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National Organization on Disability [Folder 2]

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49 Million Americans with Disabilities Want to Participate and Contribute

There are 49 million Americans - one-fifth of the population - with physical, mental or sensory disabilities. There is a wide gap in the levels of participation between those with and without disabilities. Two-thirds are unemployed. The poverty rate is double that of people without disabilities. One quarter of those with disabilities have not finished high school.

Yet there has been progress with N.O.D. at the forefront. In cooperation with its partners - 4,500 communities, 37 national associations, 200 CEO's - and with many disability organizations and volunteers, N.O.D. is leading the way and showing that it's **ability** not disability that counts.

for Jonathan Young
Questions

Do we know this group (NOD) and do you recommend we do something with them. The following is information on ~~the~~ NOD and their proposed public service announcement

- Sarah Bianchi

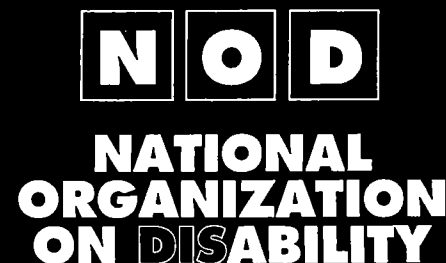


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The National Organization on Disability is a 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt, non-profit organization. N.O.D. receives no government funds and is supported entirely by private donations from individuals, corporations and foundations.

This brochure is available on audio tape.



Expanding
the
Participation
of People
with
Disabilities

N O D

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION ON DISABILITY

It's ability not disability that counts

N.O.D. promotes the full and equal participation of America's 49 million men, women and children with disabilities in all aspects of life.

N.O.D. was founded in 1982 as an outgrowth of the United Nations International Year of Disabled Persons. N.O.D. is the only national network organization concerned with all disabilities, all age groups and all disability issues.

■ EXPANDING COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Community Partnership Program (CPP)

Every individual should be able to participate in community life. The CPP, a growing network of 4,500 towns, cities and counties, promotes local voluntary commitment and action to expand the participation of people with disabilities in the life of their communities.

Each member is represented by a Community Representative, who is appointed by the mayor or chief elected official, and serves as liaison to N.O.D. The Community Representative, along with a committee of individuals with and without disabilities, identifies local needs, sets objectives, and puts the plan into action.

N.O.D. responds to community requests for program ideas and provides organizational and training advice and materials. In cooperation with 55 State Representatives appointed by all governors, N.O.D. assists Community Partners with implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

N.O.D.'s \$30,000 annual Community Awards Competition, made possible by a corporate grant, encourages community disability initiatives and their nationwide replication.

National Organization Partnership Program (NOPP)

The NOPP increases the participation of people with disabilities in community life through the efforts of 37 major national non-disability associations. These N.O.D. National Partners, representing millions of members throughout the United States, encourage their local chapters to initiate disability programs.

Through a corporate grant, N.O.D. provides funds to each member association to conduct a cash awards competition among its local chapters. The goal is to recognize and promote replication of outstanding local disability programs.

■ INCREASING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

CEO Council

More than two-thirds of people with disabilities of working age are out of the work force. They want to work and contribute to the economy just like everyone else.

Through membership in the CEO Council, more than 200 CEO's signal their support for employment of people with disabilities. CEO Council members are recognized several times a year in donated public service advertisements in *BusinessWeek*.

Start On Success Student Internship Program (SOS)

Young people with disabilities are often disadvantaged when they leave school because they have not had work experience. The SOS Program helps high school students with disabilities enter the work force by offering part-time paid internships with local employers. The interns acquire skills they need to succeed in the work place, increasing the likelihood of a future of self-sufficiency.

■ CREATING WELCOMING CONGREGATIONS

Religion and Disability Program

Many people with disabilities find places of worship not to be as accessible or welcoming as they could be. The N.O.D. Religion and Disability Program urges local congregations, national denominational groups and seminaries to remove architectural, communication and attitudinal barriers. N.O.D.'s award-winning series of interfaith guides, *That All May Worship*, *Loving Justice*, and

From Barriers to Bridges, along with "That All May Worship" conferences, focus on eliminating obstacles that hinder access to a full life of faith for people with disabilities.

■ CLOSING THE PARTICIPATION GAP

Survey Program on Participation and Attitudes

There are significant gaps in the levels of participation between people with and without disabilities in many aspects of life such as education, employment, political participation and socializing. In addition, negative attitudes and stereotypes about people with disabilities persist. In cooperation with Louis Harris & Associates and the George H. Gallup International Institute, N.O.D. provides reliable data on participation gaps and attitudes. From these findings, N.O.D. helps set America's disability agenda - a call to action to close the participation gaps and improve the attitudes that keep people with disabilities from fully participating in American life.

■ REACHING OUT INTERNATIONALLY

World Committee on Disability

Disability knows no national boundaries. No one is immune. The World Committee on Disability - the international arm of N.O.D. - promotes commitment and action to strengthen the United Nations World Programme of Action Concerning Disabled Persons. The World Committee urges the U.N., its member nations and international organizations to make the full participation of people with disabilities an ongoing priority.

The World Committee conducts a program of information and education through conferences, meetings, events and mailings. Each year the World Committee partners with the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute to award the Franklin D. Roosevelt International Disability Award to a nation making noteworthy progress toward improving the participation of people with disabilities in the life of their society.

Confessions :60



OPEN ON CHRISTOPHER REEVE
TALKING TO CAMERA.

CHRISTOPHER REEVE: I can't speak French.



FROM THIS POINT ON WE WOULD CUT TO
DIFFERENT PEOPLE ANNOUNCING THE THINGS
THEY CANNOT DO. SOME FAMOUS, SOME NOT,
SOME WITH DISABILITIES, AND SOME NOT.



CUT TO A YOUNG WOMAN.

WOMAN: I can't get on an airplane.



THEN DAVID BOWIE.

DAVID BOWIE: I can't whistle.

CUT TO BILL GATES

BILL GATES: I can't type.



THEN A WOMAN WITH A DISABILITY
AT WORK WITH ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGIES.

WOMAN: I can't read minds.



THE COEN BROTHERS STANDING
SIDE BY SIDE.

JOEL COEN: I can't work alone.



CUT TO TONI MORRISON.

TONI MORRISON: I can't make small talk.

TO AN OLDER MAN.

MAN: I can't sit still.



CUT TO ASHLEY JUDD.

ASHLEY JUDD: I can't sing.

WE CUT TO JACK NICHOLSON.

JACK NICHOLSON: I can't cry.

WE CUT TO A MAN. HE IS DEAF.

MAN: I can't tie my own tie.

CUT TO SHERYL SWOOPES.

SHERYL SWOOPES: I can't tell my left from my right.

CUT TO VICE PRESIDENT GORE.

VICE PRESIDENT GORE: I can't tell a joke.

CUT TO A WOMAN WITH A BAG OVER HER HEAD.

WOMAN: I can't speak in public.

DANNY DEVITO: I can't reach the top shelf.

THEN WE COME BACK TO CHRISTOPHER REEVE,
WHO TALKS TO CAMERA.

CHRISTOPHER: No matter who you are, there are
things you can't do. And there are things you can do.
Which do you think is more important?
Give people with disabilities a chance.
In the workplace and in life.

It's ability, not disability, that counts.

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION ON
DISABILITY