

Holiday travel, winter safety tips, and a local city and business push to become disability friendly, all this and more in this issue of Accessibility for All.

Accessibility for All

- Disability and Health Program -

Recent News

[City Named Autism-Friendly Business](#)

Boynton Beach, a city in Palm Beach County, is the first municipality to be named an Autism Friendly Business by the Florida Atlantic University Center for Autism and Related Disabilities. From the 911 dispatchers, to the parks and recreation facilities, the city has worked to make the city more inclusive for people with autism.

[Charity Breaks Barriers of Disability through Martial Arts](#)

Breaking barriers, an organization based out of Sanford, FL gives children with disabilities from muscular dystrophy to Downs Syndrome, the opportunity to learn Taekwondo. The program is meant to give each child a boost of confidence through an individualized pace of learning.

[Orlando Law Firm Launches Deaf and Disabilities Rights Unit](#)

Morgan and Morgan, a law firm based out of Orlando, recently created their deaf and disabilities rights unit to provide legal representation to people with disabilities. The unit is meant to provide legal assistance in cases involving discrimination, including lack of accessibility and denial of service.



Upcoming Events

[PHHP Diversity Day](#)

Thursday,

January 19, 2017

3:00pm-

6:00pm Eastern Time
Gainesville, FL

The University of Florida College of Public Health and Health Professions is hosting a diversity day, with Dr. Michael M. McKee, a deaf family medicine physician and assistant professor at the department of family medicine at the University of Michigan, as a keynote speaker.

Merry Lynn Morris, a choreographer at the University of South Florida, has invented a power chair with dancing in mind. She calls her invention the Rolling Dance Chair. Its sleek design allows the user more freedom of movement than traditional power chairs and can be controlled by a cell phone as opposed to a traditional joystick.

[High School Senior Uses Disability to Educate Classmates on Acceptance](#)

Michael Hadler, a high schooler from Pembroke Pines, educates his fellow classmates through poetry. Recently chosen as one of Flanagan High School's senior superlatives, Hadler uses his creative writing skills and positive personality, to educate classmates about cerebral palsy and other disabilities.

[Paralyzed Monkeys Walk Again in Brain-Spine Interface Study](#)

Brain implants in the motor cortex have been successfully connected to epidural stimulation electrode arrays in the lumbar spine of paralyzed monkeys via wireless technology, according to a recent study, enabling them to walk. While this would be more complex when it comes to human spinal cord injuries, the results are promising.

Tips, Briefs, & Guides

[12 Tips for Holiday Travel with a Disability](#)

During the holiday season, traveling to see family and friends can be both fun and stressful. From flying to dealing with relatives, this guide offers some helpful tips to traveling during this time of year.

**Saturday,
February 18, 2017
10:00am-2:00pm Eastern
Time**

Lake Worth, FL

The Access Life Expo is a fun, free event with activities such as boat rides, bank fishing, archery, arts, crafts, games, animals, adaptive wheelchair sports, resource exhibitors, snow cones, popcorn, cotton candy, snacks, lunch, and more for individuals and families living with disability. Please pre-register at the linked website if planning to participate.

For more upcoming events, search through the [Agency for Persons with Disabilities \(APD\) Event Calendar!](#)



Webinars & Applications

[Including Disability: The Updated California Office of Emergency Services Active Shooter Awareness Guidance](#)

Thursday, January 12, 2017

This webinar will help the learner develop a familiarity with the Cal OES Active Shooter Awareness Guidance document and understand

[Gifts for Your Child with Special Needs](#)

This guide offers helpful suggestions for finding the perfect gift for your child with special needs this holiday season, along with additional links with more gift ideas.

[10 Tips for Chronic Illness Warriors Trying to Navigate the Holidays](#)

From planning ahead to not being afraid to say no, this guide offers some practical tips for getting through and enjoying the holiday season with a chronic illness.

[Winter Safety Tips](#)

Edinboro University offers a quick guide to staying safe with regards to disability during the winter months.

Includes advice for traveling in a wheelchair and keeping assistance dogs safe.

Sincerely,

Florida Disability and Health Program

Disclaimer: These links are provided for informational purposes, not to solicit donations to an organization nor to promote one organization or resource over another.

[Florida Department of Health - Disability and Health Program](#)

[Florida Office on Disability and Health](#)

empowerment of people with disabilities.

[Rise Scholarship Foundation, Inc.](#)

Application Deadline: Tuesday, January 31, 2017

This scholarship is for current high school seniors with a documented learning disability and a GPA of 2.5 or higher. Students who have shown determination, self-advocacy, and success in overcoming their difficulties are good candidates for this scholarship. The scholarship awards up to \$2500.



About the DHP

The Disability and Health Program (DHP) is funded through a grant from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Formerly, the Florida Office on Disability and Health, the DHP is housed under the Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Chronic Disease Prevention in

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