



the NOODLE

Open up and say AHHHH!!!



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Welcome to the September 2019 edition of *The Noodle*, written and published by the FYC. For this issue of *The Noodle*, members of the FYC were asked to respond to the question “Who is my favorite disability activist?” This topic allowed members to share their thoughts on who has influenced them in their lives. We hope you will take a few minutes out of your busy schedule to learn about our experiences and enjoy our thoughts and opinions in this September, 2019 edition of *The Noodle*!

Current Members:

John Baldino
Shevie Barnes
Derek Carraway
Alexander Gonzalez
Leah Gorman
Emma Massey
Dakota Smoot
Josh Tapia
Christina Waldron
Serena Wetmore
Brandon White
Niki Germain - FYC
Youth Advisor





A True Disability Activist

After we decided to do this month's *Noodle* on disability activists, I thought it would be fitting to remember and highlight some influential person in the disability movement who has helped pave the way to where we are now. After doing a little research, I came across Justin Whitlock Dart, Jr.

After contracting polio in the late 40's, he went on to college and completed two degrees. But when the university he attended refused to grant him his teaching certificate strictly because of his disability, he became a strong advocate for disability rights. Using his own resources he put together a nationwide tour where he visited every state in the country promoting disability issues and awareness. He would later go on to sit on many committees of different capacities, including an appointment by President Ronald Reagan to be the Vice-Chair of the National Council on Disability. A lot of the ideas he promoted later led to the creation of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which he helped pass. The ADA was signed into law on July 26, 1990 by President George H.W. Bush, and Dart sat right beside the President as he was signing the bill into law. In the years following the ADA passage, Dart continued to promote disability issues and put together anniversary events to celebrate the ADA's passage. After a long and tireless life promoting the one issue he believed in the most, he passed away in 2002, but his work will never be forgotten. To many he will always be known as the "Godfather of the ADA" and a true disability activist.

By Derek Carraway

Source:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Justin_Whitlock_Dart,_Jr.



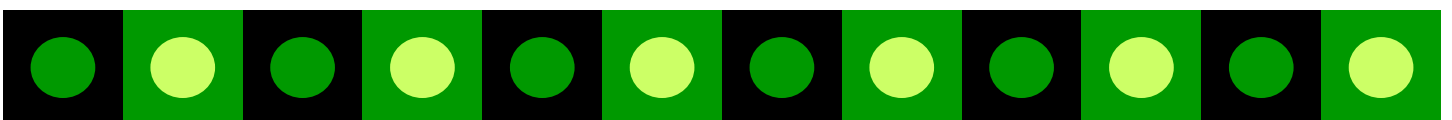
Dominick Evans

When I was asked to write about one of my favorite disability advocates, I wasn't sure who to pick. I went through a list of names on-line and found Dominick, and I was immediately drawn to his work. Dominick Evans was born in Toledo, Ohio. He has spinal muscular atrophy, asthma, and OCD, so he has experience with multiple disabilities. This allows him to see the world through several different lenses, which is convenient because he is a filmmaker, public speaker, and disability advocate. As a child he experienced bullying at school. In film school he learned that because of his disability people didn't want to work with him much, so he turned his filmmaking toward advocacy.

Dominick speaks out about what he interprets as hate crimes against the disabled. He thinks that people are afraid of becoming disabled and seeing people with challenges reminds them of the possibility that they too could develop issues as they get older. He feels that this fear leads to anger. He also believes that people do not really understand the struggle that disabled people experience fighting to get the services they need and living on a budget. He tries to educate them about how the disabled contribute more to society and actually cost the government less if they are living at home rather than in a nursing home.

He has several online platforms, including his own website featuring various articles about being disabled in today's world and covering a variety of interesting topics, a Twitter discussion group, #FilmDis, which discusses inclusion and portrayal of people with disabilities in the media, and a series of film reviews about disabled characters at the Center for Disability Rights website.

By Serena Wetmore



Justin Dart

In his tour for disability rights, which took him to every state in the U.S., Justin Dart was an important figure for the individuals with disabilities that remained mistreated. Justin and Yoshiko did not make these trips alone, often partnering with local disability advocates, community members, and friends. To accomplish their journey, Justin and Yoshiko Dart frequently had to find passage and housing that could provide for Justin Dart and his colleagues, wheelchairs. There weren't departments that were promptly accessible in every town that the Darts attended. For many of the citizens with whom the Darts assembled, this was the first time that anyone had ever asked them as people with incapacities what they wanted from their politics and nation. Based on these discussions, Dart and others on the committee conscripted a national strategy that requested federal civil rights legislation to end the centuries-old discernment of spirits with disabilities, what would ultimately become the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

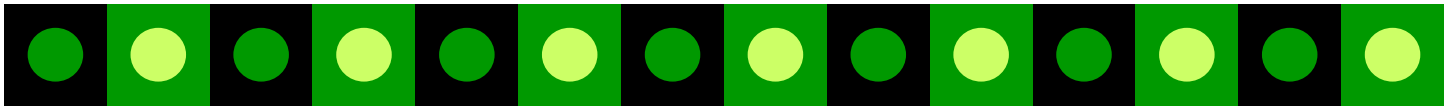
For many fragments of the disability alliance, particularly in the Washington, D.C. area, Justin Dart is a symbol for hope in the current disability campaign, and the prototype of compassion, advocacy, and leadership. In his final declaration before his death, Dart wrote:

"I call for solidarity among all who love justice, all who love life, to create a revolution that will empower every single human being to govern his or her life, to govern the society and to be fully productive of life quality for self and for all."

Ending with his closing of "Lead On," Dart's talks have become a proposal for energy and commitment for numerous people who advance for the culmination of embodiment, and for all who understand in work and consideration. Dart's usual wardrobe of a Stetson hat with a pin of the American flag on the band and cowboy boots have become symbols of the disability rights movement.

By Alexander Gonzalez





Marca Bristo

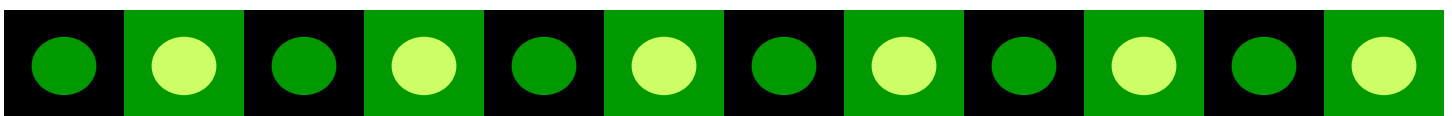
Marca Bristo is a disability rights activist. In her early 20's her life took a tragic turn when she became paralyzed in a diving incident. Sometime in 1983 she had co-founded the National Council on Independent Living, otherwise known as the NCIL. In her lifetime she has accomplished many extraordinary things, such as becoming the President of United States International Council on Disabilities. Marca Bristo has crossed many boundaries and has made life easier for many with disabilities. As of now she is the President and Chief Executive Officer of Access Living of Metropolitan Chicago, an organization of which she was also a founder. The foundation helps those with disabilities engage and grow within the community by offering them the tools they need. Marca Bristo has done many great things for the disabled community and we probably wouldn't be where we're at now without her and the other countless disability activists.

By Brandon White

Helen Keller

My favorite disability activist is Helen Keller, and I have been telling her life story since I was in fourth grade. She fascinated me when I discovered how she learned to interact with a world she could neither see nor hear. Helen changed the way the world thought of disabilities by going out and speaking publicly instead of being shut away and out of sight.

As a child, Helen contracted an unknown illness that was caused by either meningitis or scarlet fever. Regardless of the cause, she was changed, losing both her sight and hearing. Therefore, Helen Keller communicated her words through sign language with the guidance of her instructor and companion Anne Sullivan. Miss Sullivan's instruction involved a strict schedule with the constant introduc-



tion of new vocabulary words, multiplication tables and the Braille system.

Although Helen had setbacks caused by her delayed developmental progress and intelligence, that didn't stop her from achieving phenomenal success. For example, Helen Keller wrote 12 books; her most famous book is her autobiography, *The Story Of My Life*. Perhaps you have read the book, or seen the play or movie *The Miracle Worker* based on her life. She is a member of the National Women's Hall of Fame and was the first blind and deaf women to earn a bachelor's degree from Radcliff College. Additionally, she received the Presidential Medal of Freedom which the President bestows to recognize people who have made a profound impact in the United States.

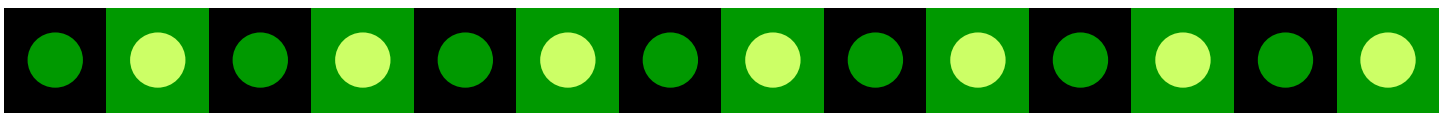


Helen gave numerous motivational speeches and her advocacy for people with disabilities founded the American Civil Liberties Union. Like Helen stated, "Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much."

Due to advocates for people with disabilities like Helen Keller I can be dual enrolled in college, I can drive a car, and my future is whatever I choose. Helen both advocated for me and has inspired my future.

By Emma Massey





How Do I Become Part of The Florida Youth Council?

The Florida Youth Council is a group of youth (between the ages of 15 and 17) and emerging leaders (between the ages of 18 and 30) with disabilities or special health care needs that live in Florida.

The Florida Youth Council is all about getting youth and emerging leaders involved in self advocacy, peer mentoring and other activities that will improve the quality of life for youth and emerging leaders with disabilities in Florida. The program empowers youth and emerging leaders to decide what issues are important to their generation, to discuss those issues in their state and local communities, and to develop strategies to address them.

We are seeking a group of enthusiastic, motivated youth and emerging leaders to participate. If you would like to take a leadership role in advocating for youth and emerging leaders in Florida, please visit The Florida Youth Council website at www.floridayouthcouncil.com. The program is open to application year round. We hope to hear from you soon!



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