

# **Jewish Disability Awareness Month**



**February 2009**

## **Memo**

February 2009 is Jewish Disability Awareness Month! United Jewish Communities is proud to join the Jewish Special Education International Consortium in recognizing and increasing the awareness of people with disabilities in our Jewish communities throughout North America. We are asking each federation to join us in observing Jewish Disability Awareness Month.

UJC has created this extensive Resource Guide to give program, practice, facility ideas, as well as professional contacts to assist your community in planning activities during the month of February and throughout the entire year. This packet will be available through UJC Washington or through UJC's inter-office website. This site will house materials, contact information, and program ideas. [To access this website, please click here.](#)

If you have any trouble accessing the file or for more information about the Jewish Disability Awareness Month Resource Guide or about UJC's Disability Workgroup, please contact Amy Aarons Rosen, UJC's Senior Legislative Associate at [amy.rosen@ujc.org](mailto:amy.rosen@ujc.org) or (202) 736-5871; or Kate Josephson, Domestic Affairs Assistant at [kate.josephson@ujc.org](mailto:kate.josephson@ujc.org) or (202) 736-5888.

Sincerely,

Dan Guyer  
Detroit

Jane E. Rosenbaum  
Denver

Co-chairs, *UJC's Disability Workgroup*

## 10 Ideas for Your Federation

1. Use People First Language in publications, mission statements, meetings, events, and in regular conversations. [People First Language](#) recognizes that individuals with disabilities are - first and foremost - people. It emphasizes each person's value, individuality, dignity and capabilities. Click here to access [People First articles](#) and [examples](#)<sup>1</sup>.
2. Place a universal access sign on all meeting announcements. The universal access sign is a blueprint for those with disabilities. When individuals with disabilities see the sign, they will know that the meeting will be easily accessible to them, no matter what obstacles they face. For example, a universal access sign can tell someone if a meeting place is physically accessible, if there will be TTY for those with hearing difficulties, and if an interpreter can be supplied upon request. Click here to [view universal access sign templates](#)<sup>2</sup> and [click here to see the universal access symbols](#) that can be used<sup>3</sup>.
3. Get the community involved! Send out a basic circular, mini-magazine, or email message to the Jewish community. Plan programs and promote them to members and potential members through this vehicle. [Click here to see an example](#) of what one community has done.\_
4. Take a tour of facilities in your community using the checklist provided at the link below. Survey the facility for physical issues that can be changed to make agencies more accessible. There are [surveys you can get online](#) for both the accessibility and ambiance of the facilities.
  - a. To gain more accessibility, mount a cup dispenser next to water fountains. Therefore, if the water fountain is not at a convenient height, people who use a wheelchair will be able to access the fountain. [Click here to learn more](#) about low-cost ways to make improvements to facilities.
5. Work in cooperation with local synagogues to plan an inclusion Shabbat. This special Shabbat will provide the opportunity to examine other needs in congregations or organizations and create a roadmap for further initiatives. Inclusion also means creating and implementing services for all people. This may mean adding new music, crafting a modified service, or bringing in a storyteller. [Click here to see examples of publications](#) from UJA-Federation of New York's 2007 Inclusion Shabbat or check out an [Inclusion Awareness Shabbat Workbook](#).
6. Convene agency partners (Eg. JCC's, Jewish Family Services, etc.) to look at ways to make your community more accessible and inclusive. Gather interested volunteers and professionals to participate. This committee will highlight the basic needs of people with disabilities in your community.

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<sup>1</sup> Council for Jews with Special Needs. 2008. Jewish Federation of Greater Phoenix. 22 Dec 2008 <<http://www.charityadvantage.com/cjsnorg/Home.asp>>.

<sup>2</sup> Christensen, Shelly. "The Minneapolis Jewish Community Inclusion Program For People with Disabilities." [Jewish Community Guide to Inclusion of People with Disabilities](#). (Minneapolis Jewish Federation and Minneapolis Jewish Family and Children's Services). 2007.67-77 & 240-241

<sup>3</sup> Council for Jews with Special Needs. 2008. Jewish Federation of Greater Phoenix. 22 Dec 2008 <<http://www.charityadvantage.com/cjsnorg/Home.asp>>.

7. Consider the establishment of special community funds. Establishment of a fund such as an adaptive technology fund, community interpreter fund, special education fund, special equipment fund, and transportation fund is possible.<sup>4</sup> By establishing a fund, your federation or agency can make a sign language interpreter available at an event or purchase books in Braille for the blind. [Click here to view](#) the Partnership for Jewish Life and Learning website and learn more about funding.
8. Educate your community's professionals on the do's and don'ts of working with people with disabilities. For example, greeting people at eye level is a DO, while mentioning a disability when it is not relevant is a DON'T. [Click here to see a disability tip sheet](#) released by the Indiana Institute of Disability and Community at the University of Indiana.
9. Invite an elected official to your programs and/or facilities established for people with disabilities and explore key issues on the local and state levels. Educate your community of the significances of the issues with disabilities. [Click here to access an important memo](#) from United Jewish Communities and Jewish Council of Public Affairs outlining the process of inviting elected officials to your agencies.
10. Launch a Jewish service-learning project involving children with disabilities and their typical peers. Incorporating Jewish ideals into service projects strengthens communities and provides volunteers with an opportunity to explore and strengthen their Jewish identities. To learn more about Jewish service-learning and to see past program ideas, [click here](#).

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<sup>4</sup> See Above

## **Resources and Programs from the Federation System**

### **Boston**

- Combined Jewish Philanthropies (CJP) works and supports many organizations within the community to provide services and programs, and insure the inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of Jewish life. [Click here to learn more](#) about the resources CJP offers.

### **Los Angeles**

- The Los Angeles Federation has developed a one-stop collaborative called "HaMercaz: The Central Resource for Jewish Children with Special Needs and the Families who love them." HaMercaz is a great resource for Jewish families raising a special needs child and it connects parents to the programs they need and the services they want. Click here to access the [organization's website](#) and [local resource guides](#).

### **Minneapolis**

- The Minneapolis Jewish Community Inclusion Program for People with Disabilities has recently released a *Jewish Community Guide to Inclusion of People with Disabilities* (released through a joint effort of the Minneapolis Jewish Federation and the Minneapolis Jewish Family and Children's Services). This book is an essential resource for Jewish communities and organizations seeking to provide a supportive and inclusive environment for people with disabilities. It includes such topics as: a step by step guide for establishing an Inclusion Committee, comprehensive assessments and strategies, resources to create a plan of action, disability awareness training, ten things to know about raising a child with special needs, and other information and resources. [Connect here to view and purchase the guide](#).
- For a Shabbat Inclusion packet from the Minneapolis Jewish Community Inclusion Program for People with Disabilities, [please click here](#).
- For a resource packet full of national and Jewish contacts, [please click here](#).

### **New York**

- UJA-Federation of New York in conjunction with the Union for Reform Judaism has recently published their [People with Disabilities 2008 Resource Directory](#). This guide answers questions including: where can parents go to find Hebrew schools, bar or bat mitzvah training, social outlets, and advocacy services for a developmentally disabled youngster? Where can elderly caregivers turn to make provisions for a developmentally disabled adult child? Or where can families find support groups that assist them in coping with the unique demands of helping a child or a teen with disabilities reach his or her full potential?
- In October 2007, participants who were planning UJA-Federation of New York's Shabbat of Inclusion came up with ideas for synagogue inclusion. Ideas include: sending mailings to congregants and unaffiliated Jews, honoring families and

individuals with disabilities by creating opportunities for them to lead segments of the Shabbat service, providing sensitivity and skill training for synagogue staff and volunteers, as well as other professionals in the community (teachers, etc.) and bringing Shabbat candles to homebound individuals. To read more ideas for synagogue inclusion programming, [please click here](#).

- Promote an Inclusion Shabbat during the month of February. This opportunity brings people with disabilities and their families together with other congregants.<sup>5</sup> [Click here to access an article from the UJA-Federation of New York](#) and a [press release from their Shabbat of Inclusion](#).

## **Phoenix**

- The Council for Jews with Special Needs (CJSN) has been working since 1985 to address the unique needs of children who have disabling conditions and their efforts to be included in typical Jewish community activities. Since its inception, CJSN has formed support groups for short periods of time for families with specific needs such as for parents whose children are diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Groups are "customized" to the participants' needs. [Click here to learn more](#) about forming support groups and to gain additional insight on programs and ideas that CJSN has sponsored.

## **Seattle**

- The mission of the Seattle Association for Jews with Disabilities (SAJD) is to bring hope and a higher quality of life to people with cognitive disabilities. The SAJD's [Supported Living Program](#) (SLP) is committed to helping clients realize their highest potential while living richer, more satisfying lives. This strategic planning committee represents Jewish Family Service, the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle, family members and professionals in the field of disabilities and was formed in 1999. [Click here to learn more](#) about the program.

## **United Jewish Communities**

- At the 2008 General Assembly held in Israel, United Jewish Communities was able to pass a Resolution in Support of Individuals with Developmental Disabilities and their Families. This resolution is based on feedback of federation planning and government affairs departments. [Click here to read the Resolution](#) in Support of Individuals with Developmental Disabilities and their Families.
- UJC has recently developed the PowerPoint to be released in winter 2009. The PowerPoint detailing Services for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities and their Families is to be used as a presentation in conjunction with a UJC curriculum also being released this winter. The PowerPoint was developed in part by the UJC Domestic Affairs Workgroup on Disabilities, Amy Aarons Rosen, and Dr. Barbara Bedney.
- A year after beginning advocacy work, UJC is proud to report that the "ADA Amendments Act of 2008" (formerly known as the ADA Amendments Act) was signed into law by President George W. Bush on September 25, 2008. UJC was

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<sup>5</sup> "The Minneapolis Jewish Community Inclusion Program For People with Disabilities," 105.

recognized as a leader in the faith community on this crucial legislation, which will ensure that people with disabilities are afforded adequate protection and opportunities at the workplace.

- United Jewish Communities is a vocal supporter of mental health parity legislation. In 2008, UJC was able to successfully advocate for the passage of the *Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act of 2007*. This act requires health insurers to offer mental health benefits equal in cost and scope to medical and surgical benefits and the coverage of a broad variety of mental health conditions. This crucial legislative measure has enabled mental health services providers to treat a greater number of individuals who have been previously shut out from receiving needed mental health treatments.

## **Program Ideas That Can Make A Difference**

Programs are a key aspect of getting people involved in celebrating Jewish Disability Awareness Month. They are also vital in helping community members, both with disabilities and without.

The following is a list of programs that can be set up by federations, JCC's, synagogues, and youth groups:

- Start a Social Animals program. Social animals provide social activities and help develop leadership skills for 17 to 25 year-olds with a disability. Community members can bring their dogs to a meeting where people with disabilities can befriend the animals once weekly. [Click here to learn more](#) about service animals and how they can lend a hand.
- Youth groups can provide children and adolescents with so many opportunities to connect with peers, and make students with disabilities feel they belong. To learn more about Youth group inclusion and how to successfully implement it, refer to *The Minneapolis Jewish Community Inclusion Program for People with Disabilities*.<sup>6</sup>
- Hold a series of lunch and learn sessions for parents/caretakers. Include babysitting for those who care for young children. According to a survey from the 2001 Minneapolis Jewish Community Inclusion Program, when synagogue and school professionals reached out to parents of a child with a disability, they felt welcomed and supported.<sup>7</sup>
- Set up a Shabbaton weekend. A weekend of programming can include a Shabbat service (with an interpreter for the hearing impaired) during which all congregants are involved with a creative dance movement exercise, an Oneg Shabbat that provides resources and activities designed to help people understand the essence of disabilities, and an adult study devoted to a review of Jewish texts related to disabilities. [Click here to learn a variety of tips on how to plan a successful Shabbat or Shabbaton.](#)
- Plan a Senior Sunday for seniors with disabilities. Make it enjoyable and low key by going out to a meal, cooking a group dinner, playing golf, or visiting a museum. To get more ideas on planning a Senior Sunday, [click here.](#)
- Is your organization on Facebook? Yad HaChazakah: The Jewish Disability Empowerment Center has its own Facebook group! Led by and for Jews with disabilities and ongoing health conditions, Yad HaChazakah-JDEC empowers people with disabilities to live, love, learn, work, worship and lead in Jewish communities by promoting changes in attitudes and community planning and by providing personal coaching and mentoring, peer networking and support, advocacy and resource navigation, topical forums and learning opportunities, and disability awareness and policy advisement. [Click here to join the group and learn more.](#)

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<sup>6</sup> "The Minneapolis Jewish Community Inclusion Program for People with Disabilities," 139-143.

<sup>7</sup> Buchwald, C. (2001) *Minneapolis Jewish Community Inclusion Program for People with Disabilities Research Report*. Minneapolis, MN. Minneapolis Jewish Federation, Sabes Jewish Community Center, Jewish Family and Children's Service of Minneapolis. 274-280.

- Distribute a curriculum to local synagogues and agencies. In Phoenix, kids from a synagogue visited a group home for people with disabilities. [Click here for more information.](#)
- Organize a forum where parents can tell their story (this event could include the community members, knowledgeable guest speakers and a Q&A session after). Arrange a series of parents needs classes that occur once weekly throughout the month.
- Set up a series of classes for siblings to give those who have a brother or sister with a disability a place to talk with each other. This will allow a sharing of experiences between families and will result in a greater understanding of siblings with disabilities.
- Hold a series of art classes at the local Jewish Community Center. Put up the finished art pieces in entrances around the JCC to bring awareness about Jewish Disability Awareness Month.
- Schedule an outing day for kids both with and without disabilities (go to a play, see a movie, go to a concert, etc.).

## **Synagogues**

### **Jewish Reconstructionist Federation**

- Kol Ehad: Jewish Reconstructionist Federation Committee (JRF) on Inclusion of People with Disabilities has developed an inclusion booklet to help those who need information. Formed by the JRF board in January 1994, Kol Ehad consists of three Task Forces: one on inclusion for people with disabilities, one on inclusion of gays and lesbians, and one on inclusion of intermarried people. The document below concerns the Task Force for Inclusion of People with Disabilities. The Task Force is made up of people with and without disabilities who have personal and/or professional knowledge about special needs. [Click here to access the document.](#)

### **United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism**

- It is vital to be able to welcome people with disabilities into synagogues. [Please click here](#) to view United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism's checklist of how to do so.
- United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism's Committee of Inclusion of People with Disabilities commissioned a High Holiday information packet designed to provide information and resources focused on enhancing inclusion and meaningful participation of congregants with disabilities. The packet can also be used when considering inclusion on a daily basis. [Please click here for more information.](#)

### **Union for Reform Judaism**

- URJ has established Project Tikvah to provide Hebrew language instruction for students with learning disabilities. This project provided learners with very small group settings where instruction is individualized. In addition to fostering feelings of success and self-esteem, Project Tikvah was designed to encourage the development of each young person's Jewish self-awareness, a status often suppressed due to prescribed medical and educational therapies and/or regiments. [Click here to learn more](#) about URJ's Biennial Best Practices Pamphlet and about how your synagogue can start these classes.
- The URJ website has information about low-cost or no-cost changes and modifications. There are many things we can do to make our synagogues, schools and organizations more accessible and open to those with special needs. The following is a [list of some examples](#) of things that can be done.

### **Orthodox Union**

- The Orthodox Union has developed a program called Yachad, The National Jewish Council for Disabilities. National Yachad provides ongoing Jewish programming and experiences in educational, recreational and social settings throughout North America. National events share the *inclusive design* for people with disabilities that makes Yachad programming so unique. There are also various Yachad locations in New Jersey, Chicago, Pittsburgh, Connecticut and Baltimore. [Click here to learn more.](#)

## **Synagogues Across the Country**

- Usher with respect. Ushers at synagogues should treat people with disabilities with helpfulness and respect. Offer ushers a Disability Awareness Training course or just show them this [usher guide](#) created by *Adath Jeshurun* Congregation's Inclusion Committee.<sup>8</sup>
- Learn how other synagogues approach inclusion. Congregation Beth El in Bethesda, Maryland's approach serves as a model for many other synagogues across the United States. [Click here to learn more.](#)
- Inclusion is a key aspect of making people feel they belong when they come to synagogue. It is important to know how to appropriately include people with disabilities. [Click here to access an Inclusion Rating Tool for Synagogues.](#)
- There are many ways that congregations can participate in Jewish Disability Awareness Month and act throughout the year to make communities and synagogues accessible to those with disabilities. Click here to view the [Inclusion Awareness Shabbat Workbook](#) and gain insight on what you can do to start making a difference today.

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<sup>8</sup> "The Minneapolis Jewish Community Inclusion Program for People with Disabilities" 103-104.

## **Resources in the Jewish Community**

### **The Amit Program**

The Amit Program is a Federation beneficiary central agency in Atlanta serving children with special needs.

<http://www.amitatlanta.org/>

### **Center for Jewish Genetic Disorders**

The Center for Jewish Genetic Diseases at The Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York City is the first center in the world devoted to the study of diseases that affect Ashkenazi Jews. Established in 1982, the Center has a twofold mission: 1) to improve the diagnosis, treatment, and counseling of patients and their families suffering from Jewish genetic diseases and 2) to conduct intensive research to combat these inherited diseases.

[www.mssm.edu/jewish\\_genetics](http://www.mssm.edu/jewish_genetics)

### **Council for Jews with Special Needs, Inc.**

The Council for Jews with Special Needs is a non-profit organization founded in 1985 with the goal of providing programs, supports and resources to help all Jews with disabilities and their families fulfill their spiritual, cultural and religious needs.

**Phone:** (480) 629-5343

**TTY:** (480)629-8271

[info@cjsn.org](mailto:info@cjsn.org)

<http://www.cjsn.org/Home.asp>

### **Empowering Jews with Disabilities**

Empowering Jews with Disabilities was created for Jews with disabilities to be seen and heard. Their mission is to embrace a spirit where people with disabilities can express themselves freely, take a stand, be a part of a welcoming community, and rejoice in their strengths and abilities.

[www.empoweringjewswithdisabilities.org](http://www.empoweringjewswithdisabilities.org)

### **Family Concerns Dept of the URJ**

Contains some great brochures/booklets and also advice on setting up special needs B'nai Mitzvot.

<http://urj.org/ifc/disability/>

### **Jewish Braille Institute**

Jewish Braille Institute is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that provides materials in Braille, on audio cassette and in large print to the blind, visually impaired and reading and physically disabled worldwide. All services are free of any charge.

<http://www.jewishbraille.org/>

Phone: 212-889-2525

Toll Free: 1-800-433-1531

[admin@jbrlibrary.org](mailto:admin@jbrlibrary.org)

### **Jewish Deaf Community Center**

JDCC promotes individual growth, social awareness, productivity and equality, by empowering deaf and hard of hearing persons to be full participants in the Jewish community at large.

<http://www.jdcc.org/index.html>

**The Jewish Deaf Resource Center (JDRC)**

Jewish Deaf Resource Center, Inc. (JDRC) has advocated for greater access so that Jews who are Deaf can lead rich and meaningful Jewish lives. JDRC, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization is a resource for the entire Jewish community, advising institutions on accessibility, offering Jewish storytelling in American Sign Language (ASL) for Deaf and hearing families, and training Judaic ASL interpreters.

**Phone:** 917-705-8941

**TTY/fax/VP (videophone):** 614-476-9222

**Email:** [JDRC501c3@aol.com](mailto:JDRC501c3@aol.com)

<http://www.jdrc.org/contact.html>

**Jewish Special Education International Consortium**

This agency was developed to strengthen special education through central agencies for Jewish education and to provide a context in which communities' special educators can build a professional network. Jewish Community Inclusion Program for People with Disabilities is a member.

<http://www.isped.org>

**Our Way Link to the Jewish Deaf Singles Registry**

and other programs for Jews who are deaf or hard of hearing.

<http://www.njcd.org/ourway/>

**Taglit Birthright Israel**

Offers ten day first time educational trips to Israel for young adults ages 18-26. The National Jewish Council for the Disabled offers trips for young adults with disabilities.

<http://njcd.org/birthright/index.php>

**Yachad/ National Jewish Council for the Disabled (NJCD)**

Yachad / NJCD is dedicated to enhancing the life opportunities of individuals with disabilities, ensuring their participation in the full spectrum of Jewish life.

<http://www.ou.org/ncsy/njcd/>

**Yad HaChazakah-The Jewish Disability Empowerment Center Inc.**

Yad HaChazakah-JDEC is unique among other Jewish disability organizations; we are led primarily by both Jews with obvious and Jews with hidden disabilities or ongoing health conditions. More than half of our board members have disabilities or chronic health conditions; since WE are the experts in living with disability, we are often best suited to support each other.

Sharon Shapiro, Founding Director

**Email:** [sshapiro@yad-jdec.org](mailto:sshapiro@yad-jdec.org)

**Phone:** 212-284-6936

<http://yad-jdec.org>

**Yesodot**

**Toll free:** (888) JVS-WORK x3299

**Phone:** (617) 399-3299

**Fax:**(617) 423-871

**Email:** [info@yesodot.org](mailto:info@yesodot.org)

## **Resources in the General Community**

### **American Association for People with Disabilities**

The mission of the AAPD Interfaith Initiative is to support people with disabilities and their families as they seek spiritual and religious access, and to bring the powerful and prophetic voice of the faith community to the 21st Century disability agenda.

<http://www.aapd.com/Interfaith/Interfaith.html>

### **American Association on Mental Retardation**

AAIDD promotes progressive policies, sound research, effective practices and universal human rights for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

**Phone:** (202) 387-1968 or (800) 424-3688

[http://www.aamr.org/About\\_AAIDD/index.shtml](http://www.aamr.org/About_AAIDD/index.shtml)

### **Asperger Coalition of the US ASC-US**

MAAP Services for Autism and Asperger Syndrome is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing information and advice to families of more advanced individuals with Autism, Asperger syndrome, and Pervasive developmental disorder (PDD).

**Phone:** 866-4ASPRGR

<http://www.maapservices.org>

### **Attention Deficit Disorder Association**

The mission of ADDA is to provide information, resources and networking to adults with AD/HD and to the professionals who work with them.

**Phone:** (847) 432-ADDA

<http://www.add.org>

### **Attention Deficit Disorder Resources**

The mission of Attention Deficit Disorder Resources is to help people with ADHD achieve their full potential through education, support and networking opportunities.

**Phone:** (253) 759-5085

<http://www.addresources.org>

### **Autism Society of America, Inc.**

ASA, the nation's leading grassroots autism organization, exists to improve the lives of all affected by autism.

**Phone:** (301) 328-8476 or (800) 328-8476

<http://www.autism-society.org/site/PageServer>

### **Council for Exceptional Children**

CEC is the largest international professional organization dedicated to improving educational outcomes for individuals with exceptionalities, students with disabilities, and/or the gifted.

**Phone:** (703) 620-3660 or (888) 232-7733

**TTY:** (855) 915-5000

[www.cec.sped.org](http://www.cec.sped.org)

### **Department of Transportation Disability Resources**

The Disability Resource Center supports the Department of Transportation in the employment, advancement, and retention of people with disabilities through the use of state-of-the-art technology and proactive customer services.

**Phone:** (202) 493-0625

TTY: (202) 366-5273

**Headquarters Interpreting Service Voice:** (202) 366-9433

**Email:** [drc@dot.gov](mailto:drc@dot.gov)

[www.drc.dot.gov](http://www.drc.dot.gov)

**Dysautonomia Foundation, Inc.**

A non-profit organization supporting medical research and treatment for those afflicted with Familial Dysautonomia

**Phone:** (212) 279-1066

**Email:** [info@familialdysautonomia.org](mailto:info@familialdysautonomia.org)

<http://www.familialdysautonomia.org/>

**ERIC Clearinghouse on Disabilities and Gifted Education**

**Phone:** (800) 538-3742

[www.eric.ed.gov](http://www.eric.ed.gov)

**National Arts and Disability Center**

Tarjan Center for Developmental Disabilities

**Phone:** (310) 794-1141

<http://www.nadc.ucla.edu>

**National Association of the Deaf**

The National Association of the Deaf (NAD) was established in 1880 by deaf leaders who believed in the right of the American deaf community to use sign language, to congregate on issues important to them, and to have its interests represented at the national level.

**Phone:** (301) 587-1788

**TTY:** (301) 587-1789

<http://www.nad.org>

**National Center on Accessibility**

Training, technical assistance, and research on access to parks, recreation, and tourism

**Phone:** (812) 856-4422

[www.indiana.edu/~nca](http://www.indiana.edu/~nca)

**National Council for Support of Disability Issues**

(includes scholarships for people with disabilities)

**Email:** [tfink@ncsd.org](mailto:tfink@ncsd.org)

**National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities**

**Phone:** (800) 695-0285

**Email:** [nichcy@aed.org](mailto:nichcy@aed.org)

**National Down Syndrome Society**

The mission of the National Down Syndrome Society is to benefit people with Down syndrome and their families through national leadership in education, research and advocacy.

**Phone:** (212) 460-9330 or (800) 221-4602

<http://www.ndss.org>

**National Fragile X Foundation**

The National Fragile X Foundation unites the Fragile X community to enrich lives through educational and emotional support, promote public and professional awareness, and advance research toward improved treatments and a cure for Fragile X.

**Phone:** (510) 763-6030 or (800) 688-8765  
<http://www.fragilex.org>

### **National Organization on Disability (NOD)**

The mission of the National Organization on Disability (NOD) is to expand the participation and contribution of America's 54 million men, women and children with disabilities in all aspects of life.

**Phone:** (202) 293-7999  
[www.nod.org](http://www.nod.org)

### **Pathways Awareness Foundation Inclusion Resources**

Comprehensive site for inclusion in many faith communities.

<http://www.inclusionworship.org>

### **School Behavior**

This site was created to help educators learn about neurobehavioral disorders -- the "hidden" disabilities that can impair a student's academic, behavioral, and social-emotional functioning and that can occasionally create chaos in the classroom.

<http://www.schoolbehavior.com>

### **United Cerebral Palsy Association**

United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) is the leading source of information on cerebral palsy and is a pivotal advocate for the rights of persons with any disability.

**Phone:** (202) 776-0406 or (800) 872-5827  
[www.ucp.org](http://www.ucp.org)

### **US Census Bureau Disability Status 2000**

For more information about Census 2000, including data products, call our Customer Services Center

**Phone:** 301-763-INFO (4636)

**Email:** [webmaster@census.gov](mailto:webmaster@census.gov)

### **US Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs**

The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) is dedicated to improving results for infants, toddlers, children and youth with disabilities ages birth through 21 by providing leadership and financial support to assist states and local districts.

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/osep/index.html>

### **United Jewish Communities Contacts**

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202-736-5871

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202-736-5888

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