



VOICE

The Disability Community Resource Center Newsletter

July 2019



DCRC Newsletter by Jay Aquino, Marielle Kriesel, and TJ Hill

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



DCRC Executive Director TJ Hill

The Importance of Independence

The month of July represents the most American of celebrations for me. The 4th marks the forming our nation as we declared our independence, but it is no mistake that many of the social justice movements in this country culminate in some way in July. This is especially true for the disability community as we celebrate the 29th Anniversary of the signing of the American's with Disabilities Act on July 26th. The significance of that law is felt by all of us every single day. It is also due in large part to the founders of our Independent Living Movement who fought hard for those protections we enjoy today.

The DCRC has been in that fight since 1976 and every day since. Our work transforms

lives through our Assistive Technology (AT) Services, Independent Living Skills (ILS) Program, Information and Referral Services, Empowerment Alliance, Housing Advocacy, Peer Counseling Services, Personal Assistance & Placement Program, Systems Change Advocacy, Employment Assistance & Employment Services Program, and Mental Health Peer Support Projects. It takes a greatly talented staff to achieve success in all these programs and for them I am grateful, but our work is not done.

The Independent Living Movement is an evolving movement. For every success we have to stop and look around to all of our brothers and sisters and demand they have the same access and opportunities as everyone else. That means reaching out to other marginalized communities for which

people with disabilities are also a part and building strong coalitions. As we move forward, nobody can be left behind. I am proud of our work at DCRC, but I know we can do better. We must continue with the resolve and perseverance our founders had in 1976 but apply it to today's challenges – which are great but not insurmountable. That is the American spirit that is so deeply rooted in the Independent Living Movement. Let's celebrate our independence and continue to lift people up to realize that dream.

There are many ways to lift up the DCRC so we can continue our important work of promoting the independence of people with disabilities. Join our Kroger Co. Family of Stores Community Rewards Program by supporting the Disability Community Resource Center (ID: CQ054) as your community non-profit. Donate through Amazon Smile while doing your online shopping. We also ask for regular monthly PayPal donations as an ongoing gift. Celebrate your independence and help us continue the fight by supporting the DCRC – for details go to www.dcrc.co/donate/.

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES SHOULD SEIZE THE POLITICAL MOMENT

by Marielle Kriesel

In previous decades, the battle cry of the disability rights movement was “Nothing about us without us.” Twenty-nine years ago, one term Republican President George H.W. Bush signed the bipartisan Americans with Disabilities Act into law. People with disabilities were a critical part of getting that legislation passed, both internal and external to the administration.

However, now politicians on both sides of the aisle are shutting people with disabilities out of political debates and failing to represent their interests. The current political context suggests we need a new strategy to enforce our status as stakeholders in the conversation. Advocates should argue as disability scholars have for two decades that “Disability will be the life experience of every person and having a disability is a natural aspect of the human condition.” Recognizing that would shift the conversation completely.

Recently, the Democratic presidential debates featured four hours of discussion between 20 candidates and four moderators about domestic and foreign policy and managed to omit people with disabilities

while simultaneously raising several issues relevant to them. For example, during an intensive discussion on health care, candidates failed to include long term support services as a significant issue to people with disabilities. When candidates talked about basic human rights and equality, people with disabilities were not acknowledged. Candidates failed to include the subminimum wage during discussions of minimum wage and income inequality. While candidates rightfully decried the cruelty of holding migrant children in squalid detention facilities, the ongoing detention of people with disabilities in nursing homes and institutions was not discussed. To be fair, disability was referenced during the debates, but in a misleading context. For example, when candidates were asked about gun violence, some responded by referencing psychiatric disabilities. The ubiquitous conflation of gun violence with mental health issues is empirically unsound and further stigmatizes people with psychiatric disabilities. Indeed, research consistently shows people with psychiatric disabilities are far more likely to be the victims of violence than the perpetrators.

This disconnect between the crisis many Americans with disabilities are experiencing and the indifference of lawmakers towards them and the issues of significance to them, reflects a unique political opportunity for people with disabilities to seize the moment and resist. The consistent disregard of our human value undermines our participation in public life and the goals of the ADA.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports there are approximately 61 million Americans with Disabilities. In 2018, 14.3 million people with disabilities voted, according to a report released July 11 by researchers at Rutgers University analyzing data from the Current Population Survey. This represents a surge of 8.5 percentage points among people with disabilities in 2018, a larger increase and more voters than in any of the previous two midterm elections. Advocates and other stakeholders are building on this momentum to increase the number of people with disabilities registered to vote in 2020 and develop a powerful political voice candidates cannot afford to ignore.

In the past, advocates have argued, “Nothing about us without us.” However, now we are not just being excluded from the conversation, we are not acknowledged at all. And when we are, it’s profoundly condemning, as in the example above. The response is to have a voice, register to vote and as Justin Dart, human rights advocate



DCRC Staff Members Rosy Tellez and Marielle Kriesel hold up their “I pledge to vote” sticker.

and father of the ADA said, “Vote as if your life depends on it – because it does.” And then, perhaps one day, widespread acknowledgement that living with a disability is a natural aspect of the human condition and worth every candidate’s political capital to invest in, will be commonplace.

App of the Month: SuperVision+ Magnifier

by Jay Aquino

SuperVision+ Magnifier is a magnifying glass app that specializes in live image stabilization. It is designed to assist low vision or visually impaired users. It can be used for various magnifying purposes, from reading small print on documents to seeing street sign in the distance, and everything in between. Putting it close to a small object can even allow you to use your device as a microscope.



Screenshot of Super Vision+ Magnifier -
Magnifying Mode

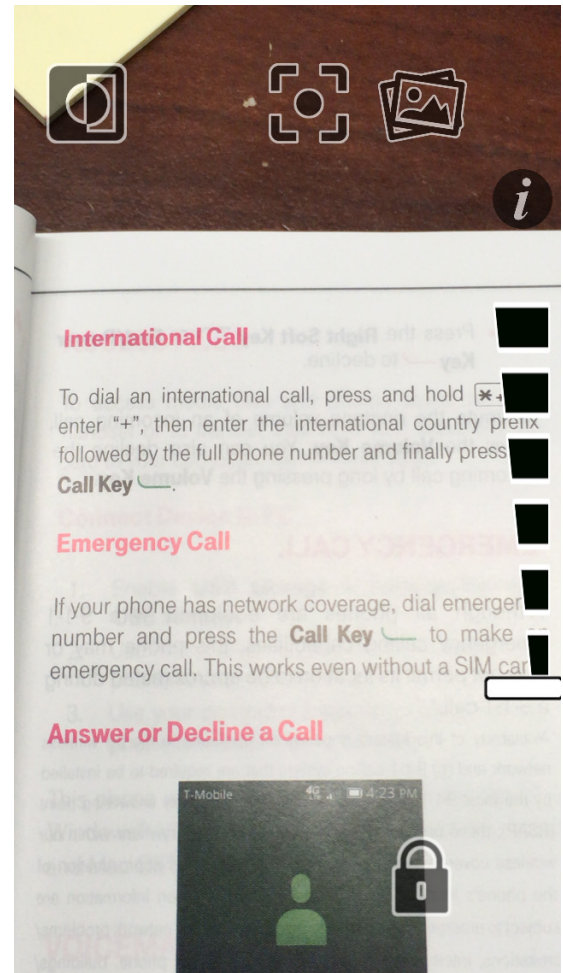
Here are the app's main features:

- To magnify, the user can either stretch or pinch to magnify the screen and enlarge the screen back to its original size. There is also a slider on the right side that serves the same function.
- To activate stabilization, just press the screen and hold.
- By selecting the option to stabilize vertically only, horizontal reading movement can be allowed.
- By double tapping the screen, the buttons can be hidden. This allows for the max amount of viewing space on the screen.
- By pressing the lock button on the bottom right, the image on screen can be frozen. While the screen is frozen, pressing the save button on the bottom left corner allows for the screenshot to be saved.
- Pressing the upper right icon in the middle of the lower part of the screen allows the user to look at images they have saved.
- The lightning button uses the app's flashlight function.
- The pin button in the bottom left can be used to stabilize the whole image.
- The app allows for focus locking.

- By pressing the inversion button on the second from the top left, you can turn the app into an inverted black-and-white image mode.
- The app can be used easily with one or two hands.

SuperVision+ Magnifier has been highlighted in the American Foundation for the Blind's Technology News for People Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired. Users have utilized the app to see phone numbers, menu items, addresses, instructional manuals, various small print, etc. It is an intuitive app. Apps like SuperVision+ Magnifier can aide in anyone's journey to become more independent.

This app is available in the [iTunes App Store](#) and the [Google Play Store](#).



Screenshot of Super Vision+ Magnifier - Magnifying Mode

Upcoming Events

Disability Independence Day: Celebrating 29th Anniversary of the ADA

When: Friday July 26

Time: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Where: DCRC Community Room

Free admission!

Join us for Disability Independence Day!
Let's Celebrate the 29th Anniversary of the
Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) this
Friday July 26 at 10 am.

There will be a live Q & A panel by DCRC
Board Members. DCRC Board's President
Sara Pezeshkpour, DCRC Board's Vice
President Eugene Feldman, and DCRC
Board's Treasurer Trevor Finneman.

Join us for refreshments, community re-
sources, and face painting.

No need to RSVP, for more information call:
310-390-3611

Wellness/This Ability Month Celebration

When: Friday August 16th

Time: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Where: DCRC Community Room

To celebrate Wellness Month, DCRC is
having a Wellness/This Ability Month Cel-
ebration. We will have wellness exercises
designed to relieve stress and promote a
healthier wellbeing overall.



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