2012 Annual Report

The highlights of CTD’s work in

ADVOCACY
PUBLIC AWARENESS
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

and more

Also in this report

Welcome to TXDisabilities.org
CTD’s new online home

CTD is proud to unveil our new home online: TXDisabilities.org!
Whether you're an advocate, a participant in one of CTD's annual events, a business leader, or a STAR+PLUS consumer, we've put everything you need in one place!

Save the Date: March 4 & 5, 2013
Join CTD in Austin for our 35th Annual Convention. Disability groups from all over Texas will host their conferences on these dates. When the meetings end, we hit the Capitol together!
From the Executive Director
December 2012 | Austin, Texas

Dear Friend of Disability Advocacy,

With 2013 just around the corner, you may notice that CTD is going through a few changes. First and foremost, we are launching TXDisabilities.org to better serve the community of Texans with disabilities, families, friends, advocates, and service providers. After reading this report, you’ll recognize the look and feel of our new site, and we hope you’ll feel right at home there! TXDisabilities.org is just part of our communications upgrade designed to bring the full force of people with disabilities into advocacy and make the world a better place.

Let’s not shy away from talking about the disability community as a force. We’ve got the numbers, the economic power, a potential swing vote in elections, and the might of being right. I’m always reminded of the advice Dolores Salazar of El Paso’s Volar CIL gave me 12 years ago: “If we can get together, nothing can stop us!” Dolores did not mean that people with disabilities should steamroll their way to unneeded handouts, extra benefits, or free rides. She simply meant there should be no barriers to people with disabilities taking their rightful place as fully included, responsible, contributing members of society. And when barriers are present, we should fight to bring them down!

The Texas Legislature did not meet in 2012, yet CTD had significant advocacy successes. Please take a few minutes to read through our annual report for these victories, as well as our public awareness and community work. As you prepare for 2013, stand with CTD to propel fair and decent public policy and practice forward.

For a Barrier-Free Society,

Dennis Borel, Executive Director
Our Board

CTD’s Board of Directors reflects the population of Texas in terms of type of disability, geographic representation, ethnicity, and income level.

Executive Committee:

President: Rodney Hanneman* (San Antonio) community advocate
Vice President: vacant
Secretary: Crystal Lyons* ** (Corpus Christi) transportation advocate
Treasurer: Frank Santos (Austin) Owner, Santos Alliances

At Large Members:

Region 1: Eric Reed* (El Paso) Board of Directors, Volar CIL
Region 2: John Curnutt* (Borger) elections advocate
Region 3: Regina Blye* (Austin) Executive Director, Texas SILC
Region 4: vacant
Region 5: Judy Telge (Corpus Christi) Executive Director, Coastal Bend CIL
Region 6: Francis Key* (Dallas) Carden Law Office
Region 7: Gene Whitten-Lege (Houston) Owner, In-Home Attendant Services
Region 8: Jet Schuler (Tyler) Owner, Touch of CLASS

Our Staff

Not pictured: Terri Stellar*, Hup Holland*.

* Person with a disability
** Parent of a child with a disability
Advocacy in 2012

While the Legislature does not convene during even numbered years, CTD's advocacy efforts continued in full force in 2012. We worked hard on statewide campaigns, advocacy training, consumer protection measures, and much more.

There's a national campaign underway to inform policymakers and the public about the benefits of Medicaid and what could happen to Americans if Medicaid were reduced or eliminated. CTD is a driving force on the steering committee of My Medicaid Matters TX, helping to plan press events and organize other campaign activities. MMMTx's final press conference of 2012 took place at CTD's office, by the Capitol (above). In keeping with the holiday season, policy experts, families of children with disabilities, business leaders, healthcare workers, and seniors told reporters and TV cameras why they were thankful for Medicaid. Learn more about this campaign at www.MMMTx.org.

CTD also takes a leading role in Texas Forward. This campaign brings together a broad spectrum of organizations that promote a balanced approach to state budget decisions. Member organizations vary widely in their missions, but all believe that meeting the needs of Texans and moving our state forward to greater prosperity and opportunity will require more than simply belt-tightening and cuts in education, healthcare and other vital public services. CTD has been heavily involved in the strategic planning of Texas Forward and in preparing the campaign for the upcoming legislative session. To learn more about Texas Forward, visit www.TXForward.org.
Advocacy in 2012

Training & Presentations
We took this interim year not only to prepare for the 2013 Legislative Session ourselves, but also to work with advocates and organizations all over the state. From the Disability, Education, and Employment Conference in Beaumont to Volar CIL’s Annual Our Lives Conference in El Paso; from our own convention in McAllen to the SILC’s Annual Conference in Dallas, we travelled far and wide to train our members and allies on successful advocacy strategies. Current Board President Rodney Hanneman journeyed all the way to Chicago to present at the Allies in Self Advocacy Summit on advocacy in Texas!

Consumer Protection
CTD put $2 million into the pockets of community attendants by uncovering a flaw in state administration, then fighting upstream to get the problem recognized and fixed.

Each year, CTD staffers serve on a variety of workgroups and boards. In 2012, we worked with the Consumer Directed Workgroup, Direct Workforce Committee, Rehabilitation Council of Texas, Texas Board of Architectural Examiners, Promoting Independence Advisory Council, and many more!

In Senate hearings, CTD testified against Electronic Visit Verification (EVV), an unpopular system for tracking attendant hours. Because of our efforts and those of our partners, state senators granted consumer directed services programs an exemption from an EVV requirement.

Community Development
Our own consumer directed services agency continued to grow in 2012. In February, we trained a group of new CDS partners to help us serve our clients in Beaumont and El Paso.

CTD brokered a meeting among executives from DARS, the federal State AmeriCorps office and the Texas administrators at the OneStar Foundation. The result was a commitment to collaborate on expanding community service opportunities in AmeriCorpsVISTA for people with disabilities.
Cinema Touching Disability

We had a blast at this year’s Film Fest! Dave Dauber from The Gene and Dave Show had our audience rolling in the aisles as our special guest emcee at the Alamo Drafthouse South Lamar. Highlights of the Fest included...

- the premiere of Welcome To CTD, produced by one of last year’s Short Film competition winners, Alex Murphy
- top films from the 2012 Short Film Competition
- action drama The Lookout
- the documentary Shooting Beauty
- kung fu classic Master of the Flying Guillotine

Pen 2 Paper

Nearly 70 pieces of fiction, non-fiction, and poetry were submitted to this year’s creative writing contest, plus our first ever comic entry. New sponsor Carve Magazine will publish selected winning entries next year! Entrants had the chance to present their work at Cinema Touching Disability and at a local Half Price Books reading. Check out videos from Half Price on our Youtube Channel, www.youtube.com/txdisabilities.
COLLABORATION AND COMMUNITY

CTD 2.0

CTD has finally joined the 21st century online! Over the years, it had become plain that our old website just wasn’t cutting it. So, during the spring of 2012, we hired a local web consultant firm to design something new. Whether you’re an advocate, a participant in one of CTD’s annual events, a business, or a STAR Plus consumer, we’ve got everything you need in one place at www.TXDisabilities.org.

In keeping with our new look, logo, and website, we wanted to reach out to potential members in a new way. We worked with local filmmakers to produce two video projects. Up-and-comer David Bukstein directed a brand new Public Service Announcement (PSA) for us. Between December 2011 and January 2012, we shot six different spots on location all over Austin to capture how some of our members exemplify our mission. Also this winter, Alex Murphy, winner of the 2011 Cinema Touching Disability Short Film Competition, volunteered to shoot and edit an information video about CTD. We premiered Welcome to CTD at our 2012 Film Festival, and it’s been a hit ever since! View Bukstein’s and Murphy’s fine work at www.TXDisabilities.org!

Out and About

Don’t get the idea that we were stuck behind our computers all year! In 2012, CTD staff was heavily involved in tons of community events in our home base of Austin. To kick off the year, the whole staff attended the Grand Opening of Kenguru (left), a Pflugerville-based producer of wheelchair accessible cars. Staffers helped plan White Cane Day, Disability Mentoring Day, the ADAPT Fun Run, and the Accessible Fishing Pier on Lady Bird Lake. We served on committees for SafePlace, the OneStar Inclusion Team, and the Austin Mayor’s Council for People with Disabilities. We helped Texas Rowing for All earn a big grant from the Olympic Opportunity Fund. We always enjoy working with our friends at other organizations, and we can’t wait to see what partnerships emerge in 2013!
GET INVOLVED at www.TXDisabilities.org

As a member-driven organization, CTD needs YOU to succeed in our mission. What does membership in CTD entail? We want you to be involved in our efforts in ways that work for you.

Sign up as a member and join thousands of Texans with disabilities, families, workers, advocates, policy makers, and businesses in building a truly barrier free Texas.

Subscribe to The Messenger, our free monthly e-newsletter, to stay current with CTD events, advocacy opportunities, disability news, and more!

Donate. Your donation is your personal commitment to our cause and work. Large or small, every donation counts at CTD!

Be an Advocate. At the Capitol or home, in a crowd, or as a crowd of one: make your voice heard! Learn about our current campaigns and our access advocacy resources.

Participate in a CTD event. Attend our annual Convention or Film Festival, submit creative work to one of our artistic competitions, and keep an eye out for special events and consumer education opportunities.

Follow Us on Social Media. We use our Facebook and Twitter pages to stay in touch with members, post photos, inform you about special offers, and more!


text

CTD works to ensure that persons with disabilities may work, live, learn, play and participate fully in the community of their choice.