpd.org
- * Lutheran Disabilities Ministry: <http://www.ldminc.org>
- * National Jewish Council for the Disabled: <http://www.njcd.org>
- * Methodist Disability Website: <http://new.gbqm-umc.org/umcor/work/health/disc/>
- * National Christian Resource Center: www.blhs.org
- * United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministries: <http://www.uccdm.org>

BOOKS

- * *Including People with Disabilities in Faith Communities: A Guide for Service Providers, Families and Congregations* by Erik Carter, Ph.D., Baltimore, MD: Paul H. Brookes Publishing, 2007
- * *Beyond Accessibility: Toward Full Inclusion of People with Disabilities in Faith Communities* by Brett Webb-Mitchell

*Just as a candle cannot burn without fire,
men cannot live without a spiritual life.*

Buddha

INTERFAITH DISABILITY RESOURCES

- * www.disabilitiesandfaith.org - Utah Training project on Disabilities and Faith
- * www.loc.gov/nls/reference/circulars/bibles.html - National Library Service for the Blind
- * www.wheelchairnet.org/WCN_Living/worship.html - Worship, accessible congregations
- * www.joniandfriends.org - Joni and Friends International Disability Center with curriculum
- * <http://www.aaidreligion.org/> - Religion and Spirituality Division of American Association of Intellectual Disabilities
- * http://www.aapd.com/site/c.pv11lkNWJqE/b.5606969/k.7853/AAPD_Interfaith_Initiative.htm - AAPD Interfaith
- * <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/cshad/> - Centre for Spirituality, Health and Disability
- * <http://www.interfaithdisability.org> - Interfaith Disability Connection
- * <http://www.utahfaiths.org> – Utah interfaith resources

ONLINE PUBLICATIONS

- * Autism and Faith
<http://rwjms.umdj.edu/boggscenter/products/documents/AutismandFaith.pdf>
- * Faith Communities and Persons with Disabilities
<http://ici.umn.edu/products/impact/143/143.pdf>
- * Welcomed and Valued: Building Faith Communities of Support and Hope with People with Mental Illness
http://www.disabilitiesandfaith.org/resources/guidebooks/Welcomed_Valued-FaithSupportMentalIllness.pdf
- * Resource Manual
<http://www.disabilitiesandfaith.org/resources/guidebooks/Disability-Manual-Churches.pdf>
- * Dimensions of Faith Resource Guide
http://rwjms.umdj.edu/boggscenter/products/prod_info.htm

ACCESSIBILITY CHECKLISTS

- * <http://www.ada.gov/checktxt.htm> Checklist for Readily Achievable Barrier Removal
- * <http://www.ccpd.org/accessible.htm>
- * http://www.joniandfriends.org/accessibility_checklist.php
- * <http://www.ncpd.org/accessible-design/surveys>

DISABILITY AND ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY WEBSITES

- * www.abledata.com - 800-227-0216 – huge information database of AT
- * www.disabilityinfo.gov – disability-related information and government programs
- * www.govbenefits.gov –online screening tool to find government benefits
- * www.familyvillage.wisc.edu – disabilities, health, technology, education, resources, news.
- * <http://www.disabilityresources.org/> - comprehensive information about disabilities

GUIDEBOOKS

- * [Autism and Faith](#) (PDF format)
- * [Disability Manual Churches](#) (PDF format)
- * [Faith-Based Resource Guide](#) (PDF format)
- * [Guiding Principles - Inclusion Liturgy](#) (PDF format)
- * [Welcomed Valued-Faith Support Mental Illness](#) (PDF format)

FACT SHEETS

- * [Islamic View of Disabilities and Autism](#) (Website)
- * [Families and Faith Community Tips](#) (PDF format)
- * [Helpful Strategies and Tips](#) (PDF format)
- * [More than fifty ways to make your parish accessible with little or no cost](#) (Word format)
- * [Attending Religious Services with an Autistic Person](#) (Word format)
- * [Religion and Disability Articles](#) (Word format)
- * [Worship Resources](#) (Word format)

JOURNALS AND NEWSLETTERS

- * [Journal of Religion, Disability and Health](#) (Website)
- * [Utah Office of Faith-based and Community Initiatives Newsletter](#) (Website)
- * [Dimensions of Faith 2009](#) (PDF format)

SELECTED RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- * Elizabeth Browne. (2004). *Creating an inclusive worship community: Accommodating All People at God's Table* (Parish Handbook). Liguori Publications.
- * Erik Carter. (2007) *Including People with Disabilities in Faith Communities: A Guide for Service Providers, Families, and Congregations*. Paul Brookes Publishing.
- * Shelly Christensen. (2007). *Jewish Community Guide to Inclusion of People with Disabilities*. Jewish Family and Children's Services, Minneapolis, MN.
- * William Gaventia & Rabbi Judith Abrams. (2007). *Jewish Perspectives on Theology and the Human Experience of Disability*. Routledge.
- * Albert Herzog. (2006). *Disability Advocacy among Religious Organizations: Histories and Reflections*. Routledge.
- * Amy Rapada. (2007). *The Special Needs Ministry Handbook: A Church's Guide to Reaching Children with Disabilities and their families*. BookSurge Publishing.
- * Tom Reynolds. (2008). *Vulnerable Communion: A Theology of Disability and Hospitality*. Brazos Press.
- * Amos Yong. (2007). *Theology and Down Syndrome: Reimagining Disability in Late Modernity*. Baylor University Press.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

- * *A Place for All: Ministry with Youth with Special Needs*. (2008) John Barone and The Monarch School. Winona, MN: St. Mary's Press. 128 pp. \$24.95 ISBN 978-0-88489-972-3. Creative guide for religious educators of all sorts.
- * *Let All the Children Come to Me. A Practical Guide to Including Children with Disabilities in Your Church Ministries*. (2006) Malesa Breeding, Dana Hood, Jerry Whitworth. NexGen, Cook Communications Ministries. 4050 Lee Vance View, Colorado Springs, CO 80918. <http://www.cookministries.com/NexGen>
- * For a more comprehensive list of resources, see *On the Road to Congregational Inclusion. Dimensions of Faith and Congregational Ministries with Persons with Developmental Disabilities and their Families*. New Brunswick: The Elizabeth M. Boggs Center, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, UMDNJ. (PDF version available at <http://rwjms.umdj.edu/boggscenter/products>.) 2009 Edition now online.

Utah Disability Information and Services

GENERAL DISABILITY INFORMATION

- ✓ Disability-related information and government programs
<http://www.disabilityinfo.gov>
- ✓ Online screening tool to find government benefits
<http://www.govbenefits.gov>
- ✓ Extensive annotated list of internet resources including books, magazines, newsletters, videos, more
<http://www.disabilityresources.org>
- ✓ Disabilities, health, technology, recreation, education, resources, news groups, more
<http://www.familyvillage.wisc.edu>
- ✓ Disabilities, state & national resources, legislation, educational practices
<http://www.nichy.org>
- ✓ Disability nonprofit offers life insurance, prescription card, no fee credit cards, and affiliation with digital federal credit union with AT, home mod and van loans
<http://www.aapd.com>
- ✓ Medicare, Social Security Disability, Social Security Retirement, SSI, etc.
<http://www.ssa.gov>

UTAH DISABILITY ORGANIZATIONS

- ✓ **Access Utah Network:** 800-333-8824 (Statewide information and referral service on disability-related issues, services, used & new equipment, and the ADA)
- ✓ **Ability Foundation:** 801-261-5738 <http://www.abilityfound.org> (Provides some assistive technology devices to individuals with disabilities. Need service provider or therapist evaluation)
- ✓ **Aging & Adult Services:** 877-424-4640, <http://www.hsdaas.utah.gov> (Provides variety of home and community based services, including some low-tech devices for people 60 and older and protects seniors and adults with disabilities from abuse, neglect and exploitation)
- ✓ **AgrAbility of Utah:** 877-225-1860, <http://www.usu.edu/aste/agrability> (Connects farmers with disabilities to services, conducts work-site analysis, modifies equipment and the environment)
- ✓ **Allies with Families:** 801-433-2595, <http://www.allieswithfamilies.org> (Offers support and resources for parents and their children with disabilities)
- ✓ **Assist, Inc.:** 801-355-7085, <http://www.assistutah.org> (Housing and accessibility design assistance to nonprofit and community groups and low income persons with disabilities; home repair for SLC)

- ✓ **Baby Watch Early Intervention:** 800-961-4226, <http://www.utahbabywatch.org>
(Provides early identification and developmental services statewide for families with children birth to three)
- ✓ **Brain Injury Association of Utah:** 900-281-8442, <http://www.biau.org> (Non-profit that provides education and support for prevention and recovery of brain injury in Utah)
- ✓ **Centers for Independent Living:** Utah CIL 800-355-2195 (SLC); Options 753-5353 Voice/ TTY, (Logan); Active Re-entry, 637-4950, (Price); Red Rock Center; 800-649-2340, V & TTY, (St. George); Tri County ILC, 612-3215 V, 612-3732 TTY, (Ogden); Central Utah CIL, 373-5044 Voice/TTY, (Provo) (Provides services to facilitate independence and full participation in the community and AT devices as funding allows for low income clients)
- ✓ **Center for Persons with Disabilities:** Utah State University, 866-284-2821, <http://www.cpdsusu.org> (Education, research, training, services, awareness)
- ✓ **Children with Special Health Care Needs:** UDOH 800-829-8200
<http://www.health.utah.gov/cshcn> (Provide clinics, assessments, health services statewide)
- ✓ **Child Care Resource and Referral:** 866-438-4847 <http://www.cssutah.org> (Connects families to child care throughout Utah.)
- ✓ **Community Services Council/Lifecare:** 801-978-2452 (Provides services including wheelchairs, prescriptions, home repair, visits, furniture to SL/Davis low income residents)
- ✓ **Computer Center for Citizens with Disabilities:** 888-866-5550 (Provides assessment and demonstration of adaptive computers including hardware, software, switches, etc.)
- ✓ **Digital Federal Credit Union:** 800-328-8797, <http://www.aapd.com> (Loans for home modifications, assistive devices, adaptive computers, and adaptive vans nationwide)
- ✓ **Disability Law Center:** 800-662-9080, 800-550-4182 TTY, <http://www.disabilitylawcenter.org> (Explains rights, negotiates, and represents in hearings. Free to eligible clients statewide)
- ✓ **Division of Mental Health:** 801-538-3939 (Mental health treatment services and prevention)
- ✓ **Division of Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired (DSBVI):** 800-284-1823 (Computer evaluation and training, orientation and mobility services, daily living skills, home repair courses, low vision screening, deaf/blind services, and assistive technology training. Services provided at the Center and in the community statewide)
- ✓ **Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing:** 800-860-4860, <http://www.deafservices.utah.gov> (I & R; resources on hearing loss; assistive listening and alerting devices available for demonstration and loan)
- ✓ **Division of Services for People with Disabilities:** 800-837-6811 (Provides home and community-based services, supported employment, some devices, housing services; job placement; family support, respite, IL skills training for people with intellectual disabilities, cerebral palsy, autism, seizure disorders, brain injury, and motor if can't use two limbs)
- ✓ **Easter Seals Northern Rocky Mountain:** 801-633-2091 (Provides services for children and adults with disabilities and other special needs and support to their families.)

- ✓ **Epilepsy Association of Utah:** 801-566-5949, <http://www.epilepsyut.org> (Support groups, mentoring program, annual conference, summer camp)
- ✓ **Eyecare4kids:** 801-255-8525 <http://www.eyecare4kids.org> (Provides eye screenings and glasses)
- ✓ **GlobusRelief Fund:** 801-977-0444 (Large variety of devices, educational & medical supplies to nonprofit partners at 5% of cost, including some CILs & UATF)
- ✓ **Hearing Aid Recycling Program:** 800-829-8200, option 5 (Recycled hearing aids for low income children at no charge through the Health Department)
- ✓ **Hear Now:** 1-800-648-4327 (Hearing aids for low income adults for small fee)
- ✓ **Home Choice:** 866-493-4500, 435-753-1112 (Provides financial and mortgage assistance for low income persons with disabilities)
- ✓ **Learning Disabilities Association of Utah:** 801-553-9156, <http://www.lautah.org> (Helps individuals with learning disabilities through education, support and advocacy)
- ✓ **Muscular Dystrophy Association of Utah:** 801-438-0280, <http://www.mdaua.org> (Information, services, funding support for the care of treatment of neuromuscular diseases)
- ✓ **NAMI Utah:** 877-230-6264, <http://www.namiut.org> (Nonprofit that provides self-help, support and advocacy to consumers, families, friends of people with severe mental illness)
- ✓ **National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Utah Chapter:** 801-493-0113, <http://www.fightmsutha.org> (Provides information on MS, support, independent living, accessibility, and employment)
- ✓ **PeopleFirst of Utah:** 800-323-8824 <http://www.utahddc.org> (Self-advocacy organization with over 20 groups throughout Utah with monthly educational meetings)
- ✓ **Relay Utah Network:** 800-346-4128, 801-530-6638 V/TTY (Provides telephone relay services and free telephone relay and hearing equipment to low income people statewide who are Deaf, Deaf-blind, hard of hearing, or have speech disabilities)
- ✓ **Social Security Administration:** 866-725-6592 (Medicare, Social Security Disability Social Security Retirement, Survivors, Supplemental Security Income (SSI))
- ✓ **Tourette Syndrome Association Utah:** 866-274-0700, <http://www.tsa-utah.org> (Education and support for individuals with Tourette Syndrome and their families)
- ✓ **UCAT (Utah Center for Assistive Technology):** 888-866-5550 (I & R, training, recycled equipment, and demonstration of a variety of AT devices, including adaptive computers)
- ✓ **UCARE:** 801-538-4608 <http://www.ucare.utah.gov> (Provides help, information, training and resources for seniors, caregivers, and professionals)
- ✓ **UCB Credit Union:** 801-323-4396 (Low interest loans equipment for the blind).
- ✓ **UHCCF (The United Healthcare Children's Foundation):** www.uhccf.org (Provides \$5,000 to help low income children 16 or younger who need treatment, therapy, prescriptions, services, or equipment not covered by health benefit plans. Not available to Medicaid/SCHIP recipients)

- ✓ **USDB (Utah Schools for the Deaf and Blind):** 800-990-9328 (Disability determination services; Therapists (low vision, occupational, physical); Audiologists; Early intervention; Deaf-Blind Services; Library; Foundation; Special Education Services)
- ✓ **Utah Assistive Technology Foundation:** 800-524-5152 (Low interest loans to purchase assistive devices, adapted vans, agricultural equipment and home modifications)
- ✓ **Utah Assistive Technology Program:** 800-524-5152 <http://www.uatpat.org> (Information, coordination, referral and training on assistive technology devices and services)
- ✓ **Utah Clicks:** <http://www.utahclicks.org> (Program that helps people complete and submit paperwork for Medicaid, Head Start, CHIP, CSHCN, Baby Watch, Baby your Baby, Early Head Start)
- ✓ **Utah Developmental Disabilities Council:** 800-333-8824, <http://www.utahddc.org> (Provides statewide information, advocacy, leadership, project grant funding and collaboration)
- ✓ **Utah Down Syndrome Foundation:** 877-499-8373, <http://www.udsf.org> (14 chapters throughout state that provide outreach, training, counseling, support, information and activities)
- ✓ **Utah Family Voices:** 800-468-1160 <http://www.familyvoices.org> (Grassroots organization that provides information, training, and support to families who have children with disabilities)
- ✓ **Utah Information & Referral Center:** 211 or 888-826-9790 <http://www.informationandreferral.org> (Free information & referral on community resources and services, volunteer opportunities)
- ✓ **Utah Parent Center:** 800-468-1160 <http://www.utahparentcenter.org> (Conferences, training, family/peer support groups statewide, advocacy, information and referral, disability resources)
- ✓ **Utah State Library for the Blind:** 800-662-5540 (Braille, large print, and audio books; playback equipment and a radio loaned to registered readers for use without charge)
- ✓ **Veteran's Administration:** 800-613-4012 (Educational/vocational services and technology)
- ✓ **Vocational Rehabilitation:** 801-538-7530, 800-473-7530 (Provides vocational rehabilitation services, counseling, job placement, medical/psychological treatment and assistive technology)
- ✓ **Work Ability Utah:** 877-246-9675 <http://www.workabilityutah.org> (I & R, work incentives, supports)



Go to www.utahparentcenter.org to view the most recent version of a comprehensive Disability Resource Directory that is updated regularly.

