

PADDCC Outlooks

SPRING 2021



New Community Response Projects

Providing supports to people with developmental disabilities who have been affected by a local, statewide, or national disasters

Association for Adults with Developmental Disabilities will create a virtual exercise academy to provide physical training to improve physical and mental health during periods of isolation. Award Amount: \$4,740

Bancroft Neurohealth will create virtual classes that will promote socialization, leisure, and enrichment—bringing community together in a safe environment during the pandemic. Virtual activities will include but are not limited to cooking, art, fitness and health, and music classes. Award Amount: \$5,000

Bucks County Center for Independent Living will host a series of webinars for self-advocates. Topics of the trainings will include employment, housing advocacy, staying healthy, and social justice. Award Amount: \$5,000

Community Resources for Independence will increase awareness of a range of emergencies and disasters, and the importance of being prepared. County specific emergency preparedness flipcharts, emergency service guides, and folders with disaster preparedness information will be created. Award Amount: \$5,000

Disability Pride Philadelphia will host focus groups to evaluate accessibility software and on-line accessibility in light of the necessary use of virtual platforms during the pandemic. Data from focus groups will be used to create workshops to provide community trainings on current accessibility features. Award Amount: \$5,000

If you have an idea for a training or accessibility solution, visit paddc.org/grant-funding-opportunities to get the application and instructions.

Keynote Presenters

THE AUTISARIANS

PROGRAM OF EVENTS

- 9:30 AM Welcome
- 10:00 AM The Power of Volunteerism DR. BEV WEINBERG
- 10:30 AM Break
- 10:45 AM Kindness Rocks Workshop
- 11:30 AM Military Gratitude Workshop
- 12:15 PM Lunch & Guest Performer ZAYNE HARSHAW
- 12:45 PM Keynote Presentation KAMMEL, KANTAL & LOWME SMITH
- 1:15 PM Panelist Q&A BEN HARTRANFT, JENNY LEVY, & HEATHER MICHAELSON & DR. JAMES SMITH, JR.
- 1:45 PM Wrap-Up & Raffle

Guest Panelists

BEN HARTRANFT

JENNY LEVY

HEATHER MICHAELSON

MAKE YOUR

This project is supported by a grant from the Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council.

Integrate for Good, a previous Community Response Project funds recipient, held a Virtual Civic Engagement Conference that included presentations and performances by people with diverse abilities. The conference showcased civic engagement as a means to gain social capital.

March is...

Developmental Disabilities Awareness and Women's History Month

Throughout the year we commemorate, celebrate, and raise awareness of issues that should be important to everyone.

In March, we have the opportunity to focus on Developmental Disabilities Awareness and Women's History. We are pleased to be able to recognize the contributions of two powerful women who also have developmental disabilities—Florence Reed and Jean Searle.



Florence Reed was born in Lake Charles, Louisiana and raised in the Africa American community of Homewood in Pittsburgh, PA. She attended and graduated from D.C. Teachers College, with a degree in speech correction and went on to graduate from the

University of Pittsburgh with a master's degree in education. Florence worked for many years as a speech therapist with the Pittsburgh Public Schools and the Phoenix Public Schools.

She moved back to Pittsburgh, PA, and worked as a housing counselor at Three Rivers Center for Independent Living for over 15 years. She became an expert in home equity conversion mortgages, credit scoring, foreclosure prevention, and HUD homeownership through training programs. For her work, she received numerous awards and accolades.

Florence also founded—and for many years operated—a non-profit organization called

Working Women With Disabilities. It was dedicated to assisting women with disabilities in finding work, transportation, and assistance in maintaining their jobs.

She has served as a committee and Council member of the Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council (PADDC) for over 18 years.

Jean Searle is a long-time self-advocate and a force within the disability rights movement—having experienced the trauma of institutionalization firsthand.



Encouraged by advocates and friends, Jean moved out of Pennhurst to assisted living arrangements in 1984, with the help of an agency in Philadelphia. Jean has been employed by the Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia and Disability Rights Pennsylvania, where she has worked for more than 25 years.

Believing it is imperative that the lessons embodied in the Pennhurst campus remain as an example for the future, Jean has become a driving force within the Pennhurst Memorial and Preservation Alliance and served as co-president.

Jean currently directs her own services and lives in an apartment in Harrisburg, PA. She is a very independent woman and a fierce advocate for people with disabilities. She has served as a PADDC committee and Council member for more than 15 years.

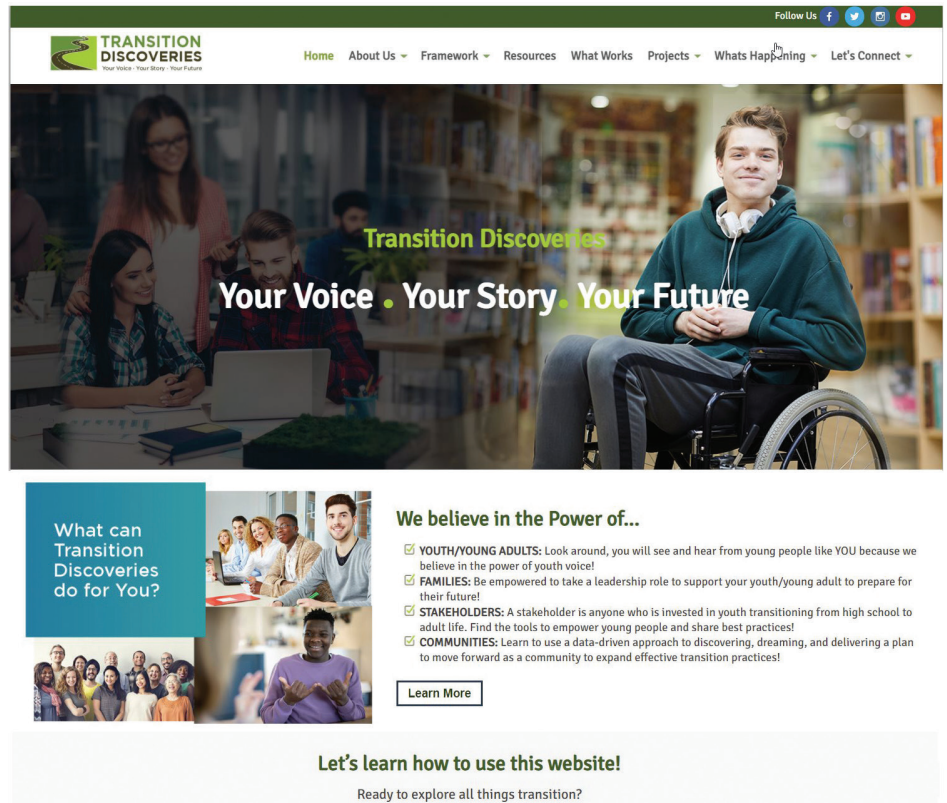
New Resource Available from PADDC Grantee

New Resource: **transitiondiscoveries.org**

Funding from PADDC helped the George Washington University, Graduate School of Education & Human Development, Department of Special Education & Disabilities to create this online resource.

It is a one stop shop for all things related to preparing for success after high school. It includes:

- **Videos and activities** for young people to learn about the many parts of planning for success after high school...and beyond!
- **Resource toolkits, lesson plans and activity sheets** for families to learn together with their young people, and for transition stakeholders to integrate into their existing transition practices, programs and services (including Pre-employment Transition Services).
- **Data, blogs and stories about what works in preparing for life after high school** from young people with disabilities, family members and transition stakeholders across schools, agencies and community partners.



Transition Discoveries (TD) is a community effort created by youth, families and stakeholders, for youth, families and stakeholders. If you're interested in learning more about transitiondiscoveries.org and getting involved in the TD initiative, contact our team today!



PADDCC

PA Developmental Disabilities Council

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*Follow PADDCC social media in March
for Developmental Disabilities
Awareness Month 2021!*

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