Activists for the Ages

BABS JOHNSON  BARB TOOMER

This program is dedicated to the memory of TWO STRONG WOMEN whose GRIT and PASSION for disability rights are INDELIBLY IMPRINTED on ADAPT’s PROUD HISTORY OF ACTIVISM. See more inside.

ADAPT’s 13th Annual FUN*RUN for Disability Rights
May 13, 2018  |  Upper “D” Park Washington, DC
Because we can all do our part on the road to freedom

Proud to be a supporting sponsor of National ADAPT 13th Annual FUN*RUN

Anthem
Dear Disability Rights Activists:

The ADAPT Community, the nation’s largest grassroots disability rights organization, welcomes you to the 13th Annual FUN®RUN for Disability Rights. We’re here on Mother’s Day at our new location—Upper “D” Park in Washington, DC—rolling, walking, running, skipping and otherwise traveling around the park to raise funds to support disability rights and services in America.

FUN®RUN proceeds allow ADAPT to continue the fight to get and keep people out of nursing homes and other institutions; for accessible, affordable, integrated housing; for better wages and benefits for community attendants; to break down barriers that keep people with disabilities of any age from living, working, and socializing in the communities of their choice. And these funds allow us to continue educating Congress on why they need to pass the DISABILITY INTEGRATION ACT.

The theme of this FUN®RUN is ACTIVISM THROUGH THE AGES. We’re focused on uniting—old and young—to fight national, state, and local budget cuts that result in fewer services and supports and unnecessary institutionalization. Medicaid—as we know it now—is going to change. We must advocate for reforms that promote community integration for people with disabilities of all ages.

Our National FUN®RUNNERS perfectly reflect our theme. Eight-year-old Heath Montgomery of Montana is among ADAPT’s youngest warriors. Utah’s Barb Toomer was still fightin’ the fight at age 88 when, sadly, she passed away in late April.

By joining us today—whatever your age—you are supporting Heath, Barbara, and the hundreds of ADAPT activists nationwide to continue work to achieve the ADA’s full promise for community integration, inclusion and independence. Thank you for being here!

For an Institution and Barrier Free America,
The ADAPT Community

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ADAPT’S KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Role in passing the ADA
- Accessible mainline and over-the-road buses
- MiCASSA / Community Choice Act
- Real Choice Systems Change Grants
- Implementing Olmstead Decision
- Money Follows the Person Demonstration
- Project Access: Accessible, Affordable, Integrated Housing
- Community First Choice Option
- Promoting Direct-Action Organizing
- Fighting for a livable wage and benefits for attendants.
- Introduction of the Disability Integration Act
2018 CHAMPIONS for DISABILITY RIGHTS

EMERALD:
Disability Rights ARE Civil Rights!
Centene Corporation

PLATINUM:
Rights Worth Fighting For!
Anthem – Amerigroup Community Care

GOLD:
Accessible, Affordable, Integrated Housing!
Access Living – Chicago
A Disability Rights Supporter
AARP National Office
American Health Insurance Plans (AHIP)
Liberty Resources – Philadelphia
Personal Assistance Services of Colorado
REV UP Campaign
The Fountains at Farah – El Paso

SILVER:
Livable Wages and Benefits!
ADAPT of Texas / Personal Attendant Coalition of Texas (PACT)
Independence First – Milwaukee
McDonalds – The Castros – El Paso
Molina Health Plans – Texas
Shepherd Center
The Long Ranger

BRONZE:
Community First!
American Assn of People with Disabilities (AAPD)
Hyundai of El Paso
State Independent Living Council of Georgia
Yoshiko Dart & Family

Find out about ADAPT:
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THANKS!

FUN®RUN PLANNING COMMITTEE:
Bruce Darling • Michael Heinrich
Bob Kafka • Scott Nance • Nancy Salandra

FUN®RUN Emcee: Scott Nance
Music: Dawn Russell/Anita Cameron
Printing: Center for Disability Rights
Layout/Design: Kaye Beneke
Photos of Babs, Barbara & Justin: Tom Olin
Webmaster: Nathan Freeze
Snacks/Drinks: Anthem/Amerigroup
Banners: The Long Ranger - Carolyn Long

ACTIVISM THROUGH THE AGES!
POWER of ADAPT!
POWER of JUSTIN!
POWER of IDAR!
POWER of BARBARA!
POWER of BABS!
Yoshiko Dart & Family

LEAD ON!
Heath Montgomery
is a third-grader and an activist from Missoula, Montana. He enjoys writing, biking, jiujitsu, swimming, and summiting peaks around his hometown with his Otter Scout troop.

Barbara Toomer
was ADAPT’s most senior warrior—age 88 when she passed away recently. Barbara was instrumental in getting lifts placed on buses in pre-ADA days. And she was a leader in the national grassroots effort to get the ADA passed. She was Utah’s guiding force in bringing more than 400 businesses, 200 restaurants, and thousands of living units into compliance with the ADA.

Her victories were impressive but hard won—in her fearless civil rights leadership around the country she was arrested over 35 times. In recognition of her work, Barbara was honored with several awards, including the Utah NAACP chapter’s Rosa Parks award.
Visit us on the web: www.pascohh.com
OVERVIEW: The Disability Integration Act

What is the Disability Integration Act?

The Disability Integration Act (DIA) is civil rights legislation aimed at protecting people who are forced to live in institutions because they need long-term services and supports (LTSS) – thereby losing their most fundamental Constitutional and civil rights. The bipartisan, bicameral legislation builds on more than a quarter century of ADAPT’s work to end the institutional bias and provide seniors and people with disabilities community-based services in their homes instead of institutions.

What does the Disability Integration Act do?

If passed, the DIA would require states and insurance providers that pay for LTSS to make real and meaningful changes that support the right of people with disabilities to live in freedom like every other American. The new law would include a mandate that they offer home and community-based services as the first option. And it would require them to offer HCBS to people currently in institutions.

How does the Disability Integration Act work?

DIA would require each state to offer community-based services and supports to any individual who is eligible to go into an institution. The law would make it illegal for a state and insurance providers that pay for LTSS to use waiting lists, screening people out, capping services, paying workers too little for services, or the other excuses that have been used to prevent people from getting home and community-based services—keeping people with disabilities from living in freedom. It would also require states to take active steps to make sure that there is enough affordable, accessible, integrated housing.

How will the Disability Integration Act be enforced?

First, the law would require states and LTSS insurance providers to complete a self-evaluation of current services, policies, and practices that do not or may not meet the DIA’s requirements, then make necessary changes to comply with the law. Also, states and providers would be required to develop a transition plan using an extensive public participation process. Failure to comply with the law may face a lawsuit or legal action by the Attorney General. People who have been discriminated against may receive damages under the law.

Who’s On Board With the DIA?

The DIA was crafted by ADAPT and the National Council on Independent Living with assistance from The Autistic Self-Advocacy Network. The Disability Integration Act is already supported by a number of national organizations. Here are a few of the hundreds of organizations supporting the DIA.

- ADAPT
- Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living
- Association of University Centers on Disabilities
- Autistic Self Advocacy Network
- Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
- Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund
- Medicare Rights Center
- National Council on Aging
- National Council on Independent Living
- National Disability Leadership Alliance
- Not Dead Yet
- National Organization of Nurses with Disabilities
- Paraprofessional Healthcare Institute
- Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
- United Spinal Association
National Disability Voter Registration Week

REV UP for the ADA!
REV UP for Independent Living and Aging in Place!
REV UP for Accessible, Affordable, Integrated Housing!
REV UP for Medicaid for Community Integration!
REV UP for Disability Integration Act!
REV UP for Money Follows the Person!
REV UP for Inclusive Education!
REV UP for Mental Health Parity!
REV UP for Integrated Employment!
REV UP for Community Attendants!
REV UP for Durable Medical Equipment
REV UP for Health Care!
REV UP for Assistive Technology!
REV UP for Accessible Communication!
REV UP for Disability Rights!

ALL POLITICS ARE LOCAL!

DISABILITY ACTIVISTS must support CANDIDATES who support DISABILITY RIGHTS!

We need STATE COALITIONS to:
• REGISTER the Disability Community
• EDUCATE the Disability Community
• VOTE! Get the Disability Community to the polls!

★★★

Find out more—aapd.com/REVUP
202-521-4316

July 16-20, 2018
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REV UP for Money Follows the Person!
REV UP for Inclusive Education!
REV UP for Mental Health Parity!
REV UP for Integrated Employment!
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REV UP for Disability Rights!

National Disability Voter Registration Week
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Find out more—aapd.com/REVUP
202-521-4316
We applaud your commitment to protecting Medicaid.

Cuts to Medicaid could deny millions the ability to receive the services they need in order to live in their homes and communities.

AARP is proud to sponsor the 2018 ADAPT FUN*RUN for Disability Rights.

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Thank You Runners!

Thank you for your commitment to raising funds for disability rights.

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McDonald’s Proudly Supports ADAPT’S FUN RUN

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Thank you for your partnership in advocacy in Southeastern Wisconsin.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: www.independencefirst.org
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ADAPT's ACTIVISM HAS CHANGED THE WORLD FOR ONE & ALL!

The Long Ranger

Carolyn S. Long
clongranger7@aol.com
270-462-3296
http://thelongranger.norwood.com

Our Homes! Our Communities!

ADAPT of Texas &
Personal Attendant Coalition of Texas
www.adaptoftexas.org
Thank you ADAPT for your tireless activism throughout the ages. Lead On!

“INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS A THREAT TO JUSTICE EVERYWHERE.”
Martin Luther King, Jr.
A beautiful, light, warrior woman, Babs Johnson was a foundation of ADAPT. Always helping, always ready for whatever needed to be done, she continued to help the organization until two weeks before she died.

Before she became too fragile to come on actions, Babs drove her van a million miles across the nation to bring the necessities: the spare wheelchairs and parts for emergency repairs, the poster boards and sound system, etc. (and usually an activist or two tucked in among all the bits and pieces.) Then once she arrived and got the trailer unhitched and the van unloaded, she went out to the airport to get load after load of folks flying in.

She would drive to each action (and back) at least twice because she walked hundreds of miles with those of us in chairs (hitting our joy sticks) to scope out multiple target options for each action. That way we had a plan, a plan B, and maybe plans C & D, for each day. She was a brilliant organizer.

She ordered the lunches, made sure the McDonalds’ people believed we really wanted 400 hamburgers and fries, paid for it all and made sure they got passed out to everyone blocking the doors — even the little group occupying the bigwig’s office on the 10th floor, if possible.

She sold thousands of T-shirts to pay for those burgers. And she wrote grants to pay for interpreters, organizers, hotel meeting rooms, you name it. She kept huge wads of cash in her jean pockets so when we needed to pay for something on the spot there wasn’t a hitch.

When the numbers were smaller (before it got too big for one person’s back) she coordinated attendants for those who could just make the dough to get themselves there and had to trust that even though they couldn’t dress themselves, someone would be there to help. And sometimes that someone was Babs.

She was arrested time and again in the struggles for Disability Rights, lifts on buses and freeing our people. And then she went home to her work at Atlantis: coordinating attendants, coordinating programs, supporting folks with the most significant disabilities to live free in the community.

Babs was not one for the limelight. She was one for getting it done. She was practical. A woman of few words, she knew that actions speak louder than words. A feminist to the core, she knew the power of women.

Born in Wyoming she moved to Denver as young woman and started work at Atlantis. She always carried a spare, quiet nature with her. Her plants were legendary, filling her home with verdant life under her mindful care. Her cats moved around her like little satellites sitting on the back or arm of her favorite chair waiting for a scratch on the head. And she was the same with people.

She hated TV, and loved music and company and community, while remaining a very private soul. The most words heard from her at one time were at the ADAPT 25th Anniversary celebration where she spoke so eloquently about the past quarter century of ADAPT. We will miss her long tapering fingers, shaking slightly, holding a cup of black coffee and a cigarette.

We love this strong woman. We will miss everything about this strong woman. She is survived by her two beautiful, wonderful daughters, Tisha and Stephanie; her son-in-law Mark and grandson Malachi; and her sister, brother-in-law and nephew.
A bout with polio in the 1950s left Barbara Toomer in a wheelchair. She turned it into a steamroller. For four decades, Toomer was among the leading advocates for civil rights for people with disabilities and the poor in Utah, organizing the state’s earliest disabled rights organizations, fighting relentlessly for health care access, for handicapped accessible buses and buildings, for in-home care options, and on and on.

Born in California in 1929, she attended nursing school, then became a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps and met the man who would become her husband of 52 years, Capt. Ross Toomer. They were rebels at heart and after polio took Barbara’s mobility, Ross, an engineer, would rig gadgets to help her get around. She’d pull herself into the car and with one hand chuck her wheelchair into the back seat and the kids in tow had better watch out, because mom had work to do.

She began advocating for others with disabilities, forming Advocates for Utah Handicapped and in 1981 co-founding the Utah Independent Living Center. In 1983, she went to Denver to protest inaccessible buses, rallying in the cold and blocking bus routes and buildings until the transit agency caved.

In 1985, Toomer helped lead similar demonstrations at home, staging “crawl-ons” and demanding that the Utah Transit Authority make its buses accessible to people with disabilities. In rush hour traffic, people would hurl themselves out of their wheelchairs and drag themselves onto the buses while shocked passengers were forced to wait and watch. When that failed, they shut down every bus route in the city, with protesters, including Toomer, chaining themselves to the buses. UTA eventually backed down.

The crusades didn’t stop there. In the late 1980s, she battled for passage of the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act, which prohibits discrimination and requires certain accommodations. She took her son to Washington, D.C., where she joined protesters who shut down Pennsylvania Ave. and chained themselves to the White House fence.

In 1991, Toomer helped organize the Disabled Rights Action Committee, which spearheaded a string of policy causes. She fought UTA over steep fare hikes for paratransit riders (UTA backed down). She sued Wells Fargo for putting night deposit boxes out of reach of people in wheelchairs. She was a plaintiff in a lawsuit against Utah cab companies for not being ADA-compliant. And she helped fill Gov. Gary Herbert’s office in 2015 to lobby for Medicaid expansion.

Last year, she was among a throng of advocates who packed a U.S. Senate committee hearing on the repeal of the Affordable Care Act. “If you want a hearing … you had better shut up,” warned Sen. Orrin Hatch, the chairman, banging his gavel. Hatch clearly didn’t know who he was dealing with.

Toomer’s work garnered her a slew of accolades — the 2008 Community Justice Award, Advocate of the Year from the Disability Law Center, a lifetime achievement award from the Crossroads Urban Center — but when I got to talk to Barbara, what she proudest of was her family, her son James and her daughters Jean and Jennifer.

In recent years, one of Toomer’s primary focuses had been pushing the federal government to help pay for in-home attendant care, so people could live independently in their own homes, rather than having to resort to a nursing home or other long term care facility.
Congratulations on all your wins for Disability Rights!

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