

CDR promotes Independence – Anthony Lorick proves it

By Patricia Villers

At 55, Anthony Lorick has a newfound sense of independence.

Lorick recently relocated from Birmingham Health Care, a nursing facility in Derby, to an apartment in Ansonia.

And he couldn't be happier.

He has received his newfound independence through the efforts of staff at the West Haven-based Center for Disability Rights, in particular Rick Famiglietti, transition coordinator.

Famiglietti works with Money Follows the Person (MFP), a program managed by the state Department of Social Services.

The goal of MFP is to save money by transitioning nursing home residents out of facilities and back into the community.

In addition to indisputable cost savings, an individual who is successfully transitioned through MFP enjoys a much greater quality of life, sense dignity, and independence.

Lorick is a quadriplegic. He was severely hurt in a rollover automobile accident on Halloween night in 2010 in Massachusetts, which resulted in a spinal cord injury. He uses a power wheelchair.



“I woke up after 30 days in Bay State Medical Center,” Lorick said. “They said I had a passenger. I don't know who it was.”

Lorick said he has no memory of the event that resulted in him becoming paralyzed from the neck down. He needed surgery to have a titanium rod placed in his back.

At the time Lorick contacted police to try to learn what happened, but to no avail. “It is what it is,” he said. “I'm grateful to God that I'm alive now.”

Lorick added, “I was in great shape before the accident,” working as a head chef at a nursing home.

He and his wife, Barbara, who were married 30 years ago, are separated. They have six children, five sons and a daughter. The event was “overwhelming” for his wife, Lorick said.

A native of Bronx, N.Y, Lorick served in the U.S. Army for four years, and he served in the U.S. Marine Corps for four years. He was treated at a Veterans Administration Hospital in West Roxbury, Mass.

“It's been a long road, But I don't give up. I can't,” Lorick said. “There's nothing I can't do. I can do everything but walk.”

The move out of the Derby nursing home was not easy, Lorick said. He was apprehensive when he moved into the first-floor apartment.

Story Continues on Page 4

Index:

P2. CT Ends Student Restraints

P.3 ADA Celebrates 25th Birthday

P.5 Assidtive Tech

P.5 Bureau or Rehabilitation Services

P.6 Rally at Seymour P.O.

P.8 CDR Statistics, 2015 Wheel-a-Thon

CT Senate Votes to End Student Restraints

On Wednesday, May 27, 2015, the CT Senate voted 35-1 to end the abusive restraint practices of our public schools. The measure now goes to the House.

CDR has been advocating on this issue especially since the horrific events that occurred in Middletown several years ago. We are pleased to see that progress is finally being made.

Each year, over 30,000 incidents of restraint of students (mostly special education students) are reported from CT's public schools. That's right, you read that right. Not 300, not 3,000, but 30,000! In one school alone there were 155 incidents of restraint or seclusion in the year. 150 of them were with the same child.

Restraint and seclusion usually involves physically restraining the student and then locking them up in a space away from their peers. The locked spaces are usually no more than the size of a closet, and they have no windows or ways to monitor the child. In the last three years, 1,300 students sustained injuries as a result of restraint and seclusion. In Middletown, one student died in seclusion.

CDR believes that restraint and seclusion practices are deeply grounded in the way our society devalues students with disabilities. The practice is not only physically harmful, but emotionally damaging, and socially stigmatizing. CDR has called upon educators to demonstrate even one instance in which this practice has led to a happier and more productive student.

State Child Advocate, Sarah Healy Eagan said when her office investigates these incidents, it has often found that the practice is often used in non-emergency or unnecessary situations.



State Senator Gayle Slossberg of Milford, and the Chair of the General Assembly's Education Committee says "The most important thing here is that we create an environment where are children are safe. Restraint and seclusion is used all too often as an easy way to deal with discipline problems, often resulting in very serious harm to our children.

The Senate bill would drastically curtail the ability of school administrators to apply restraint and seclusion, limiting the practice to emergencies. Schools will have to provide windows in the rooms so that students can look out, and staff can monitor the student. Parents would also have to be notified.

Currently, the practice is being abused, and some students are being locked up for not putting their toys away, or in the case of one child, for claiming he won a board game when he didn't. "The goal here" explains State Senator Dante Bartolomeo of Meriden, "is to provide actual therapeutic time outs."

CDR's 27th Annual Meeting

The 27th Annual Meeting of the Center for Disability Rights is being held on Monday June 29 at the Savin Rock Conference Center in West Haven. Our members and consumers and employees have been the cornerstone of our success.

To find out more, and request accommodations, please call Dana at 203-934-7077 or e-mail to sue@cdrct.org. ASL Interpreters and CART are available. Please plan to attend

"You think about it. Whenever we have brought ourselves together, whenever we have joined various disabilities together, we find our strength. Our strength is in our unity"

- Ed Roberts, 1977

Connecticut Celebrates the ADA



President George H.W. Bush signs the ADA into law on the South Lawn surrounded by over 40,000 guests. L-R: Evan Kemp, Rev. Harold Wilke, President Bush, Sandra Parrino and Justin Dart, Jr.

“Every man, woman, and child with a disability can now pass through once- closed doors into a bright new era of equality, independence, and freedom...today's legislation brings us closer to that day when no Americans will ever again be deprived of their basic guarantee of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”

*- President George H.W. Bush, on signing the ADA
26 July 1990*



July 26, 2015 will mark the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 by President George Herbert Walker Bush.

The national ADA Network is spear heading efforts to celebrate this milestone loudly and proudly all over the land. Events that will take place around the country and throughout the year will be public and some will be fun and others will be more formal. At all, participants will be asked to “PLEDGE” again to the ADA.

Connecticut’s ADA affiliate, ADA Coalition of CT (ADACC), has several exciting events planned throughout the State with more coming! Following are some of the events known at press time:

July 6, 2015: Milford City Hall and Parkade at 110 River Street, Milford, CT...Time: 6:00 - 9:00 PM

This event is being held in conjunction with the West Haven/Milford Joint ADA 25 Committee and the City of Milford.

The event will open with the singing of the National Anthem, and then Milford Mayor Benjamin Blake will read a Proclamation. Then the ADA 25 flag will be raised up high on the flag pole where it will remain for the month of July. Participants will be treated to music, finger foods, and an “ADA 25” Anniversary cake.

There will also be ADA balloons and information booths. Participants will be asked to sign the PLEDGE cards, and to light a wish lantern for the ADA. Organizers hope to fill up the Parkade with lanterns.

**July 22, 2015: Walnut Hill Park, 184 West Main Street, New Britain, CT...Time: 5:30 - 9:00 PM
(Rain Date, July 23rd)**

This event is being held in conjunction with Mayor Erin E. Stewart, and the New Britain Commission on Persons with Disabilities. With additional sponsorship by the Substance Abuse Action Council.

This ADA 25 event, held in tandem with the 8th Annual Abilities Walk & Roll, will feature a concert from 7-9 by the “Soul Sound Review” who will play in the beautiful and sparkling newly renovated historic Darius Miller Band Shell.

Participants will be treated to clowns, stilt walkers, jugglers, ice cream, an ADA 25 cake and more! The event will start with a one mile walk/roll around the park. Participants will be asked to sign the ADA PLEDGE cards.

List continued on Page 7

Anthony Lorick is Proof that CDR allows for Independence

Continued from Page 1

“My stomach was nervous for two days,” Lorick said to a visitor. But within five days after the move he felt comfortable.

He is renting the apartment from Jon Finley, a licensed practical nurse who works at Birmingham Health. “It feels funny,” Finley said. “I’m used to being his nurse, and now I’m going to be his landlord.”

Lorick has several part-time personal care assistants lined up to help him with his daily activities.

He introduced a visitor to his morning assistant, Breangela Minnis. “If everyone had her work ethic it would be absolutely fantastic.”

She gets him out of bed and dressed, and makes sure he takes his medication. Lorick said he was looking forward to making breakfast for the two of them.

“Anthony is a great example of self determination“, Famiglietti said. “He has demonstrated how to access several programs to coordinate a nursing facility transition. Without CDR it would never have happened.”



MFP provided rental assistance, home modification including an exterior ramp, a remodeled bathroom that is ADA compliant, with a roll-in shower stall, an accessible kitchen sink and counters and wide doors.

Lorick also received a Personal Care Assistant (PCA) Waiver.

Above and beyond what he received through MFP Lorick has received core services (advocacy, peer counseling, I&R and ILS) from CDR, which helped him find, interview, hire, and schedule the Personal Care Assistants, Famiglietti said.

Additional Part B funding through CDR enabled to purchase adaptive equipment in the form of a quad key holder/turner and one-month’s worth of heating assistance during home modification construction. This funding led to Lorick’s ability to transition at the earliest possible time.

Famiglietti said Lorick was an example of self advocacy by applying for and receiving a grant from the Darien-based Obie Harrington-Howes Foundation. With the funding he purchased a new computer, printer/fax/scanner, TV, computer table, and other items

Lorick continues to receive services from the Veterans Administration, including durable medical equipment, prescription medications, and personal care supplies.

It was so affirming to meet with Anthony, first at the nursing facility and a week later when he had settled into his accessible first-floor apartment in Ansonia.

The assistance Anthony received from CDR, coupled with an upbeat attitude, will ensure his continued success.

Patricia Villers is a freelance writer and CDR member living in Ansonia. Contact her at pmcv394@gmail.com

What's New in Assistive Technology

Service expands CVS Health's offerings to the blind community



CVS Health now offers the ScripAbility prescription accessibility system through its mail service pharmacy to CVS/Caremark members who are blind or visually impaired.

The system includes ScripTalk talking prescription labels as well as braille and large print labels. Starting in March, ScripTalk talking labels were available for prescriptions ordered for home delivery through the CVS.com online pharmacy.

These free 'talking labels' provide a safe and convenient way to access information on prescription labels for individuals who cannot read standard print. Members can also obtain a free ScripTalk reader from Envision America that will enable them to listen to the information on the label.



"Ensuring all of our members have access to important information about their prescriptions is in keeping with our purpose of helping people on their path to better health" said Jon Roberts, President of CVS/Caremark. This is the result of collaboration between CVS Health and the American Council of the Blind (ACB).

ACB President Kim Charlson noted: "Access to prescription label information through audio, large print or braille is essential for the safety and independence of customers who are blind or visually impaired. We commend CVS Health for their leadership role within the industry."

Learn more by contacting Caremark at 1-800-552-8159 or <https://www.caremark.com/>

Department of Rehabilitation Services/Bureau of Rehabilitation Services:

Bureau of Rehabilitation Services (BRS) partners with people who have disabilities to find and maintain employment. Individuals with all disabilities are welcome. However, those afflicted with blindness can obtain services through the Bureau of Education and Services for the Blind (BESB). BRS can assist with the following:

- Vocational Counseling
- Vocational Training/Education
- Interview Preparation
- Working Interviews
- Job Coaching
- On the Job Training
- Tech Act Program
- School to Work Transition
- Assistive Technology
- Employer resources
- Automobile/Home Modifications
- Benefit Counseling



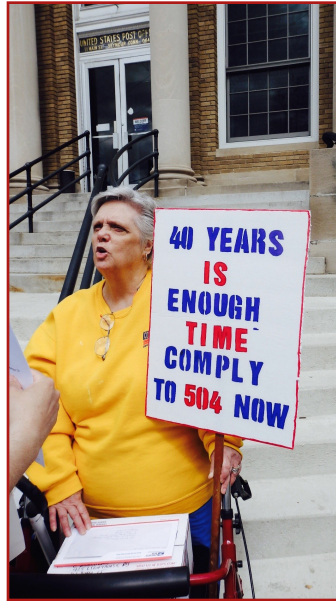
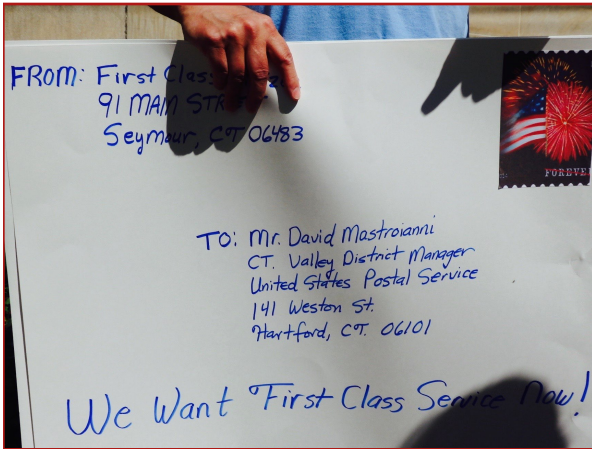
Once a consumer is determined eligible, the staff offers varied services customized to support the individuals needs in finding and maintaining employment.

BRS can offer the following services as part of a mutually agreed upon Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) to help an individual obtain and/or maintain employment: We are currently outreaching to the Lower Naugatuck Valley residents in order to get the word out that our Ansonia office is open and seeking new applicants.

BRS Ansonia Office: 158 Main Street, Suite 101, Ansonia, CT 06401. (203) 732-1667
Contact Rene Moreno or Marie Geelan

BRS Southern Region District Office: 414 Chapel Street suite 301, New Haven, CT 06511. (203) 974-3000

For more information about services for Connecticut residents with disabilities seeking employment click on our website link at www.ct.gov/brs or contact their local BRS office.



CDR rallies to force Seymour Post Office to comply with Section 504

CDR members held a rally on May 13 outside the Seymour Post Office to shine a light on a lack of accessibility into the building.

They are confident their message was delivered.

CDR has members from all over the Lower Naugatuck River Valley.

The post office at 91 Main St. cannot be accessed by wheelchair and advocates said the postal service isn't doing enough to provide equal access.

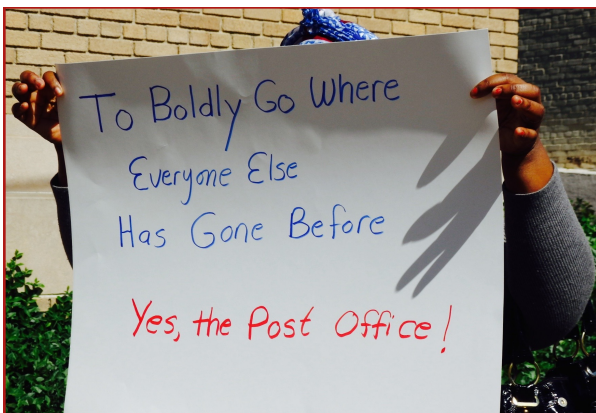
The entrance to the Seymour Post Office is accessed by a steep set of steps. There is no ramp, lift, or means for those with mobility issues to gain entrance into the building.

Many of CDR's staff and members use wheelchairs. Thus this protest "forces the Post Office staff to come and serve us on the curb," noted Executive Director Marc Gallucci.

CDR will continue to raise awareness of the plight of those with mobility issues. CDR seeks to force the USPS office to comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

"The Postmaster is hiding behind the letter of the Americans with Disabilities Act while ignoring the fact that the USPS is required by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act to make its services accessible to customers with disabilities," Gallucci said.

See more and relevant media links on Page 7



Connecticut Celebrates the ADA!

Continued from Page 3

July 23, 2015: Savin Rock Conference Center on the Boardwalk, 6 rock Street, West Haven, CT

Time: 6:00 - 9 PM (Rain or Shine)

This event is being held in conjunction with the West Haven/Milford Joint ADA 25 Committee and the City of West Haven.

Mayor Edward M. O'Brien will lead off with a Proclamation declaring it ADA day in the City. Then there will be a ceremony in which the ADA 25 flag will be raised high up on West Haven's seaside boardwalk. This event is taking place at the same time as the popular Savin Rock Festival, and tens of thousands of folks will be down there.



Participants will be asked to sign the ADA PLEDGE cards, and will be treated to a picnic and an ADA 25 anniversary cake. Entertainment will be provided by the band "Off the Dome" and participants of all ages (disabled or not) will have an opportunity to try adaptive cycling on some recumbent bikes.

Adjacent to the ADA 25 event, and as part of the Savin Rock Festival, will be amusement rides, food booths, carnival games, more musical entertainment, and of course, the beautiful waterfront.

October, 2015 (Exact Date TBA) : Downtown, Ridgefield, CT

This event in conjunction with the Town of Ridgefield, The Committee on Persons with Disabilities, and the historic Prospector Theater will feature an ADA Proclamation, and performances by theatrical and musical groups made up of folks with disabilities. More details to be forthcoming!

More from the CDR rally at the Seymour Post Office



Advocates said the post office has a ramp that can be used by wheelchairs in the back of the building, but employees have stopped allowing it to be used.

The Postmaster has offered people with disabilities a phone number to call to request that the post office staff come to the curb, Gallucci said.

This is unacceptable because:

- There are no signs or notice indicating this option;
- The phone number is not being shared publicly, so this will not work for those who do not have cell phones;
- The sidewalk area is hazardous; and
- In inclement weather, this option would not work.

See more at the following media links:

http://valley.newhavenindependent.org/advocates_protest_lack_of_access_at_seymour_post_office/
<http://www.nhregister.com/general-news/20150513/protesters-decry-lack-of-access-to-seymour-post-office>

CDR Consumer Services - Highlights from Jan - March, 2015

Comprehensive Information & Referrals	253
Web hits at CDR-CT.org	986
Number of individuals transitioned out of nursing homes	15
CT Medicaid \$ CDR saved on 15 folks for 3 months	\$55,328.25
Number of individuals attending ADA workshops	109
Number of receiving application assistance from CDR's ADRC	99
Number of receiving benefits counseling from CDR-ADRC	23

10th Annual Wheel-A-Thon to Benefit Youth with Disabilities

Sunday, Sept. 20, 2015, 9:30 a.m.-noon, Savin Rock Conference Center West Haven,

Join hundreds of people from local businesses, civic groups, families, and individuals in supporting the CDR Wheel-A-Thon. Help CDR raise awareness and money while having fun!

Money raised supports:

- CDR's Youth Transition Project that assists high school students with disabilities with their transitions into adulthood;
- Ongoing Training and Technical Assistance for teachers, special education professionals, and counselors;
- Twenty-eight \$1,000 scholarships to date, two in 2014; and
- The expansion of CDR's programs into the Shoreline/Estuary Area.

Participate in the 2015 Wheel-A-Thon for Youth as either:

- An Individual (min. donation: \$25);
- A Team of 2-8 (min. team donation: \$200)



Start gathering your pledges and send them as soon as you can. Find out more at info@wheel-a-thon.org or call CDR at (203) 934-7077, Ext. 10.

The Center for Disability Rights is a consumer-controlled, community based organization - a single point of access to resources for all regardless of disability

764B Campbell Avenue, West Haven, CT 06516 (203) 934-7077

36 Killingworth Turnpike, Clinton, CT 06413 (860) 664-5057

www.cdr-ct.org, www.wheel-a-thon.org

CDR Forward Together© 2015 Center for Disability Rights, All rights reserved.

