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Breaking Down the Barriers for People with Developmental Disabilities

As Americans with Disabilities Act celebrates its 20th anniversary

WAYNE, MI – July 22, 2010 - “The ADA has made a difference in my life in terms of employment, housing and transportation,” said Andre Robinson, president of the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council. “I can ride the Smart Bus in my wheelchair, my apartment is accessible and I have a great job using my advocacy skills.” Robinson attributes the freedom he enjoys to the passage of the law.

More than two decades ago, people with disabilities were treated as second class-citizens. They were placed in institutions, had no control over their lives and were at the mercy of their caregivers and the state.

Fast forward 20 years later, these same individuals are living in homes of their own, working, going to school and making decisions regarding their budgets, who they want to hire as their staff and what they want to eat for dinner!

Monday, July 26th, 2010 marks the 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act being written into law. The ADA is a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination based on disability in the areas of employment, public transportation, public accommodations and telecommunications.

Robinson has been selected to speak at the Capitol Building in Lansing on July 26th, at an ADA celebration.

Upon signing the measure in 1990, President George H. W. Bush said, “Let the shameful wall of exclusion finally come tumbling down.”

Andre is supported by Community Living Services, a non-profit organization that provides supports and services to more than 3,000 adults and children in Wayne and Oakland counties. CLS is funded through the Detroit-Wayne County Community Mental Health Agency and the Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority. For more information, visit our web site at www.comlivserv.com

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