

ADA Legacy Tour History of Self-Advocacy Exhibit - Panel Four of Four

The ADA and Beyond

After 1980, The Self-Advocacy Movement continued to grow and build upon the successes of earlier eras. Gains were made in the areas of education, public policy, legislation and the right of individuals with disabilities to be more fully integrated in the community. Self-Determination, Independence, and Civil Rights issues were still the main focus. In 1981, The International Year of Disabled Persons was established by the United Nations to create awareness, understanding, and promote equality of opportunities and disability prevention.

Legislation advanced the rights of people with disabilities, enabling such individuals to file lawsuits for mistreatment (1980), have accessible polling places (1984), have increased protection from abuse and neglect (1986) and to have improved access and accommodation for air travel (1986). The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 was considered a breakthrough for the civil rights of individuals with disabilities. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 1990 expanded the right to a free appropriate public education to children with disabilities.

Some of the organizations that emerged include the National Council on Independent Living (1982), National Black Deaf Advocates (1982), Americans Disabled for Accessible Public Transit (1983), also known as ADAPT. The activism of ADAPT played a major role in the Passage of the ADA. Also in 1983, The World Institute on Disability was founded by Ed Roberts, Judith Heumann and Joan Leon.

In 1986, former Willowbrook State School resident Bernard Carabello founded the Self-Advocacy Association of New York State. Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE) was founded in 1991 by self advocates with intellectual disabilities. In 1995, the American Association of People with Disabilities was founded, which became the largest national nonprofit cross-disability organization.

The first Issue of *Disability Rag* was published in 1980. Mary Johnson is the creator of the “edgy” magazine that discusses disability rights and self-advocacy. In 1989, "Mouth Magazine: The Voice of Disability Rights" began publication. These magazines became a forum for cutting-edge commentary and reporting of issues and activities by members of the emerging “Crip Culture.” Other disability-themed media emerged that focused on advocacy, lifestyle, parenting, education, rehabilitation and adaptive equipment information.

Courtesy of The Museum of disABILITY History - Buffalo, NY

