

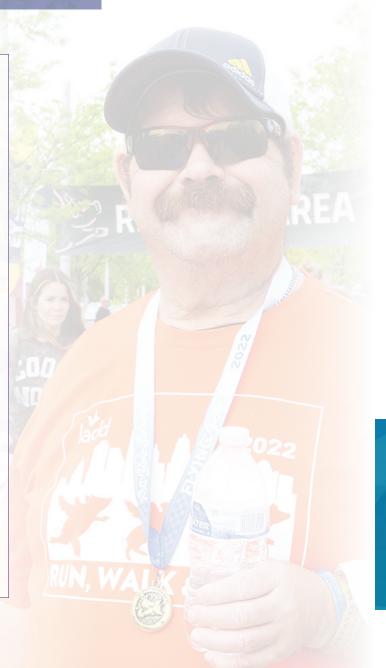


Mission Statement:

Guided by the belief that every person has ability and value, we empower adults with developmental disabilities to live, work, and connect.

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Passion Meets Practicality

A CHAT WITH KUSH KOTECHA, LADD'S BOARD PRESIDENT

LADD is a force. A force guided by the belief that every person has ability and value. A force that empowers adults with developmental disabilities to live, to work, and to connect. For their Board of Directors, LADD looks for leaders who match their passion for the mission, who have the foresight to envision a better future, and who have the tenacity and will to do the hard work of helping make that vision a reality.

They found just that sort of leader in Kush Kotecha.

Kush is the Vice President and Head of U.S. Business Strategy & Initiatives at Prudential Financial. He was named to the LADD Board of Directors in April 2016. Since 2016, Kush has since served in various Board capacities until June 2021, when he was named Board President.

Throughout his tenure on the board, Kush has been impressed with how LADD works alongside the disability community to propel the inclusion and success of people with disabilities. Two highlights through his tenure include the Over-the-Rhine International Film Festival and the Smart Living Program. From the onset of his board tenure, Kush has been amazed by the passion and dedication of all the people at LADD. "They are phenomenal - marching to achieve the mission and delivering it every day."

Kush's technical skills combined with his humility, his focus on people, and his sheer will, bring an expertise that drives LADD to continually think bigger, grow stronger, and build toward the future.

As Board President, Kush is focused on bringing the LADD long-term strategic plan to fruition. "We just set our three-year strategy late last year. My eyes get wide when I think about the impact we can have. A big part of the long-term plan is the continued development of the Smart Living program. This program includes pioneering technology that can help people with disabilities live fuller, more self-sufficient lives. I believe that with the ecosystem that LADD is creating, not only can we serve more people in our region more effectively, but we can also have a national or even global impact."

Kush understands that the unmet need is great. Today, there are an estimated 80,000 people in Ohio who have disabilities, and the amount of people being serviced by the current infrastructure (any agency, charity, or foundation) is half that number. "Many people in the state who need help can't get it. If we can create technology and an ecosystem that can provide services and care to more people, and do it in a very cost-effective way, and not sacrifice value - that is win-win to me."







MEET OUR **SPIRIT OF INDEPENDENCE WINNER**

Susie Prigan

usie Prigan carries a presence unlike any other. With her edgy, practical, buzz cut and 52 years of experience under her belt, Susie takes charge of her day-to-day life. Her efforts have been rewarded this year with LADD's Spirit of Independence award. This award has been granted since 2012, and is designed to give special recognition to extraordinary accomplishments of those supported by LADD, like Susie.

Since her childhood, Susie has excelled in swimming, growing her confidence with each stroke. She is an active participant in the USA Special Olympics swim team and has accrued numerous medals. For Susie, it's crucial to take the time out of her day to swim and "just have fun." Susie boldly swims without a cap or goggles, and is a proficient butterfly, breaststroke, and relay swimmer. Susie's favorite stroke is freestyle. She follows in the footsteps of her 92-year-old dad who also swims.

Cindy Flatt has worked with LADD since 2007 and has been with Susie since 2014. Cindy says she has witnessed Susie take major steps towards being more independent.

Susie lived with her parents until she was in her 40s, when she moved into her first apartment downtown. Cindy says, "It was really hard, and she had lots of hurdles to jump over that she managed well." Susie says that the change was "scary at first," but there is no doubt she has overcome those fears and stepped out of her comfort zone. Some of her favorite activities besides swimming at the YMCA include attending and volunteering at Cindy's church, drinking coffee at cool coffee shops, and going to Community Connections twice a week with LADD. She also enjoys watching movies and coloring with her roommate, Beth, at their Forest Park apartment. "She's cute and funny," Susie says about her friend Beth. Cindy explains that, "they take care of each other," and are very supportive of each other.

This year, Susie has learned how to use Uber which was a "huge, HUGE, accomplishment for being

more independent and maintaining a job" according to Cindy. Additionally, she's been doing really well with her health and wellness. Cindy boasts about Susie's incredible swimming talent and her heaps of gold medals to prove it. Her health and wellness in swimming has been aided with purposeful meal planning that has helped her lose weight and stay healthy.

"Susie has made a lot of strides this year" Susan Brownknight, LADD's CEO says. "She should be incredibly proud of her accomplishments. Cindy should also be proud. Together, they have made a great team and their partnership embodies LADD's mission of empowerment. Cindy is making sure Susie has the skills she needs to live, work and thrive on Susie's terms, not anyone else's terms."

Out of the water, Susie loves airplanes and traveling. Her sense of humor is quick, effortlessly calling out "Hey, I need a ride!" to the passing planes coming from the nearby Lunken airport. A few years ago, she traveled to Hawaii with LADD staff to see the beautiful seagreen ocean, her favorite color. Most recently, her travels have taken her to Florida last year and she is now in the stages of planning a cruise.

The Taking Flight awards are giving to people supported by LADD for a variety of categories. Winners of these awards are nominated by staff members and then selected by the board. The Taking Flight award ceremony to honor the Spirit of Independence winner and other awardees will be held at the Coney Island Moonlight Pavilion on September 14th.





After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, this April 30th marked LADD's 13th annual Run, Walk & Roll 5k, LADD's Flying Pig team event! Wellness Coordinator Kristin Harmeyer speaks to the importance of participating in the 5k as a part of the community.

"The people LADD supports love community and as an agency and as the Wellness Coordinator, we want to participate in events that are more open to everybody and engaged with the community in general," Kristin explains.

After the two-year break from the inperson Flying Pig event due to COVID, the Wellness Program at LADD created a walking challenge in an effort to inspire people to get out and be active in the cold January weather. This year, however, the team of participants is back in full swing, being one of the largest groups to participate in the Flying Pig's Saturday event.

Among the 198 registrants on LADD's team this year was a brand-new relay team that completed the entire 26.2 mile flying pig marathon, with each leg lasting around six miles. Meet the partners that put in the months of hard work and training to make it happen:

Special Olympics swimmer and tennis player David Calhoun and his





LADD'S **FLYING PIG** RUN WALK &ROLL

companion, LADD Board of Directors' 6.38 mile leg of the race. Stepping up for the second leg was pro-gardener Jenny duo pushed through a very hilly section. Up next was Jason Harris, Director of Strategic Ops at LADD and founder of Jason's Connection, a non-profit and of this relay team were LADD superstar Niel Dignan and his companion Susan Brownknight, who is the Chief Executive Officer of LADD.

"I really enjoyed running this relay with Mark, I really pushed myself and was so excited for everyone who joined us,"

This relay sparked interest in continuing to grow for Jason, who is now training event. Kristin says that running is unique you were yesterday. In her opinion, "The culture around this stuff is amazing. It's all about having the mentality about doing better than you did yesterday goals." Kristin predicts the inspiration won't stop with Jason and that there will be more relay teams in the future!







Jason & Mark Leg 3: 7.45 miles, yes, the longest!

Leg 3 Time Leg 3 Rate TEAM: THE

Mark Whited crossing the

Overall Rank 274th of 275 Finish TIME: 7:32:53

Team Specs: Speed: 3.4137 Pace: 17 min, 34 sec (per mile)



LADD's first ever Flying Pig Relay Team!

Team LADD before the race

Neil & Susan

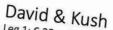
Leg 4 Time

Leg 4 Rate

Leg 4: 7.01 miles, finish line crew!



Leg 2 Time Leg 2 Rate



Leg 1: 6.38 miles to start us off right! (Kush and David actually ran over 8 miles, missing the handoff and having to turn back—their time does not reflect the





SMART LIVING BY LADD





LADD's Smart Living program is about using technology to empower people with disabilities to live more independent, satisfying lives.

Smart Living is a new, innovative and more affordable way of delivering critical supports to adults with developmental disabilities living in the community. The system utilizes a multitude of integrated technology solutions, a customized dashboard and app that integrates multiple users' data, and a lean and nimble staffing model. Combined, these three

tēmi

components have the ability

to disrupt the current service model and provide a new way of supporting people with developmental disabilities in our community.

Susan Brownknight,
CEO of LADD says,
"Originally, we
believed there were
others tackling the
trifecta of challenges:
tech, staffing and
affordability. But we
soon discovered there
were not."

Smart Living allows an agency like LADD to utilize staff much more efficiently and effectively. Staff deploy when they are needed. The technology and remote staff are there in the background customized to a person's day-to-day needs.

In-person staff are then able to provide specialized intervention that only a skilled and trained person can provide. In-person staff are also available when there is no viable tech solution.

"The deeper we got into our pilot, the more we heard and saw the need for a leaner staffing model like ours. And, the more we heard about the desperate need for more affordable community integrated living options. So, we are working like hell to accelerate the scaling of our Smart Living system."

LADD's Smart Living technology has already expanded to 44 sites, and the goal by end of 2022 is to have 100 people supported by Smart Living technology. All the technology is designed to increase health, safety, and independence. For the team developing and managing the Smart Living program, there are some incredible successes, some surprises, and some things that still need figured out:

Says Brownknight with regard to successes, "The support platform, which we took months to find and vet has turned out to have some solid attributes including voice and video chat that lets our support staff talk directly to the residents, sensors that detect movement through house – like pacing at night, and wearables that monitor heart rate to track stress."

There have also been some genuine surprises. Per a Xavier University research study, the smart refrigerator has a return on investment of ten weeks. The refrigerator assists people in planning menus and grocery lists, sending the list directly to Kroger. It also tracks leftovers so you can adjust based on how much food you have left. "What I love about the fridge," shares Susan, "is that it gives the power back over to the people receiving services, while also allowing remote staff to utilize data to support healthy decisions. For example, remote staff can recommend healthy meal options through the fridge app when a person is meal planning."

Another surprise for the team has been the smart toothbrush which monitors dental care. This readily available device ensures intervention happens only when/if it is needed, and it can be connected to other technology for broader health monitoring. Susan commented, "I've picked up the Oral B 10000 for my family too—it is really effective at teaching anyone how to brush."

Finally Brownknight adds, "There are challenges. The single hardest thing has been figuring out how to take 100 pieces of tech and make them meaningfully work together. We have had to figure out how to ensure our Smart Living staff didn't have five computer screens and four apps open at any given time monitoring thousands of data points."

In addition to the homebased technology, LADD

is also working on an app for smart watches and smart phones that can provide the same level of support when a person is out in

rownknight says, "We have people who have never been on a walk by themselves and now it is possible with the help of our **Smart Living System. To see people utilize** technology to achieve enormous life satisfaction and independence that would otherwise not have been possible; well, that is deeply satisfying." Brownknight continues, "And, to hear when parents have taken a weekend trip successfully just the two of them—I also find that extremely fulfilling. Parents have moved mountains for their children. To see them have a moment to exhale while their child is not only surviving, but thriving, that's

pretty special. All parents

deserve such a moment."

you are lost or need help finding transportation, medication reminders, and even geo-fencing for safety. The next phase for the LADD team is to finalize the policy and procedure manuals and training materials so that LADD can scale Smart Living to other

their community. The beta

technology includes video

or voice chat, buttons

to push that alert staff if

materials so that LADD can scale Smart Living to other organizations throughout the country. Brownknight concludes, "LADD has worked hard to develop a new way of delivering services. We still have a lot to learn, but we have a vision to be able to bring our system to anyone who needs it. While Smart Living isn't for everyone, our mission remains and we want all those who can use Smart Living to have the opportunity to live, work and connect here, in our community and in communities across the country."

INTRODUCING

Our Newest Forever Home, Immaculate 2



"Do not go where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."

orever Home is a new model

people with disabilities that

of community living for

supports independent living, fully

integrated in the community.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Since 1975, LADD's work has been to empower people with disabilities. In recent years, when LADD saw the confluence of three major obstacles – funding that covers less than half of the current need, an ever-increasing demand for disability services, and an overwhelming shortage in the number of people needed to provide support services – they knew there was a need for massive innovation.

That's when the idea for Forever Home was born.

 $For ever\,Home\,is\,a\,new\,model\,of\,community\,living\,for\,people\,with$

disabilities that supports independent living, fully integrated in the community. LADD builds or remodels small clusters of homes located in desirable, walkable communities. Each home is equipped with technology that supports health, safety, and independence for the 3-4 people with disabilities living within each home.

Brian Hart, Chief Operating Officer for LADD shares, "In terms of the disability community there is so much need and so few resources. Parents' ever-present worry is 'What will happen when I'm gone?' That's where LADD's Forever Home comes in. We call it a Forever Home because it is not a training ground or

a transition space. Our homes are designed as the proverbial 12th man. They are designed to support independence and safety and to be adaptable to changing needs."

The first Forever Home was completed in 2019. Three additional homes came online in 2020, and two more homes are in the last stages of remodel. By the end of 2022 LADD will have 6 Forever Homes and 24 residents, with 4-5 more being completed in 2023 and 2024. The goal is to build a new cluster of 3 to 4 homes every year.

How does LADD know it is working? Besides the obvious smiles, joy, friendship and increased independence of the residents, LADD wanted empirical evidence of the program's success. So, they partnered with Xavier University Master's in Occupational Therapy program to do a 3-year longitudinal study that looked at levels of independence, reduction in services,

and satisfaction of the residents. The study explored the lived experiences and quality of life among adults living in a smart home. It also included firsthand feedback from parents and caregivers. The study shows significant increases in satisfaction

CHECK OUT FUN PICS FROM OUR HOME!

and indicates that what used to take up to 18 support people now takes only 5. At scale, this transformative approach could meet the gap in need while also creating more independent and satisfying living options for people with disabilities.

Kate Lopez, OTR/L, MHS, CDRS, and Lead Clinical Tutor on the study shares, "The research found that the assistive technology helped the residents become more independent by having less supervision. It also determined that the residents valued the self-directedness that independence afforded. All stakeholders reported that the quality of life significantly increased. In the quantitative study, it was determined that smart home living would yield a savings of \$137,941.44 per year by pivoting to more remote supervision over direct supervision."

Lopez continues, "As an occupational therapist, my professional goal is to see my clients grow in independence in their daily lives. My personal goal is to make a positive difference in someone's life. LADD gave me an exceptional gift in realizing both goals through the research with XU. It was amazing to see how quickly the residents grew into the home, into supportive roommates, and into more independent adults over the 3 years of this study. It is even more exciting for me to have the concrete data to prove how this approach will allow more adults with developmental disabilities to benefit in the future."

As LADD continues the Forever Home expansion, Hart is buoyed by the research. "Our residents are much more independent, they enjoy being part of a community, they enjoy interacting with their neighbors. They have roommates, and they are part of their community. They have friends and other people close by. They are in walkable communities because transportation is so hard if you don't drive. With Forever Home they get support they need, but not too much."

Hart ends saying, "For the first time in my life, I see the impact our work is having as we are doing it. When the individuals tell me that they love where they live, they love how independent they feel - that's what gets me up every day."



Joslin Martin, Annie Ciambro, Isabel Ganz, Anne Gerhardt

Supporting Self-determination

ust like anyone, I need

to be able to learn

and grow. For me, supported

decision-making is about

building confidence that

I can make decisions."

the space and support

A CONVERSATION WITH JASON HARRIS

self-determination

self-de-ter-mi-na-tion \ self-di-tur-muh-ney-shuhn \
Definition: free choice of one's own acts or states without external compulsion

Jason Harris, LADD's Director of Strategic Operations, has a Master's Degree in Disability Studies from Syracuse University. He is passionate about making the world a better place for people with disabilities, and he brings both his intellect and his infectious

enthusiasm to his role at LADD. He is an autistic adult with an easy smile and a generous spirit.

Jason believes that the current model of support for people with disabilities – a model focused on protection and compliance – needs to change to one of supported decision-making. From Jason's perspective, the protectionist approach is about making sure that "no one gets hurt," and the compliance focus is built from a point of view that "someone else knows what's best."

Jason shares, "While much of the current system was set up with good intentions, today's model often fosters a belief that people with disabilities can't do things, when in fact it is often the method of conveying directions that may be the problem. Perhaps too much information is being conveyed at one time or the language or examples used to teach make the task seem overwhelming or not doable. It is important to work with the person in a way that makes sense for them and builds confidence and trust. I have found that the way services are provided don't always, if ever, support self-determination. Often people (with disabilities, like me) rely on others for our survival, and we do things because we are told to in order to make our staff or our families happy. We end up doing things because we think it's the right thing for them, and we want to make the people we rely on happy. We don't necessarily do things because we know it to be right for ourselves; sometimes we "go along to get along."

Jason believes a model of supported decision-making combined with accountability could be more effective in building independence. "None of us make decisions completely on our own. Supported decision-making is the same thing that other people do, but it just has to be a little different for people with disabilities. Everyone needs someone to bounce things off of, so help me process my choices rather than making the decision for me."

Jason is clear that this move to a model built on selfdetermination won't be easy. "While supported decision-making (guiding me through my choices) is a simple concept, it is not as easy as it sounds. I personally struggle with a fear of failure. When

I make a mistake, sometimes it makes me think it is because I am not capable. But really, just like anyone, I need the space and support to be able to learn and grow. For me, supported decision-making is about building confidence that I can make decisions. I mean, do any of us make the right decision 100% of the time?! Also, it is important to make sure that even when people make a mistake, they get to try again. If I fail once, I should still be able to try it again, instead of having the freedom taken from me." Jason continues, "Maybe I take a walk and get lost, which probably

wouldn't happen to me as I have an excellent sense of direction, but it does happen to some people, or maybe I date someone and it ends badly, who hasn't had those types of experiences? Just because I have a developmental disability doesn't mean I don't have the right to make a mistake and learn from it."

Jason is LADD's Director of Strategic Operations. He has a master's degree from Syracuse University in the School of Cultural Foundations of Education with a specialty in Disability Studies. Jason is also the founder of Jason's Connection, an on-line community connecting over 300,000 people of diverse abilities to information, resources, services, human stories, and each other.



THANK YOU

TO OUR LADD RUN WALK AND ROLL AND TAKING FLIGHT SPONSORS!





































CCP HONORED INNOVATION

Community Connections (CCP) is a program at LADD that provides opportunities for participants to learn and strengthen life and communication skills, build confidence through decision-making, and prepare to hold community integrated jobs. In LADD's field of work, CCP is often referred to as a "day program," but it is SO much more than that!

Program manager for CCP Faith Maynard explains that the strong program that serves over 70 people is "adventure all the time." The team of staff, called Social Guides, support the people in the program to plan and execute community integrated programming throughout the greater Cincinnati area. People are curious about different things, have the opportunity to learn what each other is curious about, and develop passions and interests of their own in the process. The program runs seven days a week. What makes CCP so unique is that LADD's day programs do not involve a facility. Everything CCP does is community-based. "The intent is to explore and discover what inspires you!" says LADD CEO Susan Brownknight. "That self-discovery is much harder if you are going to the same place every day."

Their groundbreaking work in the community has not gone unnoticed. This year, The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities awarded LADD's CCP program with the Building Innovative System Models (BISM) grant.



This grant is designed to stimulate and encourage programs that innovatively integrate adults with developmental disabilities in the community.

As a part of the BISM grant, Faith Maynard and her subject matter expert Jeannine Pavlak wrote a 20-page report on LADD and a business plan for the vision for CCP as it expands. She put together a team to help improve In addition to the CCP and LADD's supported employment empowering participants program, which helps people find and learn to plan together, be curious jobs in the community.

At the conclusion of the BISM grant program in June 2023, Faith will travel throughout the state of Ohio to share the business plan and provide guidance so other agencies can create community-integrated programs.

"The goal is to spread the good ideas that service providers are developing so more agencies in Ohio can benefit," Faith says.

LADD has been supporting CCP since 2003, but it did not become a group program until 2008. According to Faith, "That's when LADD's CCP truly became innovative because, to my knowledge, at that time, nobody was doing community-integrated day array services." Faith's hope is that all people with developmental disabilities will have access to programs like LADD's CCP. Which is why she did not hesitate to do the extra work and effort associated with the grant. "How can you know who you are and what you want to do if you don't have access to the world?" Faith asks.

In addition to empowering participants to plan together, be curious and explore, another goal of CCP is to support people in gaining the skills they need to be ready for community employment. From developing a comfort level within the community, to knowing how to locate public restrooms,

packing your lunch, dressing appropriately for the weather, talking to people you don't know, CCP furthers all these skills for those participating. Most importantly, CCP wants the people in the program to recognize that their presence in the community adds value and that they have something

In order to do this, CCP takes groups to volunteer at places like Churches Active in Northside (CAIN)'s Food Pantry on Fridays, Matthew 25 Ministries in Blue Ash, and the Cincinnati and explore, another goal of CCP Nature Center.

is to support people in gaining "LADD has been ahead of the curve longer the skills they need to be than even I realized. I've been here for 19 years, ready for community and we were already doing super innovative things before me," Faith says. "We are built on great ideas." More importantly, Carolyn Reynolds, LADD's Program Director offers, "we are successful because of visionaries like Faith and because there is a team of social guides and people with developmental disabilities that want more for others and for themselves." Carolyn continues, "The state's recognition of our innovative work is a result of a lot of hard work by Faith and her team and by incredible people coming together around a common vision—that people with developmental disabilities should have access to the community."

employment.





STORIES WORTH TELLING THE 2022 OTR FILM FESTIVAL

THE OTR FILM FESTIVAL IS

A CATALYST TO BRING THE

COMMUNITY TOGETHER.

CREATE CONNECTIONS AND

PROVIDE A PLATFORM TO

The OTR Film Festival, presented by LADD, is the nation's first & only diversity film festival led by the disability community. Creative Director, Kate Rigg, shares, "The theme for the 2022 festival was "See the Story, Be the Story." If you can

imagine yourself in another person's story, if you can see life through another person's eyes, new possibilities appear, and new bonds form."

Films in The OTR Film Festival are selected based on alignment with one or more of LADD's five pillars: Freedom, Identity, Diversity, Disability, Faith. This year, the festival received over one the globe.

intersectionality and diversity of the every body has a story worth telling.

This year's festival was July 7-10. Films from across the globe were shown in venues throughout Over-The-Rhine. Rigg adds, "We hope our extremely diverse selection of films this year challenged you, inspired you, and maybe

> even encouraged you to live your OWN story with even more passion and enthusiasm."

In addition to the film festival, we are also proud to announce the launch of the LADD Center for Diversity, Disability & Inclusion. The Center's purpose is to further community inclusion for and with people with disabilities through storytelling, training, education and research. The Center will identify films and programming and events that appeal to our communities, including

the OTR Film Festival. There will be much more to come on this exciting initiative.

hundred and fifty entries from all over **TELL THE STORIES THAT** DON'T GET TOLD. As an organization rooted in the disability community, LADD believes that every person,



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TAKING FLIGHT

Join us for an unforgettable evening of celebration, hope and community.

When: Wednesday, September 14

Time: 6:00-8:00PM

Where:
Moonlight Pavilion
at Coney Island

Registration: laddinc.org/events

2022 AWARD RECIPIENTS



Spirit of Independence Award: Susie Prigan

Recognizes a person receiving services from LADD who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in realizing their independence.



So Others May Fly Award: Ben Brown

Recognizes a person receiving services from LADD who has demonstrated outstanding service and commitment to a cause or organization other than LADD that benefits the community.



Above and Beyond Award: Laura Johnson

Recognizes a LADD staff person that has performed exceptionally and tirelessly to further LADD's mission in the past year.



HLADD Provider of the Year Award: Tonda Lyons

Recognizes a provider with HLADD that has demonstrated exceptional commitment to those served in their home and embodies LADD's mission in the supports they provide.



Community Partner of the Year Award: Matthew 25 Ministries

Recognizes an organization or individual that has shown exceptional commitment to working with our Community Connections Program to encourage and include the people LADD supports in the community.



Legacy Award: Forever Home Committee

(Rob Zimmerman, Vallie Geier, Aaron Haslam, Chip Heidt, Mike McGraw, Jenny McCloy, Betsy Mullin, Kim Vincent)

Recognizes an organization or a person that has inspired lasting change to further inclusion of people with disabilities in our community.



Guided by the belief that every person has ability and value, we empower adults with developmental disabilities to live, work, and connect.

PSSSST! DID YOU HEAR?!?



WAS JUST NAMED ONE OF MOVIEMAKER MAGAZINE'S

25 COOLEST FILM FESTIVALS IN THE WORLD!!!



